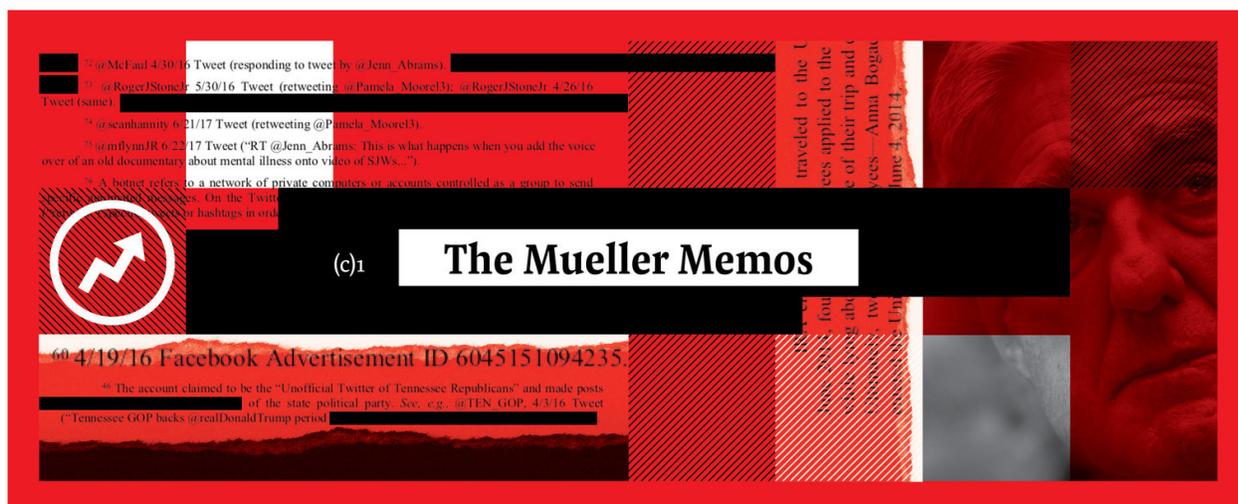


# Robert Mueller's Secret Memos, Part 3: The Documents The Justice Department Didn't Want Congress To See

 [buzzfeednews.com/article/jasonleopold/mueller-report-secret-memos-3](https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/jasonleopold/mueller-report-secret-memos-3)



BuzzFeed News has obtained some of the most important and highly sought-after documents from special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation: summaries of FBI interviews with key White House officials.

*[Read the documents here. Some key takeaways are below.]*

The 356 pages of documents, obtained through a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, were the subject of a protracted legal dispute between the Justice Department and the House Judiciary Committee, which sought them over the summer as part of its impeachment inquiry. The committee had requested access to an unredacted copy of the Mueller report, grand jury testimony from the investigation, and the FBI's summaries of 33 interviews. Justice Department officials resisted, claiming the impeachment inquiry does not entitle the panel to see those records. A federal judge disagreed, ruling in October that "DOJ is wrong" and that the White House and the Justice Department were "openly stonewalling" the committee.

In the documents released Thursday, the FBI and Justice Department withheld vast swaths of information under a number of FOIA exemptions — including one that says the disclosure of information would interfere with ongoing investigations. They also withheld information from these records claiming disclosure would threaten national security.

The documents also include a 31-page interview that is completely redacted — including the name of the person who was interviewed.

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Snippets of some of the interview summaries, known as 302s, are sprinkled throughout the Mueller report, including the disclosure that Sanders admitted to FBI agents that she lied to the media when she said during a May 2017 press briefing that "countless members of the FBI" had lost faith in former FBI director James Comey.

Mueller's 448-page report was the most hotly anticipated prosecutorial document in a generation, laying out the evidence of Russia's interference in the 2016 election and the Trump administration's efforts to obstruct the inquiry. But it reflected only a tiny fraction of the primary-source documents that the government amassed over the course of its two-year investigation.

*[We want your help! If you see something in these memos, you can email reporter Jason Leopold at [jason.leopold@buzzfeed.com](mailto:jason.leopold@buzzfeed.com) or reach us securely at [tips.buzzfeed.com](https://tips.buzzfeed.com).]*

Last May BuzzFeed News, and later CNN, sued the FBI and Justice Department to gain access to the tens of thousands of pages of summaries of the roughly 800 or so interviews FBI agents conducted during the course of Mueller's two-year probe.

The Justice Department turned over the first batch of documents from Mueller's cache in November 2019 and another batch last month. It is under court order to produce at least 500 pages every month.

In an effort to speed up the release of the documents, Judge Reggie Walton ordered the government, with this third installment, to turn over only the typewritten portions of the interview summaries, leaving the FBI agents' handwritten notes as well as emails, letters, and other evidence from the individual files of the witnesses to be processed and released to us at a later time.

The interview summaries are just the beginning. BuzzFeed News is pursuing five separate lawsuits to pry loose all the subpoenas and search warrants that Mueller's team executed, as well as all emails, memos, letters, talking points, legal opinions, and financial records it generated. In short, we asked for all communications of any kind that passed through the special counsel's office. We also requested all the documents that would reveal the discussions among Attorney General Bill Barr, former deputy attorney general Rod Rosenstein, and other high-ranking officials about whether to charge Trump with obstruction.

In response, Justice Department lawyers claimed the volume of records requested could total 18 billion pages and take centuries to produce.

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Some takeaways from the documents:

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## **New details about Stephen Miller's involvement in drafting a letter firing Comey**

Stephen Miller's FBI interview summary offers considerable narrative detail about an eventful visit at the Trump country club in Bedminster, New Jersey.

Miller was at dinner with Trump on Friday night, May 5, 2017. Jared Kushner was there. According to Miller's recollections, Trump told people at the table that he wanted to fire James Comey, one of the key events during the FBI's Russia investigation that Mueller investigated as part of the obstruction portion of his probe. Trump said he needed a "well honed" letter to explain it — and that he already had a "great concept" to make the announcement. The reasons are redacted.

Trump dictated some thoughts to Miller, who then went to the room where he was staying and began doing his own research on the matter. He put "his own best thoughts" together. When FBI agents later showed Miller a copy of the letter, he told them that it appeared that Trump had left handwritten edits on the document — although the agents pointed to particular notes that appeared to be Miller's writing.

"Miller could not specifically recall the details of the editing process," he said.

Trump said the letter should open by stating that he himself was not under investigation, in order to "disqualify" the firing being related to the inquiry. The letter said that the investigation was "fabricated." The president wanted to say that Comey was in a "review period."

Trump met with Miller, chief of staff Reince Priebus, White House lawyer Don McGahn, and one or two other officials on May 7, 2017. Miller recalled that Trump announced: "I'm going to read you a letter. Don't talk me out of this. I've made my decision."

McGahn said the Department of Justice was already doing a review of Comey and that the next step would be for him to meet with Justice officials. The next day, Miller was told to use a letter by then-Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein rather than the one crafted at Bedminster. McGahn preferred that the president strike the references to his not being under investigation, but Trump overruled him.

*Relevant documents on pages 28–34. From page 29:*

Friday night in Bedminster, Miller went to dinner with Trump. [redacted] b5 Per DOJ/OIP

[redacted] Kushner were there. [redacted]

b6  
b7c

[redacted]  
Trump started off dinner on Friday night with the topic of Comey's termination. [redacted] b5 Per DOJ/OIP

[redacted] At the top of the dinner, Trump said he wanted to remove Comey and wanted to articulate his reasons in a "well honed" letter, [redacted] Trump already had a "great concept" for a letter that would be used to fire Comey and make the announcement. [redacted]

[redacted] Trump [redacted] began to lay out his arguments for Comey's termination. [redacted]

[redacted] b5 Per DOJ/OIP

FBI

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### **K.T. McFarland talked to the FBI under an agreement generally given to people under criminal investigation**

A summary of a December 2017 interview with K.T. McFarland, who served as deputy national security adviser under Michael Flynn earlier that year, reveals that she provided information to the special counsel's office under a proffer agreement. Generally, prosecutors offer proffer agreements to people who are under investigation to allow them to speak without fear that what they say will be used against them later. McFarland was first interviewed by the FBI that summer but reportedly revised her statement after it was contradicted by Flynn's guilty plea.

Later in her December interview, McFarland recounted events from February 2017, when she was told to resign but offered a job as ambassador to Singapore. There was something the president wanted her to do, though: write an email saying that "the President never directed Flynn to call the Russians about sanctions." However, a lawyer at the National Security Council told her "it was a bad idea...because it was awkward and looked like a quid pro quo situation." Instead, she wrote "a contemporaneous 'Memorandum for the Record' [...] because she was concerned by the President's request," according to the Mueller report.

BuzzFeed News has reached out to McFarland for comment.

Relevant documents begin on page 86:

CLASSIFIED BY: NSICG [redacted]  
REASON: 1.4 (C,D) [redacted]  
DECLASSIFY ON: 12-31-2042  
DATE: 10-07-2019

- 1 of 19 -

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
~~**SECRET**~~

Official Record

Date of entry: 03/05/2018

Kathleen Troia "K.T." McFarland was interviewed at the Special Counsel's Office, located at 395 E Street SW, Washington, D.C. McFarland was accompanied by her attorneys, [redacted] and [redacted] of Sullivan & Cromwell LLP. Participating in the interview were FBI Special Agent (SA) [redacted] SA [redacted] Senior Counselor to the Special Counsel James L. Quarles III, Senior Assistant Special Counsel (SASC) Andrew Goldstein, and SASC Brandon Van Grack. Pursuant to the execution of a proffer agreement, McFarland provided the following information:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT  
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

b6  
b7C  
b6  
b7C  
b5 Per DOJ/OIG

[redacted]

FBI

### **Conspiracy theorist Jerome Corsi told the FBI "he had been lying to himself to believe his own cover story"**

The conspiracy theorist and Roger Stone associate Jerome Corsi told investigators that his interviews as part of the Mueller investigation made him realize he had been lying to himself "to protect his own cover story."

Corsi came under investigation for his communications with Roger Stone about WikiLeaks and, specifically, the release of stolen documents from Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign.

"The Special Counsel's office interview was the first time he came to terms with the truth," his 302 says. "He had been lying to himself to believe his own cover story. Corsi apologized it had taken him so long to come to terms with the truth. He needed to admit to himself that he was lying."

The redacted interview summary does not give a clear answer as to what Corsi meant when he said he was "lying."

Following these interviews, Corsi leaked what he claimed was a proposed plea agreement prepared by the special counsel in which he would plead guilty to one count of perjury. He claimed that he did not mean to perjure himself, but misremembered details because of his age.

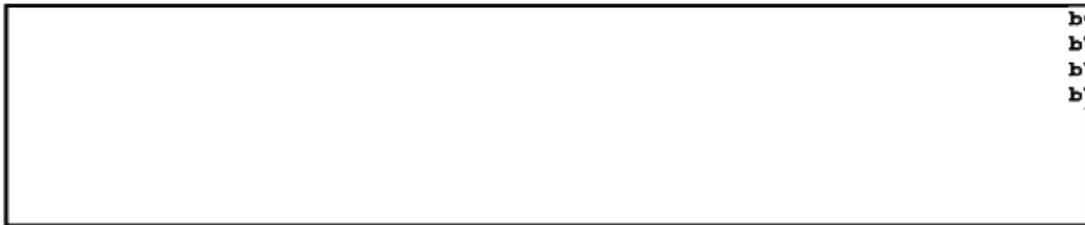
However, according to the FBI interview summary, Corsi told agents he “did not remember a lot of what he had been shown to him the previous day and realized the way he wanted to remember things was not actually how things happened.”

Corsi is best known for advancing the false “birther” conspiracy theory against former president Barack Obama and, according to the summaries of his FBI interviews, he “often” talked with Trump about these theories before Obama released his birth certificate in 2011. Corsi worked for Infowars, run by Alex Jones, for a period of time as the head of its DC bureau.

Corsi did not immediately return a request for comment.

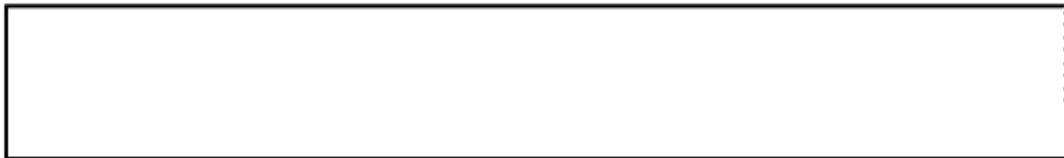
*Relevant document on page 328:*

Continuation of FD-302 of (U) Interview of Jerome Corsi (11.01.18) . On 11/01/2018 . Page 3 of 11



b6  
b7A  
b7B per DOJ  
b7C

Corsi said the Special Counsel's Office interview was the first time he came to terms with the truth. He had been lying to himself to believe his own cover story. Corsi apologized it had taken him so long to come to terms with the truth. He needed to admit to himself that he was lying.



b6  
b7A  
b7B per DOJ  
b7C

FBI

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**Michael Cohen googled the number to the Kremlin — then tried to set up a Putin-Trump meeting**

In an interview with FBI agents and investigators from Mueller's team on Nov. 12, 2018, Trump's personal attorney Michael Cohen described in detail how he had tried to arrange a meeting between Trump and Putin at Trump Tower in New York following the United Nations General Assembly in 2015, according to his interview summary with the FBI.

"Cohen recalled that in 2015, the news reported that [former President Barack] Obama refused to meet with [Russian President Vladimir] Putin at UNGA [United Nations General Assembly]. Trump said it was stupid of Obama to say that," the interview summary said, noting that Trump had said many times he thought he would get along with Putin. "After Trump's comment, Cohen told him that if Trump wanted, Cohen could reach out to Putin's office and try to arrange a meeting between the two of them. Cohen suggested it would be funny for the two men to meet at Trump Tower and have a burger. Trump agreed it was a good idea, and would be funny, and to go ahead and reach out."

Cohen then went on Sean Hannity's Fox News show and said Trump might meet Putin. Trump asked Cohen "a handful of times for updates" about it. But it appears Cohen had no idea how to reach anyone at the Kremlin. He told the FBI he conducted a Google search for a phone number there.

"Cohen called the Kremlin and spoke to a woman about the idea of Putin and Trump meeting. The woman that answered said she would speak to a supervisor and get back to him She mentioned the name Sergei Ivanov and said he should reach out to Ambassador [Sergey] Kislyak," the interview summary said. "Cohen asked for the woman's email address and sent his contact information to her by sending her an email with his signature block."

But Cohen never heard back. So he dialed the number and spoke to the same woman again, about two or three days before Putin was due to arrive in New York for the United Nations General Assembly.

"The woman told him it would not follow protocol for Putin to meet with Trump, and Cohen relayed that message to Trump."

*Relevant documents on pages 124–125. From page 125:*

After that conversation, Cohen went on Hannity's show and said publicly that Trump may meet with Putin. After Cohen went on Hannity's show, Trump asked a handful of times for updates.

Cohen did a google search for a phone number and called it from his office, but he was not sure if he used his office phone or his cell phone. Cohen called the Kremlin and spoke to a woman about the idea of Putin and Trump meeting. The woman that answered said she would speak to a supervisor and get back to him. She mentioned the name Sergei Ivanov and said he should reach out to Ambassador Kislyak. Cohen asked for the woman's email address and sent his contact information to her by sending her an email with his signature block. Cohen recalled her email address had .ru at the end, but was not sure if it was gov.ru.

When he did not hear back after that first call, Cohen reached out again, using the same number, and spoke to the same woman. He thought the second call was two or three days before Putin was supposed to arrive for UNGA. The woman told him it would not follow protocol for Putin to meet with Trump, and Cohen relayed that message to Trump.

Cohen was shown documents reflecting telephone calls from his cell phone number, [REDACTED] to the telephone numbers and dates of connection listed below. Cohen was also provided an opportunity to review his telephone contacts for the numbers.

b6  
b7C

9/28/2015: [REDACTED]

11/17/2015: [REDACTED]

1/6/2016: [REDACTED]

6/9/2017: [REDACTED]

After reviewing his telephone directory, Cohen stated none of the numbers were in his contacts and he did not know who the calls were to.

Cohen affirmed that it was false when he previously said he never discussed the idea of the Putin lunch with Trump.

FBI

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## **Cohen said Putin sent Trump a letter about the 2013 Miss Universe pageant near Moscow — Trump was unhappy about the ratings**

Cohen told the FBI that he thought Putin would attend the 2013 pageant because it took place in a Moscow suburb and Trump wondered out loud if the Russian leader would attend. He said Trump had no intention to meet with officials from the Russian government while at the pageant.

"Cohen recalled Putin sent Trump a nice letter, but Cohen had never seen it. He had heard general mentions of the letter in conversations in Trump's office," the FBI wrote.

"Trump was unhappy with the ratings the Miss Universe pageant got that year. Because of the time zone difference, the winner was announced in the United States before people woke up, and no one wanted to watch the pageant on TV," the FBI wrote.

*Relevant document on page 126:*

FD-302a (Rev. 05-08-10)

b7E

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(U) Interview of Michael Cohen  
Continuation of FD-302 of (11.12.2018) . On 11/12/2018 . Page 6 of 15

[REDACTED] would have served as a tie breaker if necessary, but the decision was unanimous to set the pageant in Moscow.

b6  
b7C

Cohen was not aware of any interest on the part of Trump to meet with Russian government officials during the pageant. Cohen was not aware of outreach to various government officials. Cohen was under the impression Putin would attend the pageant. Cohen had that impression because the pageant was happening in Putin's "backyard" and also because he had a conversation with Trump in which Trump wondered aloud if Putin was going to show up. Cohen recalled Putin sent Trump a nice letter, but Cohen had never seen it. He had heard general mentions of the letter in conversations in Trump's office.

Trump was unhappy with the ratings the Miss Universe pageant got that year. Because of the time zone difference, the winner was announced in the United States before people woke up, and no one wanted to watch the pageant on TV.

Cohen did not attend the Miss Universe 2013 pageant.

FBI

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### **Cohen recounted a mind-blowing meeting in Kazakhstan where someone mistook him for a relative of Sacha Baron Cohen**

Cohen discussed with the FBI his role following Trump's surprise win in November 2016, as well as a number of business opportunities that followed. Cohen told the FBI that he was not a lobbyist — Trump had made him pledge not to lobby for three to five years — but he was approached as a consultant nonetheless.

"Cohen had insight into Trump that nobody else had," the interview summary stated, "other than maybe Trump's adult children. Cohen did not tell Trump what he was doing as a consultant. Cohen also thought Trump did not care what Cohen was doing."

He described a possible plan to help with an infrastructure fund for Columbus Nova, an investment firm whose chief executive was related to a Russian oligarch. Cohen figured that Trump was serious about fixing American infrastructure and that there were two things “you could not build without concrete and rebar: airports and roads.”

Cohen also told the FBI he received “talkers” — or talking points — from the pharmaceutical company Novartis that he was supposed to deliver to Trump, although he did not recall the topic actually coming up. In addition, he mentioned discussions about an autism drug from someone who was investing in Yamo Pharmaceuticals, the possibility of helping Korea Aerospace Industries develop a footprint in the Middle East, and talks about a company called FrutaPOP that sells alcohol-infused ice pops.

The agents also showed Cohen an email from someone at the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs seeking an introduction to Trump, but he did not recall whether that introduction took place.

In one mind-bending anecdote, Cohen recalled a meeting in Kazakhstan in which he handed over his business card to someone — only to watch that person storm out of the room. A few moments later, the person returned, “really angry,” and demanded to know whether Cohen was related to the comedian Sacha Baron Cohen, whose alter ego, Borat, has infuriated some Kazakhs. Trump’s lawyer is of no relation.

*Relevant documents on pages 131–133. From page 133:*

Cohen was in Kazakhstan working on a Trump Tower project with Giorgi Ritzkilhadze. While there, Cohen met [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Cohen gave [REDACTED] his business card and after reading it [REDACTED] stormed out of the room. A few minutes later, [REDACTED] returned and asked Cohen if he was related to Sacha Baron Cohen -- [REDACTED] was really angry. [AGENT NOTE: Sacha Baron Cohen played the character Borat, who is supposed to be from Kazakhstan]

b6  
b7c

After the election, Cohen had no meetings or contemplation of securing Russian Investment money with [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] Cohen was not approached for Russian Investment.

b6  
b7c

FBI

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## **Manafort believed Trump was sending him messages through Sean Hannity**

In the months before Mueller revealed a host of charges against Paul Manafort, the former Trump campaign chair used popular Fox News personality Sean Hannity as a “back channel” to the White House, according to a 2018 interview summary.

Manafort told the special counsel's office that after FBI agents raided his home in July 2017, he spoke with Hannity, whom he understood to be passing along messages from Trump.

"Manafort knew Hannity was speaking to Trump around then because Hannity would tell Manafort to hang in there, that he had been talking to Trump, that Trump had his back, and things like that," the October 2018 summary reads.

Manafort didn't remember speaking directly or indirectly with anyone at the White House during that time, but told investigators that Hannity was "certainly a back channel," as well as "a personal friend."

"The frequency was dependent on what was going on at the time; sometimes they spoke twice a week, some weeks not at all," the summary says.

Manafort, for his part, didn't send any messages to Trump, he told investigators. "If Manafort wanted to send a message to Trump, he would have gone through a mutual friend of theirs, like Chris Christie, [redacted], Tom Barrack, or [redacted] but he never did so," according to the summary.

Separately, former White House staff secretary Rob Porter told the FBI and investigators for Mueller's team during a May 5, 2018, interview that Trump said he "never liked Manafort" and wondered whether Manafort was "cooperating" with investigators.

The charges against Manafort and his associate Rick Gates were revealed in October 2017.

*Relevant documents on pages 21–22 and page 76.*

Manafort did not hear from anyone that Trump or anyone else tried to stop the emails from coming out, other than what he read publicly.

Between the July 2017 search at Manafort's residence and his October 2017 indictment, Manafort did not recall any direct or indirect contact from anyone in the White House. He spoke to Hannity, who was "certainly a back channel," but also a personal friend. Manafort knew Hannity was speaking to Trump around then because Hannity would tell Manafort to hang in there, that he had been talking to Trump, that Trump had his back, and things like that. Manafort understood his conversations with Hannity to be a

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(Rev. 05-08-10)

b7E  
b7F

(U) Interview of Paul J. Manafort  
Continuation of FD-302 of (10.01.18) . On 10/01/2018 . Page 10 of 12

message from Trump. Manafort did not remember specifically when the conversations happened, but it was the "natural kind of text messaging" they would do. They also spoke on the phone. The frequency was dependent on what was going on at the time; sometimes they spoke twice a week, some weeks not at all.

FBI

Continuation of FD-302 of (U) Interview of Robert Porter . On 05/08/2018 . Page 11 of 20

## Discussions of other investigations:

[REDACTED] b5 Per DOJ/OIP

[REDACTED] The President said he never liked Manafort, and [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Manafort did not know what he was  
doing either. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b5 Per DOJ/OIP

[REDACTED] b5 Per DOJ/OIP  
[REDACTED] He recalled the general sentiment that the President wondered  
what was going on and in what way [REDACTED] Manafort were cooperating.

FBI

## Another witness to the Trump Tower meeting said Trump Jr. asked about dirt on Clinton

Ike Kaveladze, a business executive who lives in California, said his boss, Aras Agalarov, called him on June 6, 2016, and asked him to attend a meeting at Trump Tower in Manhattan. Kaveladze told the FBI he was "puzzled" why he would be meeting with top campaign officials including Donald Trump Jr. and Jared Kushner.

He was told two different reasons. At first, Agalarov explained that they would be discussing the Magnitsky Act, far-reaching sanctions that the Kremlin wanted to be overturned. But a second man, business partner Roman Benjaminov, told him that a lawyer would be at the meeting who had negative information about Hillary Clinton.

In the heavily redacted FBI interview summary, Kaveladze said that at one point during the meeting Kushner appeared "aggravated and stressed." "What are we doing here?" Kushner reportedly asked.

Trump Jr. later asked: "Is there anything you have on Hillary?"

Kaveladze later called his boss, Agalarov, and told him the meeting was a "complete waste of time" and that the group was "preaching to the wrong crowd."

Relevant documents on page 207:

[REDACTED]  
KUSHNER appeared to be aggravated and stressed. He was really upset and said, "What are we doing here?" TRUMP, JR. then asked, "Is there anything you have on HILLARY?" [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] GOLDSTONE [REDACTED]  
approached TRUMP, JR. after the meeting and apologized. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b5 Per DOJ/OIP

[REDACTED] b5 Per DOJ/OIP

[REDACTED] ARAS had asked KAVELADZE to call him after the meeting. He called KAVELADZE before KAVELADZE could call him [REDACTED] KAVELADZE told ARAS the meeting went well because VESELNITSKAYA was next to him. Within two hours, KAVELADZE had a second call with ARAS and provided more details. KAVELADZE told ARAS the meeting was a complete waste of time. He told ARAS the meeting was not with lawyers and they were "preaching to the wrong crowd."

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FBI

### **A senior official said Hope Hicks thought George Papadopoulos was a "problem child"**

Former Trump campaign aide George Papadopoulos who served two weeks in jail for lying to the FBI was described as a "problem child" by then-White House communications director Hope Hicks, according to a summary of an interview an FBI agent and prosecutors from Mueller's team conducted with Trump campaign official John Mashburn on June 25, 2018.

Mashburn, who later went on to work as a senior official in the Department of Energy and the Department of Veterans Affairs, also entered into a proffer agreement with special counsel's team.

In his interview, he was asked about an email he had received from Papadopoulos before the 2016 Republican National Convention alleging Russia had damaging information about Hillary Clinton. Mashburn told the FBI he did not discuss Papadopoulos's email with other

members of the Trump campaign. "Mashburn thought Papadopoulos was merely trying to use headlines to make himself relevant. When Mashburn received the email he thought, 'I'm not dealing with this,'" said the notes from his FBI interview.

Mashburn also told the FBI that he recalled discussions with campaign officials about Clinton's missing and/or deleted emails, according to the notes of the summary of his interview.

"Everyone was looking for them and Trump wanted them," the interview summary said.

"Mashburn thought it would be great to find them so they could better understand several issues, like the Clinton Foundation, donations, etc. Mashburn relayed the campaign however, was not scouring the Internet to try and find them. The emails they were searching for were related to Clinton's private server, and not related to the emails that Wikileaks released."

A second interview Mueller's team conducted with Mashburn on Aug. 2, 2018, was completely redacted.

*Relevant documents on pages 229-230:*

EMAIL FROM GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS

MASHBURN recalled receiving an email from GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS in either late May or early June 2016. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] MASHBURN believed he had received it while he was looking out the window of the Alexandria office. MASHBURN conducted searches for the email prior to this interview but was unable to locate it. [REDACTED]

b3

MASHBURN believed PAPADOPOULOS sent the email prior to the Republican National Convention (RNC) but he did not have discussions about it with other members of the campaign during the RNC. MASHBURN thought PAPADOPOULOS was merely trying to use headlines to make himself relevant. When MASHBURN received the email he thought, "I'm not dealing with this." If MASHBURN was to have done anything with the email, he would have

FBI(19cv1278)-1301

FBI

MASHBURN first met PAPADOPOULOS when he came to the Alexandria office in either late April or early May 2016. PAPADOPOULOS was working on matters related to outreach in Armenian and Greek communities and he wanted the campaign to pay for his travel expenses. MASHBURN, like the others on the campaign, were aggravated with both PAPADOPOULOS and CARTER PAGE, because they were both [REDACTED] At one point, HOPE HICKS told PAPADOPOULOS to talk to MASHBURN because PAPADOPOULOS was becoming a problem child with campaign and they wanted to get rid of him. MASHBURN believed it was CLOVIS' responsibility to control PAPADOPOULOS given that CLOVIS had initially brought him to the campaign. MASHBURN just wanted him to go away because he had been cold-calling embassies and using the campaign to bolster his own profile. In addition, PAPADOPOULOS had previously sent emails about arranging a meeting between TRUMP and Russian President, VLADIMIR PUTIN.

b6  
b7C

FBI

Read all of the latest documents:

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

January 2, 2020

MR. JASON LEOPOLD  
BUZZFEED NEWS  
7<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20009

FOIPA Request No.: 1432673-000  
Civil Action No.: 19-cv-01278  
Subject: All 302's of individuals who were  
questioned/interviewed by FBI Agents working for the  
Office of Special Counsel Robert Mueller

Dear Mr. Leopold:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Below you will find checked boxes under applicable statutes for the exemptions asserted to protect information exempt from disclosure. The appropriate exemptions are noted on the processed pages next to redacted information. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted to indicate where pages were withheld entirely pursuant to applicable exemptions. An Explanation of Exemptions is enclosed to further explain justification for withheld information.

<b>Section 552</b>		<b>Section 552a</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(1)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(A)	<input type="checkbox"/> (d)(5)
<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(2)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(B)	<input type="checkbox"/> (j)(2)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(3)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(C)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(1)
<u>Federal Rules of</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(D)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(2)
<u>Criminal Procedure 6(e)</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(E)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(3)
<u>50 U.S.C § 3024(i)</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(7)(F)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(4)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(4)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(8)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(5)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(5)	<input type="checkbox"/> (b)(9)	<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b)(6)		<input type="checkbox"/> (k)(7)

430 pages were reviewed and 349 pages are being released.

- Deletions were made by the Department of Justice/Office of Information Policy. To appeal those denials, please write directly to that agency.

Please see the paragraphs below for relevant information specific to your request and the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for standard responses applicable to all requests.

- Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning, other Government Agency (ies) [OGA].
- This information has been referred to the OGA(s) for review and direct response to you.
- We are consulting with another agency. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is completed.

- Jason Leopold is a senior investigative reporter for BuzzFeed News and is based in Los Angeles. He is a 2018 Pulitzer finalist for international reporting, recipient of the IRE 2016 FOI award and a 2016 Newseum Institute National Freedom of Information Hall of Fame inductee.



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Got a confidential tip? [Submit it here](#).

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