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COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE RUSSIA

House Intel GOP Formally End Russia Investigation

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The House Intelligence Committee (<https://investigaterussia.org/investigations/house-permanent-select-committee-intelligence>) Republican majority voted Thursday to end its Russia investigation and start the process of having its final report declassified. A Summary Table of Findings

(https://intelligence.house.gov/uploadedfiles/russia_report_findings_and_recommendations.pdf) re what that report will say, the most troubling of which is included in the following section which completely exonerates the Trump campaign based on no concrete evidence.

CHAPTER 4: CAMPAIGN LINKS WITH RUSSIA (/search/node)

(U) Finding #25: When asked directly, none of the interviewed witnesses provided evidence of collusion, coordination, or conspiracy between the Trump campaign and the Russian government.

(U) Finding #26: The Committee found no evidence that President Trump's pre-campaign business dealings formed the basis for collusion during the campaign.

(U) Finding #27: The Republican national security establishment's opposition to candidate Trump created opportunities for two less-experienced individuals with pro-Russia views to serve as campaign advisors: George Papadopoulos and Carter Page.

(U) Finding #28: The change in the Republican Party platform regarding Ukraine resulted in a stronger position against Russia, not a weaker one, and there is no evidence that Paul Manafort was involved.

(U) Finding #29: There is no evidence that Trump associates were involved in the theft or publication of Clinton campaign-related emails, although Trump associates had numerous ill-advised contacts with WikiLeaks.

(U) Finding #30: Carter Page did not travel to Moscow in July 2016 on behalf of the Trump campaign, but the Committee is concerned about his seemingly incomplete accounts of his activity in Moscow.


(U) Finding #31: George Papadopoulos' attempts to leverage his Russian contacts to facilitate meetings between the Trump campaign and Russians was unsuccessful.


(U) Finding #32: Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner, and Paul Manafort attended a June 9, 2016, meeting at Trump Tower where they expected to receive—but did not ultimately obtain—derogatory information on candidate Clinton from Russian sources.

(U) Finding #33: Donald Trump Jr. briefly met with a Russian government official at the 2016 National Rifle Association annual meeting, but the Committee found no evidence that the two discussed the U.S. presidential election.

(U) Finding #34: The Committee found no evidence that meetings between Trump associates—including Jeff Sessions—and official representatives of the Russian government—including Ambassador Kislyak—reflected collusion, coordination, or conspiracy with the Russian government.

Chairman Devin Nunes (<https://investigaterussia.org/players/representative-devin-nunes>) (R-CA), a member of the Trump transition team who actively had been working to derail the committee's probe from the beginning, released a statement

(<https://intelligence.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=877>) claiming the report is a full accounting of what the committee uncovered.  (/search/node)

 (<https://www.facebook.com/Investigate>)

“This report, based on 70-plus witness interviews and more than 300,000 documents collected, provides specific findings and recommendations to improve our election security before the mid-term elections. The report, which will include minority views if the minority submits them, presents the comprehensive results of what the Committee has learned during its fourteen-month-long investigation, and will be useful in thwarting any attempts by Russia or other foreign powers to further meddle in U.S. elections.”

Intel Republicans concluded that even though investigators uncovered evidence of multiple points of contact between the Trump campaign and Russians, Republicans believe there was no collusion because Trump associates said so.

NPR ([https://www.npr.org/2018/03/22/596066356/house-intel-gop-report-witnesses-say-they-didnt-collude-with-russian-interferenc?](https://www.npr.org/2018/03/22/596066356/house-intel-gop-report-witnesses-say-they-didnt-collude-with-russian-interferenc?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_)

[utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_](https://www.npr.org/2018/03/22/596066356/house-intel-gop-report-witnesses-say-they-didnt-collude-with-russian-interferenc?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_)

"When asked directly, none of the interviewed witnesses provided evidence of collusion, coordination or conspiracy between the Trump campaign and the Russian government," according to new documents.

Committee Republicans also found no evidence that Trump's "pre-campaign business dealings formed the basis for collusion during the campaign."

The panel confirmed several contacts between Trump campaign aides and Russians, as well as communications between people in Trump world and Wikileaks, through which Russian intelligence fenced stolen political communications.

Republicans concluded those contacts were "ill-advised," but not illegal or improper.

(...)

The intelligence panel's top Democrat, Rep. Adam Schiff of California, called the report a whitewash and said Republicans have blocked avenues of investigation that might have uncovered facts unpalatable to them and Trump.

Schiff (D-CA) released a statement (<https://democrats-intelligence.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=369>) online which also included the transcript of his press availability after the Thursday morning vote. <https://www.facebook.com/InvestigateRussia> (/search/node)

“We had approached the Majority well before the issuance of this report to urge them to work with us on a joint report. There was really no interest on their end in doing so, and when it became clear even on things where there should have been overwhelming agreement, such as the Intelligence Community’s conclusion that Russia sought to sow discord, to harm Hillary Clinton and help Donald Trump, the Majority made clear that they were going to take issue even with those fundamental conclusions, at least as they pertained to Donald Trump. It was clear that their report was going to be completely political from beginning to end and there really wasn’t much to work on in a joint fashion.”

Several news outlets picked up on the absurdity of many of the GOP summary findings and were quick to point out the obviously incomplete nature of the investigation.

Bloomberg Politics (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-22/house-gop-set-to-end-disputed-russian-election-meddling-probe>):

The summary said accusations of collusion were further undermined by Russian attempts to establish a “back channel” with the Trump campaign, saying that such an effort wouldn’t have been needed because “collusion would have rendered such a ‘back channel’ unnecessary.”

NBC News (<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/ncna858931>):

According to the Center for American Progress's Moscow Project, the [House Intelligence Committee report](#) (https://www.house.gov/committees/intelligence/documents/2018-03-22/house-intel-gop-formally-end-russia-investigation) charged with investigating Russian involvement in the 2016 election obtained either no or incomplete information about 81 percent of the known contacts between Trump officials and Russians, or groups and individuals with strong Russia ties like Wikileaks.

(...)

Another key finding, according to CAP's examination (http://msnbcmedia.msn.com/i/TODAY/z_Creative/MoscowProject.pdf): At least 22 high-ranking Trump campaign officials knew about the contacts during the 2016 campaign and the transition.

(...)

Based on news reports, public statements, witness lists and indictments related to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, the CAP report documents at least 70 contacts between the Trump team and Russia-linked operatives, from January 2016 through 2017 as Trump took the oath of office. They include 22 meetings, including Skype calls.

(...)

Particularly glaring oversights, according to the CAP report, include not asking Trump attorney Cohen for documents about a proposed 2016 Trump Tower deal in Moscow and not calling Kushner back for more information about a June 9 meeting at Trump Tower in New York with Russians, including attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya (<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/russian-lawyer-who-met-trump-jr-i-didn-t-have-n781631>) and a former Soviet counterintelligence officer and lobbyist.

Bloomberg Politics (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-22/house-gop-set-to-end-disputed-russian-election-meddling-probe>):

The second-ranking Democrat, Jim Himes of Connecticut, said the report will be announced on Monday. The findings in the Republican report will be announced on Monday. <https://www.investigatorussia.org/Investigate>
 (...)

One of the key potential outcomes of the committee's hearings, public transcripts of its dozens of closed-door interviews with witnesses, may never surface. Republicans last week reversed earlier plans to release those transcripts, though Democrats say they plan to attach the documents to their final report.

House probe overlooked most Trump-Russia contacts, report claims
 (<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/amp/ncna858931>) (*NBC News*)

GOP Shuts Down House Russia Probe Despite New Revelations
 (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-22/house-gop-set-to-end-disputed-russian-election-meddling-probe>) (*Bloomberg Politics*)

House Intel GOP Report: Witnesses Say They Didn't Collude With Russian Interference
 ([https://www.npr.org/2018/03/22/596066356/house-intel-gop-report-witnesses-say-they-didnt-collude-with-russian-interferenc?](https://www.npr.org/2018/03/22/596066356/house-intel-gop-report-witnesses-say-they-didnt-collude-with-russian-interferenc?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_)
[utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_](https://www.npr.org/2018/03/22/596066356/house-intel-gop-report-witnesses-say-they-didnt-collude-with-russian-interferenc?utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=npr&utm_term=nprnews&utm_)
) (*NPR*)

Nunes Statement on Approval of Russia Report
 (<https://intelligence.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=877>) (press release)

Schiff Statement After Committee Republicans Voted to Release Partisan Report
 (<https://democrats-intelligence.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=369>) (press release)

House Intel Republicans Summary Table of Findings
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WHY IT MATTERS



[\(/video/president-may-not-understand-i-guarantee-russians-understand\)](#)

"The president may not understand the long-term damage he's doing, but I guarantee the Russians understand that." [\(/video/president-may-not-understand-i-guarantee-russians-understand\)](#)



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NEW: The House Oversight and Reform Committee has rescheduled its public hearing with former Trump attorney Michael Cohen to Wednesday, Feb. 27. Chairman Cummings has also released a memo "outlining the scope of the hearing:" oversight.house.gov/sites/democrat...

"I am pleased to announce that Michael Cohen's public testimony before the Oversight Committee is back on, despite efforts by some to intimidate his family members and prevent him from appearing. Congress has an obligation under the Constitution to conduct independent and robust oversight of the Executive Branch, and this hearing is one step in that process."

In making today's announcement, Cummings also released an official briefing

Intelligence Committee's investigation of efforts by Russia to influence the 2016 election and other matters.

BACKGROUND

* As the President's personal attorney and "fixer" for more than a decade, Cohen can provide the Committee and the American people with key testimony about why he went from one of the

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