



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C. 20535

November 1, 2019

MR. JASON LEOPOLD  
BUZZFEED  
C/O MERRICK JASON WAYNE  
MATTHEW TOPIC  
LOEVY & LOEVY  
THIRD FLOOR  
311 N. ABERDEN STREET  
CHICAGO, IL 60607

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.

**Section 552**

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

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| <input type="checkbox"/> (k)(6) |
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503 pages were reviewed and 266 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.

Please refer to the enclosed FBI FOIPA Addendum for additional standard responses applicable to your request. **"Part 1"** of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. **"Part 2"** includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records on individuals. **"Part 3"** includes general information about FBI records that you may find useful. Also enclosed is our Explanation of Exemptions.

Although your request is in litigation, we are required by law to provide you the following information:

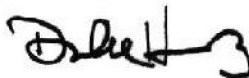
You may file an appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Sixth Floor, 441 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIA online portal by creating an account on the following website: <https://www.foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within ninety (90) days from the date of this letter in order to be considered timely. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

You may seek dispute resolution services by contacting the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. Alternatively, you may contact the FBI's FOIA Public Liaison by emailing [foipaquestions@fbi.gov](mailto:foipaquestions@fbi.gov). If you submit your dispute resolution correspondence by email, the subject heading should clearly state "Dispute Resolution Services." Please also cite the FOIPA Request Number assigned to your request so it may be easily identified.

Please direct any further inquiries about this case to the Attorney representing the Government in this matter. Please use the FOIPA Request Number and/or Civil Action Number in all correspondence or inquiries concerning your request.

- ☒ See additional information which follows.

Sincerely,



David M. Hardy  
Section Chief  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Information Management Division

Enclosures

**Additional Information:**

In response to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, enclosed is a processed copy of Bates Stamped documents, FBI (19-cv-1278)-1 through FBI (19-cv-1278)-503. The enclosed documents represent the first interim release of information responsive to your request. To minimize costs to both you and the FBI, duplicate copies of the same document were not processed.

## FBI FOIPA Addendum

As referenced in our letter responding to your Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request, the FBI FOIPA Addendum includes information applicable to your request. Part 1 of the Addendum includes standard responses that apply to all requests. Part 2 includes additional standard responses that apply to all requests for records on individuals. Part 3 includes general information about FBI records. For questions regarding Parts 1, 2, or 3, visit the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website under "Contact Us." Previously mentioned appeal and dispute resolution services are also available at the web address.

### Part 1: The standard responses below apply to all requests:

- (i) **5 U.S.C. § 552(c).** Congress excluded three categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA [5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010))]. FBI responses are limited to those records subject to the requirements of the FOIA. Additional information about the FBI and the FOIPA can be found on the [www.fbi.gov/foia](http://www.fbi.gov/foia) website.
- (ii) **National Security/Intelligence Records.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of national security and foreign intelligence records pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1), (b)(3), and PA exemption (j)(2) as applicable to requests for records about individuals [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(1), (b)(3), and (j)(2); 50 U.S.C § 3024(i)(1)]. The mere acknowledgment of the existence or nonexistence of such records is itself a classified fact protected by FOIA exemption (b)(1) and/or would reveal intelligence sources, methods, or activities protected by exemption (b)(3) [50 USC § 3024(i)(1)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that national security or foreign intelligence records do or do not exist.

### Part 2: The standard responses below apply to all requests for records on individuals:

- (i) **Requests for Records about any Individual—Watch Lists.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of any individual's name on a watch list pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(7)(E) and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that watch list records do or do not exist.
- (ii) **Requests for Records for Incarcerated Individuals.** The FBI can neither confirm nor deny the existence of records which could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any incarcerated individual pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and PA exemption (j)(2) [5 U.S.C. §§ 552/552a (b)(7)(E), (b)(7)(F), and (j)(2)]. This is a standard response and should not be read to indicate that such records do or do not exist.

### Part 3: General Information:

- (i) **Record Searches.** The Record/Information Dissemination Section (RIDS) searches for reasonably described records by searching those systems or locations where responsive records would reasonably be found. A reasonable search normally consists of a search for main files in the Central Records System (CRS), an extensive system of records consisting of applicant, investigative, intelligence, personnel, administrative, and general files compiled and maintained by the FBI in the course of fulfilling law enforcement, intelligence, and administrative functions. The CRS spans the entire FBI organization and encompasses the records of FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ), FBI Field Offices, and FBI Legal Attaché Offices (Legats) worldwide and includes Electronic Surveillance (ELSUR) records. For additional information about our record searches visit [www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records](http://www.fbi.gov/services/information-management/foipa/requesting-fbi-records).
- (ii) **FBI Records.** Founded in 1908, the FBI carries out a dual law enforcement and national security mission. As part of this dual mission, the FBI creates and maintains records on various subjects; however, the FBI does not maintain records on every person, subject, or entity.
- (iii) **Requests for Criminal History Records or Rap Sheets.** The Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division provides Identity History Summary Checks – often referred to as a criminal history record or rap sheets. These criminal history records are not the same as material in an investigative "FBI file." An Identity History Summary Check is a listing of information taken from fingerprint cards and documents submitted to the FBI in connection with arrests, federal employment, naturalization, or military service. For a fee, individuals can request a copy of their Identity History Summary Check. Forms and directions can be accessed at [www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks](http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks). Additionally, requests can be submitted electronically at [www.edo.cjis.gov](http://www.edo.cjis.gov). For additional information, please contact CJIS directly at (304) 625-5590.
- (iv) **The National Name Check Program (NNCP).** The mission of NNCP is to analyze and report information in response to name check requests received from federal agencies, for the purpose of protecting the United States from foreign and domestic threats to national security. Please be advised that this is a service provided to other federal agencies. Private citizens cannot request a name check.



## **EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS**

### **SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552**

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute (A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### **SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a**

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
 FOI/PA  
 DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET  
 Civil Action No.: 19-cv-1278 / 19-cv-1626  
 FOIA: 1432673-000 / 1433273-000  
 PDF Title: 19-cv-1278 Release 1 Bates 1-503

Total Withheld Pages = 237

Bates Page Reference	Reason for Withholding (i.e., exemptions with coded rationale, duplicate, sealed by order of court, etc.)
FBI(19cv1278) 8	b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 41	b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 44	b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 48	b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 79	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 80	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 81	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 84	b5 per DOJ/OIP
FBI(19cv1278) 88	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 89	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 93	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 94	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 95	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 97	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 98	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 99	b5 per DOJ/OIP
FBI(19cv1278) 101	b5 per DOJ/OIP
FBI(19cv1278) 102	b5 per DOJ/OIP
FBI(19cv1278) 103	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 104	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 105	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 106	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 107	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 108	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 109	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C

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<b>Bates Page Reference</b>	<b>Reason for Withholding</b> (i.e., exemptions with coded rationale, duplicate, sealed by order of court, etc.)
FBI(19cv1278) 110	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 111	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 112	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 113	b7A; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 114	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 115	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 116	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 117	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 118	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 119	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 123	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 184	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 185	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C

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Bates Page Reference	Reason for Withholding (i.e., exemptions with coded rationale, duplicate, sealed by order of court, etc.)
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FBI(19cv1278) 192	b5 per DOJ/OIP
FBI(19cv1278) 193	b5 per DOJ/OIP
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FBI(19cv1278) 198	b5 per DOJ/OIP
FBI(19cv1278) 213	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 215	b5 per DOJ/OIP
FBI(19cv1278) 216	Referral/Consult; b3; b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7A per DOJ/OIP; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 218	b6; b7A per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 220	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 242	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 246	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 255	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C

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FBI(19cv1278) 282	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 283	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 284	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 285	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 288	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C

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Bates Page Reference	Reason for Withholding (i.e., exemptions with coded rationale, duplicate, sealed by order of court, etc.)
FBI(19cv1278) 289	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 305	Duplicate
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FBI(19cv1278) 353	b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 355	b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 361	b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 362	b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 363	b6; b7A; b7B per DOJ/OIP; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 405	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 411	Duplicate
FBI(19cv1278) 412	Duplicate

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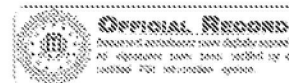


<b>Bates Page Reference</b>	<b>Reason for Withholding</b> (i.e., exemptions with coded rationale, duplicate, sealed by order of court, etc.)
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FBI(19cv1278) 478	b5 per DOJ/OIP
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FBI(19cv1278) 480	b5 per DOJ/OIP
FBI(19cv1278) 483	b5 per DOJ/OIP
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FBI(19cv1278) 487	b5 per DOJ/OIP
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FBI(19cv1278) 492	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
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FBI(19cv1278) 494	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
FBI(19cv1278) 495	b5 per DOJ/OIP; b6; b7C
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b7E

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 05/10/2018

Richard Gates, was interviewed at 395 E Street SW, Washington, D.C. Present for the interview were SA [REDACTED] ASAC [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Senior Assistant Special Counsel (SASC) Greg Andres, SASC Jeannie Rhee, SASC Andrew Weissmann, Assistant Special Counsel (ASC) Aaron Zelinsky, and IA [REDACTED] After being advised of the official identities of the interviewing parties and the nature of the interview, Gates provided the following information:

b6  
b7C

Gates began the interview by advising [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were not happy with Gates's cooperation with the Special Counsel's investigation.

b6

b7A

b7B Per DOJ/OIP

b7C

b6

b7A

b7B Per DOJ/OIP

b7C

b6

b7A

b7B Per DOJ/OIP

b7C

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Investigation on 04/10/2018 at Washington, District Of Columbia, United States (In Person)

File # [REDACTED] Date drafted 04/24/2018

by [REDACTED]

b6  
b7C  
b7E  
b7A



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b7A

[REDACTED]

(U//FOUO) Richard Gates Interview 04/10  
Continuation of FD-302 of [REDACTED] /2018, On 04/10/2018, Page 2 of 6

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

[REDACTED] [Note: On 06/12/2016, Assange stated he had  
"upcoming leaks in relation to Hillary Clinton... We have emails pending  
publication."].

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

[REDACTED] Gates said as of May 2016, h  
(Gates) was not aware of the source of the hack.

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

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[REDACTED]

UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~

b7E  
b7A

[REDACTED]

(U//FOUO) Richard Gates Interview 04/10  
Continuation of FD-302 of /2018, On 04/10/2018, Page 3 of 6

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

[Note: On or about 06/27/2016, DNC emails were posted by DCLeaks]. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

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FBI(19cv1278)-3

UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~b7E  
b7A(U//FOUO) Richard Gates Interview 04/10  
/2018

Continuation of FD-302 of \_\_\_\_\_, On 04/10/2018, Page 4 of 6

b6

b7A

b7B Per DOJ/OIP

b7C

Campaign Response to Hacked Emails

b6

b7A

b7B Per DOJ/OIP

b7C

Gates said there was also an inside job theory about how the emails were obtained fueled by the death of Seth Rich [Note: Seth Conrad Rich was an employee of the DNC who was fatally shot in Washington, D.C. on 07/10/2016]. Gates said he was never present at any talks suggesting the campaign push the inside job theory. The Trump campaign team also thought the Democrats were pushing the Russia narrative.

Gates said Donald Trump Jr. would ask where the emails were in family meetings. Michael Flynn, Kushner, Manafort, [REDACTED] Lewandowski, Jeff Sessions, and Sam Clovis expressed interest in obtaining the emails as well. Gates said the priority focuses of the Trump campaign opposition research team were Clinton's emails and contributions to the Clinton Foundation. Flynn, [REDACTED] Sessions, Kushner, and Trump Jr. were all focused on opposition topics.

b6  
b7C

Gates said interest in the emails was ratcheting up in the April/May 2016 timeframe because it was likely the emails could help Trump's campaign. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6

b7A

b7B Per DOJ/OIP

b7C

Trump Jr. never communicated anything about the 06/09/2016 meeting with Gates. After the news broke about the 06/09/2016 meeting, Manafort asked Gates if he (Gates) was there. [Note: The 06/09/2016 meeting is a reference to a meeting that took place at Trump Tower arranged on the

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FBI(19cv1278)-4



[REDACTED]  
UNCLASSIFIED//~~FOUO~~b7E  
b7A(U//FOUO) Richard Gates Interview 04/10  
Continuation of FD-302 of /2018 , On 04/10/2018 , Page 5 of 6

pretense that documents and information that would incriminate Hillary Clinton would be provided to the Trump campaign by a Russian government attorney later identified as Natalia Veselnitskaya]

[REDACTED]  
b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

[REDACTED] Gates said Trump was interested in the emails but remained composed with a healthy skepticism.

Gates recalled communication with Reince Preibus and [REDACTED] The RNC was energized by Assange's announcement on 06/12/2016. Gates indicated that based on a conversation with Manafort, Gates knew the RNC was going to run the Wikileaks issue to ground, they had more resources to commit to this effort. Trump and Kushner were initially skeptical about cooperating with the RNC, but the Wikileaks issue was a turning point.

b6  
b7C

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Gates described the campaign response to the report as euphoric.  
[REDACTED]

b6  
b7C  
b7E

Gates said the RNC would put out press releases that would serve to amplify the Wikileaks releases. The RNC also indicated they knew the timing of the upcoming releases, Gates did not specify who at the RNC knew this information. Gates said the only non-public information the RNC had was related to the timing of the releases.

Gates recalled a time on the campaign aircraft when candidate Trump said, "get the emails." Flynn said he could use his intelligence sources to obtain the emails. Flynn was adamant the Russians did not carry out the hack. To support this theory Flynn advised, based on his experience, the United States Intelligence Community (USIC) was not capable of figuring it out. Gates opined that Flynn's assessment of the USIC derived from the negative way in which Flynn departed the USIC. Gates said Flynn had the most Russia contacts of anyone on the campaign and was in the best position to ask for the emails if they were out there.

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[REDACTED]  
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b7A

[REDACTED]  
(U//FOUO) Richard Gates Interview 04/10  
Continuation of FD-302 of /2018 , On 04/10/2018 , Page 6 of 6

Gates advised Trump Jr. and Manafort also had contacts with, "Russia types." Gates clarified by saying Manafort's connection with Russians was minimal aside from his relationship with Oleg Deripaska. Gates said Manafort primarily had contacts with Ukrainians. Gates recalled Manafort saying the hack was likely carried out by the Ukrainians, not the Russians, which parroted a narrative Kilimnik often supported. Kilimnik also opined the hack could have been perpetrated by Russian operatives in Ukraine.

Gates said based on prior business dealings, Kushner had the best China contacts. Manafort and Gates had discussions pertaining to Kushner's Chinese contacts. Gates said there were numerous foreign requests to meet Trump after the nomination was secured.

At some point, there was speculation the Mossad might have the emails. Gates said there was never any mention of the Saudis or the Emirates having the emails. Manafort was generally skeptical of any offers of information coming to the campaign's attention.

For example, Gates said there was a group of realtors from Kyrgyzstan claiming to have information that may be of use to the campaign. The information pertained to foreign contributions to the Clinton campaign.

Gates said he never heard about the emails or dirt from George Papadopoulos.

Gates said, during the campaign, Trump and Manafort talked to Sean Hannity in their offices often.

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LEAD  
AW

4/10/2018

RG:

[Redacted]

get more aggressive

[Redacted]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C  
b7E

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

6/2/2016: Testing answered HRC email

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

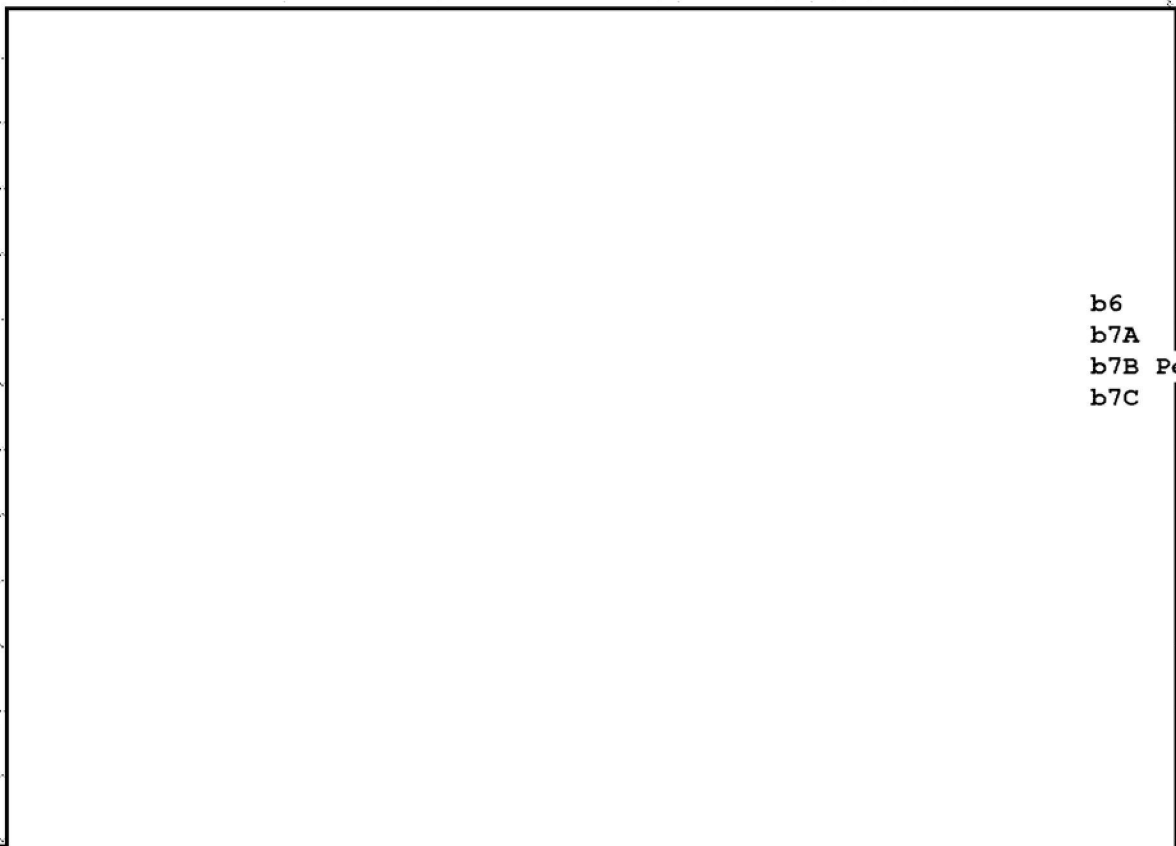
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4/10/2018



not pleased w. RG cooperation

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b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C

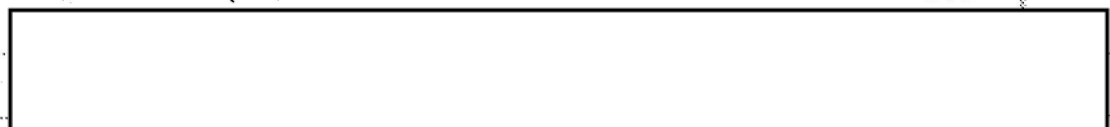


b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C



RG not aware in May 2016 source of hack

b6  
b7A  
b7B Per DOJ/OIP  
b7C



- Den Jr. would bring up in family meetings, where are the emails?