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From: (b)(6)
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To: Coulter, Sonata N
Subject: Fwd: Summary of Putin/Tucker Carlson Interview

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 1:41:27 PM
To: EUR-EE-DL <EUR-EE-DL@state.gov>; EUR-RUS-DL <EUR-RUS-DL@state.gov>
Subject: Summary of Putin/Tucker Carlson Interview

Good afternoon,

Below is a summary of the Putin/Tucker Carlson Interview.

(U) Summary: At two hours and seven minutes, Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent interview with Tucker Carlson ran the gamut of Kremlin talking points on Russia's war against Ukraine, U.S.-Russia relations, and broader themes of democracy and propaganda. Very little new information was presented; the tone was fawning, and generally avoided sensitive discussion of Russia's domestic politics, economy, or human rights violations in Ukraine.

Putin Rambles on (and on and on) about Russian History:

- For the first 40 mins or so of the interview, Putin explained in great detail how he viewed various historical events and individuals of interest (Katherine the Great, Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Stepan Bandera & etc.), taking pains to tie historical Russian holdings and the fight against Nazism in the Great Patriotic War to his current campaign against Ukraine and beyond.
- Putin asserted that Russia's goals in Ukraine, particularly "de-Nazification" of Ukrainian leadership, have not been fully achieved. He provided examples, such as the celebration of Yaroslav Hunka by the Canadian Parliament and President Zelenskyy; Putin took the opportunity to go into great detail on SS units comprised of Ukrainian volunteers participating in the extermination of Jews, Polish, and Romani peoples from 1941-1945 to attempt to tie Nazi ideology to the present-day Ukrainian government.

Condemning U.S. Support for Ukraine, American Democracy

- Putin used the platform to repeatedly condemn Western support for Ukraine and cite examples of prejudice against Russia, particularly Russia's bid to join NATO and attempts at collaboration on major industrial and military projects; America bombing Belgrade and supplying Kosovo with lethal aid; alleged U.S. intel agencies aiding the Ukrainians in what Putin called a coup to overthrow Yanukovich during the Revolution of Dignity.
- Putin made an accusation of U.S. and specifically CIA involvement in the Nord Stream gas pipeline blasts, which was played in the interview as a lighthearted jab.

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Prisoner Exchange Dynamics:

- In a rare moment of mild challenge, Carlson asked Putin for comment on the continued detention of U.S. journalist Evan Gershkovich, including the potential prisoner exchange. Putin referred to a Russian agent held in Germany.

Very Respectfully,

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