



United States Department of State

Washington, DC 20520

June 20, 2024

Case No. F-2024-05938/
FL-2024-00046

William F. Marshall
Judicial Watch, Inc.
425 Third Street, SW
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Marshall:

This letter is in response to your request dated February 2, 2024, regarding the release of certain Department of State (“Department”) material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Thus far, the Department has identified 26 responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined 1 records may be released in full and 25 records may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(c). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification

that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist. To the extent another agency asserts that it can neither confirm nor deny the existence of certain records, the Department of State will similarly take the position that it neither confirms nor denies the existence of those records.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact John J. "Jack" Bardo, Assistant United States Attorney, at john.bardo@usdoj.gov or (202) 870-6770. Please refer to the case number, F-2024-05938/FL-2024-00046, and the civil action number, 24-cv-00840, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diamonece Hickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Diamonece Hickson
Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
 - 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
 - (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: Jim Ainsworth
Sent: Fri, 26 Jan 2024 22:22:39 -0500
To: George, Suzy; Sullivan, Thomas D; (b)(6)@state.gov; Nuland, Victoria J; Chollet, Derek H; Holmgren, Brett M; Kerry, John F; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Watch: Oklahoma Gov. Announces Deployment Of National Guard To Texas Amid Biden Border Brawl

Watch: Oklahoma Gov. Announces Deployment Of National Guard To Texas Amid Biden Border Brawl

"I've done it once before...I've already talked to my TAG (The Adjutant General), my General, Mancino, we've already started putting the numbers together," says Gov. Kevin Stitt.

by Adan Salazar

January 26th 2024, 5:22 PM CT



Image Credit: BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP via Getty Images

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Governor Kevin Stitt (R) announced he's deploying the Oklahoma National Guard to Texas amid its dispute with the Biden administration over the right to defend its borders.

Stitt confirmed the deployment on Fox News Friday, saying he'd sent his National Guard to Texas before and that this time would be no different.

"Absolutely," the governor responded when asked if he'd follow former President Donald Trump's recent call for all willing states to dispatch National Guard troops to aid Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R), who's entrenched in a feud with Biden over razor wire barriers in Eagle Pass.

JUST IN: Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt announces he is sending the Oklahoma National Guard to aid Texas in its border battle with Joe Biden.

"We've already started putting the numbers together," he says.

This decision follows a request from President Donald Trump urging states to support Texas.

pic.twitter.com/qviWlhrCyy

— The Vigilant Fox  (@VigilantFox) January 26, 2024

"I've done it once before and we're looking...I've already talked to my TAG (The Adjutant General), my General, Mancino, we've already started putting the numbers together," Stitt said.

"We'll be in contact with Gov. Abbott."

Gov. Stitt's confirmation he'll send National Guard personnel to Texas comes as former president Trump on Thursday urged states to mobilize their National Guard units to help Texas defend its border.

"We encourage all willing States to deploy their guards to Texas to prevent the entry of illegals, and to remove them back across the Border," Trump stated, adding, "Those Biden has let in should not get comfortable because they will be going home."

The Sooner State was the first to declare its commitment to backing the State of Texas in its entanglement with the Biden administration earlier this week, after which 24 other GOP-led states followed suit.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Oklahoma stands with Texas.

<https://t.co/67VzVEfEv1>

— Governor Kevin Stitt (@GovStitt) January 24, 2024

Abbott told Tucker Carlson in an interview Friday that 10 states had already sent troops to Texas and that he expected others to do the same.

“I’ll be shocked and disappointed if almost all of them do not send,” said the Texas governor. “There have been about 10 [states] so far that have sent National Guard or other law enforcement. They now are joined together with us. And this is a fight for the future of America, and they all know it. And so I believe that they will all be in on this effort.”

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

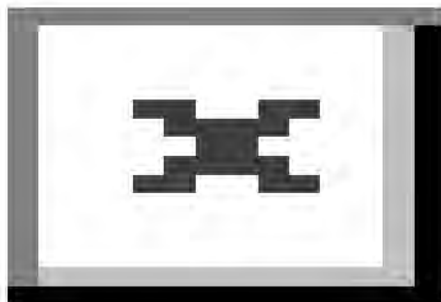
From: Jim Ainsworth
Sent: Fri, 26 Jan 2024 20:15:05 -0500
To: George, Suzy; Sullivan, Thomas D; (b)(6)@state.gov; Nuland, Victoria J; Chollet, Derek H; Holmgren, Brett M; Kerry, John F; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Watch: Gov. Abbott Tells Tucker Carlson He's Not Backing Down, Expects Red States To Circle Wagons, & Trump Elected In November

Watch: Gov. Abbott Tells Tucker Carlson He's Not Backing Down, Expects Red States To Circle Wagons, & Trump Elected In November

by Zero Hedge

Friday, Jan 26, 2024 - 02:39 PM ET

Texas Governor Greg Abbott spoke with Tucker Carlson on Friday, telling him that he's going to "do as much as possible to put up more border barriers and deny illegal entry," and that "our head is down, we are working regardless of what the Biden Administration is doing."



Abbott told Carlson that he's "prepared" in the event that Biden tries to take over the Texas National Guard.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

"That would be a boneheaded move on his part, a total disaster," he said. "We are prepared, in the event that that unlikely event does occur."

"We do have other armed state employees on the border as we speak right this minute, and that's the Texas Department of Public Safety, as well as other law enforcement officers, as well as National Guard from other states. And you can be assured there will be more National Guard from other states and more law enforcement officers within the state of Texas and other states."

Watch the interview:

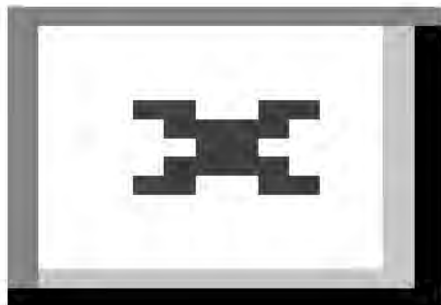
In an interview from India, Gov. Greg Abbott says ten other states have sent national guard to the Texas border, and others will follow. Abbott says he is "prepared" for a conflict with federal authorities.

pic.twitter.com/F58MLoOsAZ

— Tucker Carlson (@TuckerCarlson) January 26, 2024

*** * ***

Ten retired FBI officials and experts in counterintelligence sent a letter to Congressional leaders warning that the Biden administration's policies have facilitated a "soft invasion" of military-age men into the United States from terror-linked areas of the world.



Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

The letter, written on Jan. 17, before Texas Gov. Greg Abbott invoked the invasion clause of the US Constitution, suggests that a terrorist attack is likely imminent.

"The threat we call out today is new and unfamiliar. In its modern history the U.S. has never suffered an invasion of the homeland, and, yet, one is unfolding now," the letter reads.

"Military age men from across the globe, many from countries or regions not friendly to the United States, are landing in waves on our soil by the thousands – not by splashing ashore from a ship or parachuting from a plane but rather by foot across a border that has been accurately advertised around the world as largely unprotected with ready access granted."

"It would be difficult to overstate the danger represented by the presence inside our borders of what is comparatively a multi-division army of young single adult males from hostile nations and regions whose background, intent, or allegiance is completely unknown. They include individuals encountered by border officials and then possibly released into the country, along with the shockingly high estimate of 'gotaways,' meaning those who have entered and evaded apprehension," the letter continues.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) called the letter "sobering."

This sobering letter from former FBI, Homeland Security, and other law enforcement officials describes the chilling reality of why @POTUS's open border is a clear and present danger to America.

pic.twitter.com/JrIM6vKjVq

— Senator Ron Johnson (@SenRonJohnson) January 25, 2024

Earlier this week, Abbott invoked Texas' right to self-defense, deeming the migrant crisis an 'invasion.' In response, a coalition of 25 Republican governors have signed a letter in support of the Texas resistance.

Here is the joint letter with 25 governors supporting the Texas Border Resistance against our rogue federal government.

Republican Governors Association link:

<https://t.co/CPfSLrzGEA>

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

pic.twitter.com/w2PDWYjpZd

— End Wokeness (@EndWokeness) January 25, 2024

Meanwhile, TX Attorney General Ken Paxton posted a meme on X which reads "COME AND TAKE IT."

<https://t.co/0oGPYMjEKB>

pic.twitter.com/lbFh3NvD1o

— Attorney General Ken Paxton (@KenPaxtonTX) January 26, 2024

Of the more than 10 million illegal border crossers who have entered the US since Biden took office, more than 1.7 million are "gotaways" - those who have illegally entered and evaded capture since Biden has been in office. The majority of these are reportedly military age men.

"In light of such a daunting, unprecedented penetration by uninvited foreign actors, it is reasonable to assert that the country possesses dramatically diminished national security at this time. The nation's military and laws and other natural protective barriers that have provided traditional security in the past have been thoroughly circumvented over the past three years," the former FBI officials wrote.

The letter calls on Congress to secure the border "against these young men and those already here illegally must be identified and removed without delay."

According to the Gazette, the authors include;

Kevin Brock, former assistant director of intelligence and former principal deputy director of the National Counterterrorism Center; Chris Swecker, former assistant director of the FBI's Criminal Investigative Division; Timothy Healy, former director of the Terrorist Screening Center; Ruben Garcia, Jr., former executive assistant director of the Criminal, Cyber, Response and Services Branch; Mark Morgan, former assistant director for training at the FBI, former acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and former U.S. Border Patrol chief; David Szady, former assistant director of counterintelligence; Jody Weiss, former special agent in charge in Philadelphia; David Mitchell, former special agent in charge in Milwaukee; William Gavin, former assistant director of the FBI's Inspection Division and Timothy McNally, former assistant director of the FBI's Los Angeles division.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: Jim Ainsworth
Sent: Thu, 8 Feb 2024 21:11:41 -0500
To: George, Suzy; Sullivan, Thomas D; (b)(6) Palladino, Robert J; Nuland, Victoria J; Chollet, Derek H; Holmgren, Brett M; Kerry, John F; (b)(6) @state.gov; (b)(6) @state.gov
Subject: Tucker Carlson: The Putin Interview

Tucker Carlson: The Putin Interview

Bombshell interview breaks internet

by Zero Hedge

February 8th, 2024 5:46 PM CT



Image Credit: TCN

Last week, Tucker Carlson traveled to Russia to interview President Vladimir Putin. This sent the left into hysterics – some of whom have called for the journalist to face sanctions, or worse.

Prior to the interview – which can be seen right now in its entirety at [tuckercarlson.com](https://www.tuckercarlson.com), Carlson explained that it's his job as a journalist "to inform people," as "most Americans are not informed" as to what's happening in Ukraine.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

To that end, let's get into it.

Tucker starts the interview by asking Putin why he invaded Ukraine, "and the answer we got shocked us."

Putin proceeded to delve into the history of Ukraine, going back to the Middle Ages. Tucker pushed back, saying "I'm not sure why it's relevant to what happened two years ago," to which Putin continued with the history lesson.

"But why didn't you make this case for the first 22 years as president, that Ukraine wasn't a real country?" Tucker asked.

"The Soviet Union was given a great deal of territory that had never belonged to it, including the Black Sea region. At some point when Russia received them as an outcome of the Russo-Turkish wars, they were called New Russia or another Russia. But that does not matter. What matters is that Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state, established Ukraine that way," Putin replied. "For decades, the Ukrainian Soviet Republic developed as part of the USSR. And for unknown reasons, again, the Bolsheviks were engaged in Ukrainization."

The trigger for the Ukraine war: "Initially, it was the coup in Ukraine that provoked the conflict... They launched the war in Donbas in 2014 with the use of aircraft and artillery against civilians. This is when it all started."

NATO Expansion

Getting to the meat of the Ukraine war, Putin told Carlson that "The former Russian leadership assumed that the Soviet Union had ceased to exist and therefore there were no longer any ideological dividing lines. Russia even agreed voluntarily and proactively to the collapse of the Soviet Union, and believed that this would be understood by the so-called civilized West as an invitation for cooperation and association."

"We were promised no NATO to the East, not an inch to the East, as we were told. And then what? They said, well, it's not enshrined on paper, so we'll expand."

"That is what Russia was expecting, both from the United States and this so-called collective West as a whole. There were smart people,

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

including in Germany, Egon Bahr, a major politician of the Social Democratic Party, who insisted in his personal conversations with the Soviet leadership on the brink of the collapse of the Soviet Union, that they knew security systems should be established in Europe. Help should be given to unified Germany, but a new system should be also established to include the United States, Canada, Russia and other Central European countries. But NATO needs not to expand. That's what he said. If NATO expands, everything would be just the same as during the Cold War, only closer to Russia's borders. That's all. He was a wise old man, but no one listened to him. In fact, he got angry once. If, he said, you don't listen to me, I'm never setting my foot in Moscow once again. Everything happened just as he had said."

The state of negotiations:

Vladimir Putin: I already said that we did not refuse to talk. We're willing to negotiate. It is the Western side, and Ukraine is obviously a satellite state of the US. It is evident. I do not want you to take it as if I am looking for a strong word or an insult. But we both understand what is happening. The financial support. 72 billion U.S. dollars was provided. Germany ranks second, then other European countries come. Dozens of billions of U.S. dollars are going to Ukraine. There's a huge influx of weapons. In this case, you should tell the current Ukrainian leadership to stop and come to a negotiating table, rescind this absurd decree. We did not refuse.

Tucker: Sure, but you already said it. I didn't think you meant it is an insult because you already said correctly, it's been reported that Ukraine was prevented from negotiating a peace settlement by the former British Prime Minister acting on behalf of the Biden administration. So, of course they're a satellite. Big countries control small countries. That's not new. And that's why I asked about dealing directly with the Biden administration, which is making these decisions, not President Zelensky of Ukraine.

Vladimir Putin: Well if the Zelensky administration in Ukraine refused to negotiate, I assume they did it under the instruction from Washington. If Washington believes it to be the wrong decision, let it abandon it. Let it find the delicate excuse so that no one is insulted. Let it come up with a way out. It was not us who made this decision. It was them. So let them go back on it. That is it. However, they made the wrong decision. And

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

now we have to look for a way out of this situation to correct their mistakes. They did it, so let them correct it themselves. We support this.

Tucker: So I just want to make sure I'm not misunderstanding what you're saying. I don't think that I am. I think you're saying you want a negotiated settlement to what's happening in Ukraine.

Vladimir Putin: Right. And we made it. We prepared the huge document in Istanbul that was initialed by the head of the Ukrainian delegation. He had fixed his signature to some of the provisions, not to all of it. He put his signature and then he himself said, we were ready to sign it, and the war would have been over long ago. 18 months ago. However, Prime Minister Johnson came, talk to us out of it and we missed that chance. Well, you missed it. You made a mistake. Let them get back to that. That is all. Why do we have to bother ourselves and correct somebody else's mistakes? I know one can say it is our mistake. It was us who intensified the situation and decided to put an end to the war that started in 2014, in Donbas. As I have already said by means of weapons. Let me get back to furthering history. I already told you this. We were just discussing it. Let us go back to 1991, when we were promised that NATO would not expand to 2008, when the doors to NATO opened to the Declaration of State Sovereignty of Ukraine, declaring Ukraine a neutral state. Let us go back to the fact that NATO and U.S. military bases started to appear on the territory, Ukraine creating threats to us. Let us go back to coup d'état in Ukraine in 2014. It is pointless, though, isn't it? We may go back and forth endlessly, but they stopped negotiations. Is it a mistake? Yes. Correct it. We are ready. What else is needed?

Vladimir Putin wanted peace and a settlement in Ukraine

Tucker Carlson interview [#TuckerPutin](#) [#TuckerCarlson](#)

pic.twitter.com/Gt8DY2dSRy

**— Michael Smith us Ceo of nothing. (@Shotgunhunter1)
[February 8, 2024](#)**

More:

- **On the negotiation process and its failure: "There have been [talks] they reached a very high stage of coordination of positions in a complex process, but still they were almost finalized. But after we**

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

withdrew our troops from Kiev... the other side threw away all these agreements.”

- On his last conversation with Joe Biden: “Well, yes, he funds, but I talked to him before the special military operation, of course... I believe that you are making a huge mistake of historic proportions by supporting everything that is happening there, in Ukraine, by pushing Russia away.”
- On the possibility of global conflict: “It goes against common sense to get involved in some kind of a global war and a global war will bring all humanity to the brink of destruction.”
- On the concept of deNazification: “Denazification... means the prohibition of all kinds of neo-Nazi movements... We have to get rid of those people who maintain this concept and support this practice and try to preserve it.”
- On Russia’s territorial ambitions: “We simply don’t have any interest [in Poland, Latvia, or anywhere else]. It’s just threat mongering.”

Elon Musk and Neuralink

Putin then suggested that Elon Musk is unstoppable, saying “He will do as he sees fit. Nevertheless, you’ll need to find some common ground with him. Search for ways to persuade him. I think he’s a smart person. I truly believe he is. So you’ll need to reach an agreement with him because this process needs to be formalized and subjected to certain rules. Humanity has to consider what is going to happen due to the newest development in genetics or in AI. One can make an approximate prediction of what will happen.”

Even more:

- On the Nord Stream explosion: “People always say in such cases, look for someone who is interested. But in this case, we should not only look for someone who is interested, but also for someone who has capabilities... Who is interested and who is capable of doing it?”
- On presenting evidence of NATO’s involvement: “In the war of propaganda, it is very difficult to defeat the United States because the United States controls all the world’s media... We can simply shine the spotlight on our sources of information and we will not achieve results.”

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

- **On Germany's silence regarding Nord Stream: "Today's German leadership is guided by the interests of the collective West rather than its national interests."**
- **On global alliances and security: "Security should be shared rather than meant for the golden billion. That is the only scenario where the world could be stable, sustainable, and predictable."**
- **On the use of the US dollar as a political tool: "To use the dollar as a tool of foreign policy struggle is one of the biggest strategic mistakes made by the US political leadership."**
- **On the impact of sanctions and the shift away from the US dollar: "Even the United States allies are now downsizing their dollar reserves... It wasn't us who banned the use of the US dollar. It was the decision of the United States to restrict our transactions in U.S. dollars."**
- **On the relationship with China: "China's foreign policy philosophy is not aggressive. Its idea is to always look for compromise."**
- **On potential for change in US-Russia relations: "It is not about the personality of the leader. It is about the elites' mindset, leader deal. If the idea of domination at any cost, based also on forceful actions, dominates the American society, nothing will change."**
- **On the nature of power in the US: "It is very difficult for us to sort it all out. Who makes decisions in the elections? Each state regulates itself... There are two parties that are dominant: the Republicans and the Democrats."**
- **On Christianity and violence: "It is very easy when it comes to protecting oneself and one's family, one's homeland. We won't attack anyone... And we were protecting our people, ourselves, our homeland and our future."**

Tucker also asked about imprisoned WSJ reporter Evan Gershkovich:

Tucker: I just gotta ask you one last question. And that's about someone who is very famous in the United States. Probably not here. Evan Gershkovich who's the Wall Street Journal reporter. He's 32. And he's been in prison for almost a year. This is a huge story in the United States. And I just want to ask you directly, without getting into the details of it or your version of what happened, if, as a sign of your decency, would you be willing to release him to us and we'll bring him back to the United States?

Vladimir Putin: We have done so many gestures of goodwill out of decency that I think we have run out of them. We have never seen

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

anyone reciprocate to us in a similar manner. However, in theory, we can say that we do not rule out that we can do that if our partners take reciprocal steps. When I talk about the partners, I first of all refer to special services. Special services are in contact with one another. They are talking about the matter in question. There is no taboo to settle this issue. We are willing to solve it but there are certain terms being discussed via special services channels. I believe an agreement can be reached.

Watch:

Ep. 73 The Vladimir Putin Interview

pic.twitter.com/67YuZRkfLL

— Tucker Carlson (@TuckerCarlson) February 8, 2024

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: Jim Ainsworth
Sent: Wed, 7 Feb 2024 13:50:55 -0500
To: George, Suzy; Sullivan, Thomas D; (b)(6) Nuland, Victoria J; Nuland, Toria J; Chollet, Derek H; Holmgren, Brett M; Kerry, John F; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Tucker Carlson Now On Ukraine's 'Kill List' For Interviewing Putin

Tucker Carlson Now On Ukraine's 'Kill List' For Interviewing Putin

European "ally", that Joe Biden has sent hundreds of billions of dollars to, is openly targeting the lives of American citizens for simply asking questions.

by Jamie White

February 7th, 2024 11:29 AM CT




Image Credit: X screenshot/@TuckerCarlson

Tucker Carlson is now included in Ukraine's "kill list" in response to interviewing Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

The “Myrotvorets” kill list, believed to be the product of the Ukraine Center for Countering Disinformation, appears to have added Carlson on Tuesday shortly after he confirmed securing an interview with Putin.

 UAUS Tucker Carlson has been placed on the Ukrainian Government’s Myrotvorets KILL LIST.

pic.twitter.com/y0uwupBve1

— Jackson Hinkle us (@jacksonhinklle) February 7, 2024

The Ukraine kill list was reportedly created by President Volodymyr Zelensky himself, with the backing of the American CIA and NATO.

That’s alarming given the kill list includes other names of American citizens and citizens of NATO countries.

“As it turns out, the covert ‘kill list’ website is a product of the Ukraine regime, effectively funded by the CIA (amongst others) and is hosted by NATO,” David Miller of MintPress News reported last May.

One extraordinary thing is that many American citizens, including ex-military and intelligence operatives, are included, as well as a significant number of citizens of NATO member countries. Perhaps the most remarkable element is that NATO has hosted the site (and a collection of affiliated websites) on its servers in Brussels.

Keep in mind, this is a nation the Joe Biden regime has sent, and is still demanding we send, hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars to — one that targets U.S. citizens who don’t adhere to the official narrative.

Ukraine isn’t the only nation fuming over Carlson’s encounter with Putin.

The European Union is also melting down, threatening to impose sanctions on Tucker which would bar him from visiting the continent.

“Putin is a war criminal and the EU sanctions all who assist him in that effort, it seems logical that the External Action Service examine his case as well,” said Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt.

Tucker Carlson is surely on the path to being labelled a propagandist for the Russian regime.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

If he enables disinformation for Putin, the EU should explore a travel ban !

pic.twitter.com/RKwEtvq0pR

— Guy Verhofstadt (@guyverhofstadt) February 5, 2024

Additionally, the mainstream media is apoplectic over the prospect of Tucker landing an historic interview with Putin after getting snubbed by the Russian president since the start of its special operation in Ukraine in Feb. 2022.

CNN is melting down about the Tucker-Putin interview.

pic.twitter.com/R0YatP27GG

— Citizen Free Press (@CitizenFreePres) February 7, 2024

The Tucker-Putin interview will reportedly be released Thursday evening at 6pm EST.

“Most Americans have no idea why Putin invaded Ukraine or what his goals are now,” Carlson said in a video statement Tuesday. “We are not here because we love Vladimir Putin....We are not encouraging you to agree with what Putin may say in this interview, but we are urging you to watch it. You should know as much as you can.”

Why I’m interviewing Vladimir Putin.

pic.twitter.com/hqvXUZqvHX

— Tucker Carlson (@TuckerCarlson) February 6, 2024

Since when were journalists forbidden to interview certain high-profile figures at the center of major and historic geopolitical events?

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Fri, 9 Feb 2024 14:20:08 +0000
To: Coulter, Sonata N (b)(6)
Cc: EUR-RUS-DL
Subject: Sonata, Caroline – Yesterday's DPB: Nothing on the (b)(5)
Attachments: 02082024_DPB_#_13_-_Patel.pdf

No questions on the (b)(5) – just Russia-DPRK and Tucker Carlson/U.S. journalists, pasted below.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Non Responsive

QUESTION: And on flip side – don't want to drag you into a Tucker Carlson debate, but given the fact that the Secretary has been on the record urging journalists, American journalists, not to go to Russia, and also GEC came up with the special report just two weeks ago approving – confirming how Russia has been using historically same tools to push its propaganda in the Western capitals, what is the Secretary's position on this very episode?

MR PATEL: The Secretary really doesn't have a position on this specific episode. What I will just reiterate, Alex, is that our message to all Americans, not just journalists, is that there is a pretty clear Travel Advisory warning when it comes to Russia. It's a Level Four. It's do not travel, and the reasons for why that is our very serious recommendation are pretty clear. And we have seen, just in the past year and a half, American journalists being detained in Russia just for doing their job.

From: EUR-Press <EUR-Press@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 19:11

To: EUR-Press <EUR-Press@state.gov>

Subject: FYSA: Department Press Briefing with Principal Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel - 02-08-2024

Today's DPB transcript, highlighted by EUR topic:

RUSSIA

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Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

DPB # 13

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024

(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

Briefer: Vedant Patel, Principal Deputy Spokesperson

12:55 p.m. EST

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QUESTION: And on flip side – don't want to drag you into a Tucker Carlson debate, but given the fact that the Secretary has been on the record urging journalists, American journalists, not to go to Russia, and also GEC came up with the special report just two weeks ago approving – confirming how Russia has been using historically same tools to push its propaganda in the Western capitals, what is the Secretary's position on this very episode?

MR PATEL: The Secretary really doesn't have a position on this specific episode. What I will just reiterate, Alex, is that our message to all Americans, not just journalists, is that there is a pretty clear Travel Advisory warning when it comes to Russia. It's a Level Four. It's do not travel, and the reasons for why that is our very serious recommendation are pretty clear. And we have seen, just in the past year and a half, American journalists being detained in Russia just for doing their job. Nike, I know you had your hand up. I'm sorry for breezing past you. Go ahead.

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thu, 15 Feb 2024 17:15:20 +0000
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) Coulter, Sonata N
Subject: RE: Thursday in Russian News - February 15, 2024

(b)(6) (b)(5)
 (b)(5)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 12:05 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Thursday in Russian News - February 15, 2024

(b)(6) (b)(5)

Very best,
 (b)(6)
 Director
 Office of Russian Affairs (EUR/RUS)

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 10:09 AM
To: Coulter, Sonata N (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)
 (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: FW: Thursday in Russian News - February 15, 2024

Flagging before lunch:

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From: Moscow, Press <MoscowPressMail@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 15, 2024 08:32

Subject: Thursday in Russian News - February 15, 2024

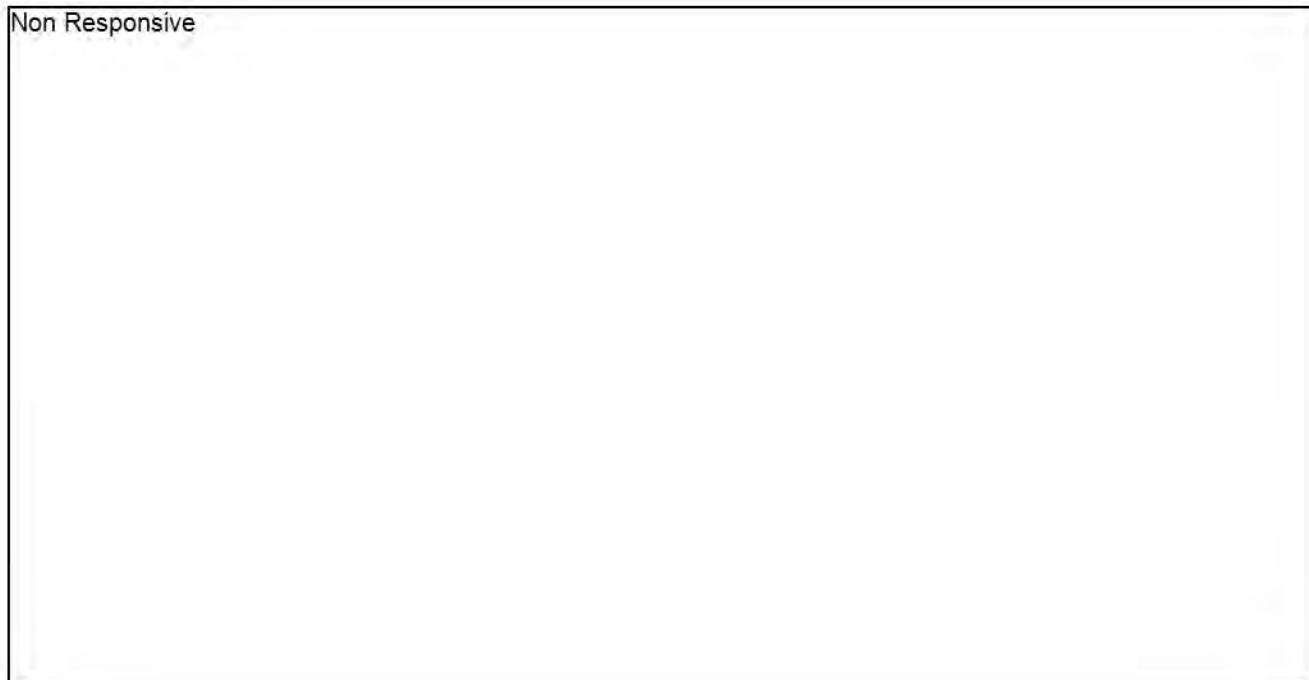
Moscow Denies Space Threat to the U.S., Putin Prefers Biden, Russia "Outraged" by the OSCE



Thursday in Russian News - February 15, 2024

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Putin prefers to see a "predictable" Biden as the new President: Russian president Vladimir Putin made this remark in an interview with Russian state TV journalist Pavel Zarubin, when asked whose presidency is more advantageous to Russia. "He is a more experienced, predictable individual, an old-school politician. However, we will work with any leader of the U.S. whom the American people trust," the Russian president said. The interview was shown on state Rossiya 1 TV and its sister channel Rossiya 24. Putin also said it would be "inappropriate" for him to comment on Joe Biden's health, which traditionally is the subject of speculation for Russian state-controlled media. The President also commented on his recent interview with Tucker Carlson. He called him a "dangerous man" because he chose the tactic of patient listening during the interview. Putin admitted that he did not fully enjoy the interview because it deprived him of the opportunity to give incisive answers to poignant questions. Speaking about the future of Carlson, Putin said that the conservative pundit could be arrested in the United States. "Assange is in jail," Putin warned and noted that if Carlson is arrested, the United States will show the world its true face of a "liberal-democratic" dictatorship. The interview gained 39.8M views. TV: Channel One Rossiya 1 NTV News: RIA Gazeta.ru Telegram: Zarubin

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U.S. – Russia Relations

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thu, 8 Feb 2024 00:30:06 +0000
To: Coulter, Sonata N
Subject: Re: Reuters: Putin gave Tucker Carlson an interview because he differs from one-sided media - Kremlin

Ah- hope the usual mayhem feels somehow almost manageable feeling these days for you as it's starting to for me. (b)(6)

From: Coulter, Sonata N (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 7:27:02 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Reuters: Putin gave Tucker Carlson an interview because he differs from one-sided media - Kremlin

Oh no- so sorry about your flight! What a mess. See you when we see you. All's well here. Just the usual mayhem 😊

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From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 7:22:12 PM
To: Coulter, Sonata N (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Reuters: Putin gave Tucker Carlson an interview because he differs from one-sided media - Kremlin

It has been action packed, very stimulating and energizing and a lot of fun.

Really great events all round— especially the Russia policy talks I did last night at the Allegheny Club and this afternoon at Pitt. Met grad students from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan! Plenty of good recruiting and discussion on many themes. Very helpful to hear where folks here are coming from when they think about foreign policy.

Sadly though my flight is wildly delayed. Should get home after midnight so I will be in later tomorrow.

Hope all is well there!?!

Very best,

(b)(6)

From: Coulter, Sonata N (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 4:02:24 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Reuters: Putin gave Tucker Carlson an interview because he differs from one-sided media - Kremlin

How goes your trip?

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From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1:41 PM
To: Coulter, Sonata N (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Reuters: Putin gave Tucker Carlson an interview because he differs from one-sided media - Kremlin

Ha!

From: Coulter, Sonata N (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 1:05:10 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: RE: Reuters: Putin gave Tucker Carlson an interview because he differs from one-sided media - Kremlin

I was looking for a green-faced emoji but came up short.

From: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 11:00 AM
To: Coulter, Sonata N (b)(6)
Subject: Fwd: Reuters: Putin gave Tucker Carlson an interview because he differs from one-sided media - Kremlin

From: EUR-Press <EUR-Press@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 10:59:11 AM
To: EUR-RUS-DL <EUR-RUS-DL@state.gov>
Subject: FW: Reuters: Putin gave Tucker Carlson an interview because he differs from one-sided media - Kremlin

Putin gave Tucker Carlson an interview because he differs from one-sided media - Kremlin
Reuters
February 7, 2024 5:32 AM EST Updated 12 min ago
<https://www.reuters.com/world/putin-gave-tucker-carlson-an-interview-because-he-differs-one-sided-media-2024-02-07/>

MOSCOW, Feb 7 (Reuters) - Russian President Vladimir Putin granted an interview to U.S. television host Tucker Carlson on Tuesday because his approach differs from the one-sided reporting of many traditional Western news media, the Kremlin said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that Western media no longer even tried to appear impartial in their reporting of Russia, and said there was no appetite to communicate directly with such media organisations anymore.

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"When it comes to the countries of the collective West, the large network media, TV channels, (and) large newspapers can in no way boast of even trying to at least look impartial in terms of coverage," Peskov said.

"These are all media outlets that take an exceptionally one-sided position. Of course, there is no desire to communicate with such media, and it hardly makes sense, and it is unlikely that it will be useful."

When asked directly why Putin granted an interview to Carlson, Peskov said that the American's position contrasted with much of the Western media.

"His position is different from the others. It is in no way pro-Russian, it is not pro-Ukrainian - it is pro-American, but at least it contrasts with the position of the traditional Anglo-Saxon media," Peskov said.

The interview was likely to be aired on Thursday, Russia's TASS news agency said, citing reports by the Wall Street Journal.

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Mon, 12 Feb 2024 19:28:38 +0000
To: Coulter, Sonata N
Subject: RE: Putin's Interview With Tucker Carlson; Nadezhdin: An Unexpected Challenge; Yandex. Sold: Who Is Behind The Deal?

The world wants to know!

Very best,

(b)(6)

Director

Office of Russian Affairs (EUR/RUS)

From: Coulter, Sonata N (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 2:25 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: FW: Putin's Interview With Tucker Carlson; Nadezhdin: An Unexpected Challenge; Yandex. Sold: Who Is Behind The Deal?

I'm always intrigued by the teasers...

From: Tatiana Stanovaya (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 1:43 PM
To: Coulter, Sonata N (b)(6)
Subject: Putin's Interview With Tucker Carlson; Nadezhdin: An Unexpected Challenge; Yandex. Sold: Who Is Behind The Deal?

[View this email in your browser](#)

The Bulletin

Dear Friends,

The latest issue of R.Politik [Bulletin No. 3 \(133\)](#) is now available to our subscribers.

12 February 2024
TATIANA STANOVAYA

In this edition :

▫ **Putin's Interview With Tucker Carlson.**

We dissect what went awry and the peculiar reaction Carlson's visit elicited in Russia. We also uncover the tactical and strategic objectives Putin had in mind when he agreed to the interview.

▫ **Nadezhdin: An Unexpected Challenge.**

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

We delve into Nadezhdin's political career history to better understand the political figure he represents. This includes his decision to run, his relationships with senior officials in the presidential administration, how Putin's staff viewed his rise, and the internal tensions it sparked.

▫ **Yandex: Sold: Who is Behind the Deal?**

Our report on the Yandex sale is nothing short of exclusive, detailing the preparation of the deal, the risks involved in its execution, and most critically - the identities behind the "Consortium.First" purchaser. While many questions remain, we provide a clearer picture of who will ultimately acquire Yandex N.V.'s Russian assets.

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Kind regards,
Tatiana Stanovaya

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thu, 8 Feb 2024 12:41:49 +0000
To: Coulter, Sonata N; (b)(6)
Cc: EUR-RUS-DL
Subject: Re: Nadezhdin Denied Registration for Election

Sure thing Sonata, will do.

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From: Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 7:20:43 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov
Cc: EUR-RUS-DL <EUR-RUS-DL@state.gov>
Subject: Re: Nadezhdin Denied Registration for Election

Thanks (b)(6) For the press points: please send me word docs with the proposed TPs, yesterday's and today's. I find it easier and clearer to track my edits so folks can easily digest the changes I've made.

See you shortly,
Sonata

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From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 6:33:28 AM
To: Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)@state.gov>; (b)(6)@state.gov
Cc: EUR-RUS-DL <EUR-RUS-DL@state.gov>
Subject: Nadezhdin Denied Registration for Election

Flagging. We'll need to draft lines for today's DPB in coordination with Post.

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From: Moscow, Press <MoscowPressMail@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 6:20 AM
Subject: Thursday in Russian News - February 8, 2024

Election without Nadezhdin, MFA Warns on Nuclear Tests, "American Pressure" in Nord Stream Probe

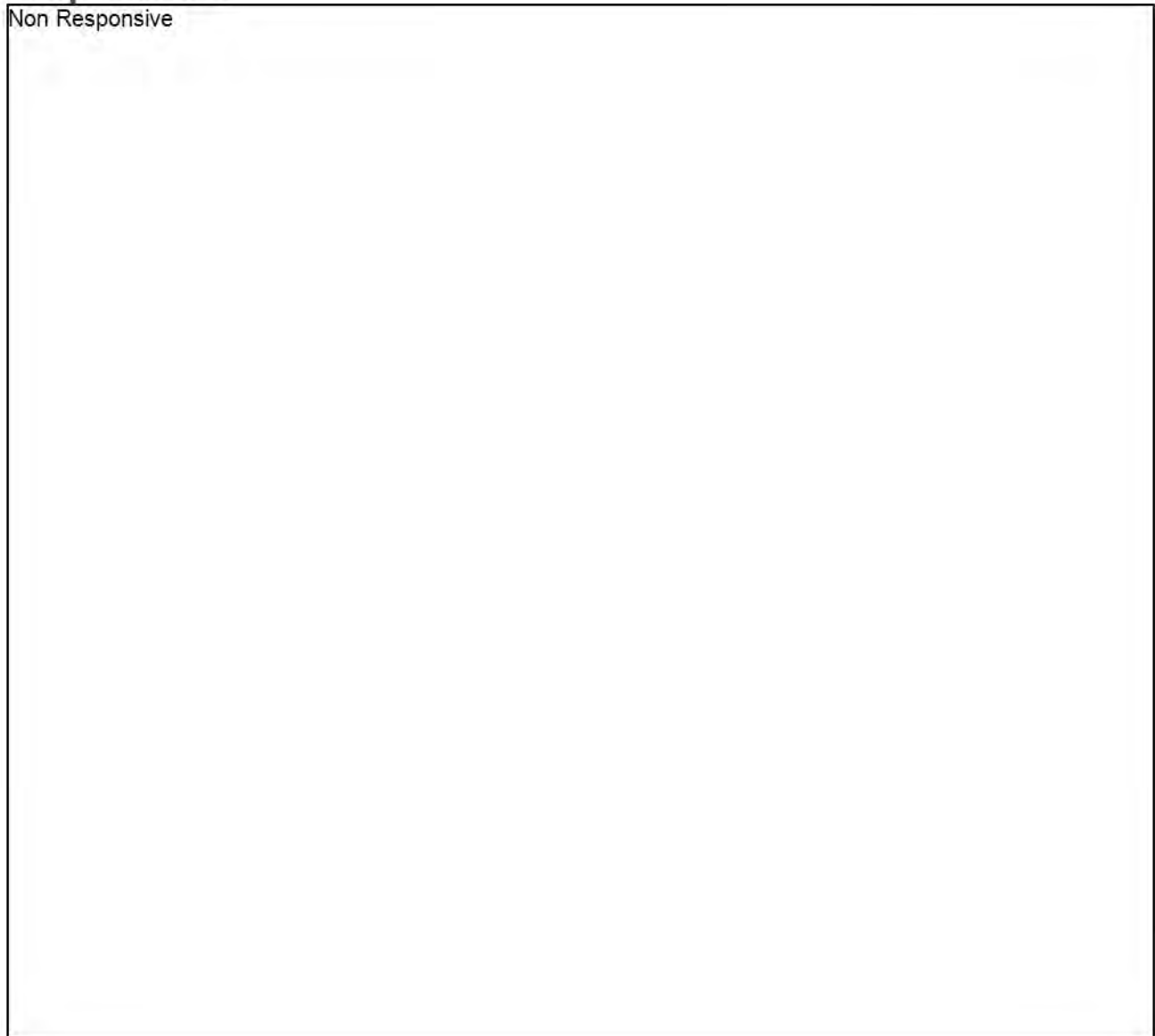
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Thursday in Russian News - February 8, 2024

Top Stories

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Putin's interview with Carlson to be released on February 9. The interview of American journalist Tucker Carlson with Russian President Vladimir Putin will be published on February 8 at 6 p.m. EST (February 9 at 2 a.m. Moscow time). This was announced by Carlson in his Instagram. Russian media continue to follow former Fox News host Tucker Carlson's trip to Moscow. Until Carlson left Russia, the state media highlighted his every move. On February 7, they followed him to Vkusno I Tochka (Tasty, period), a Russian fast-food chain that was

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

opened as a replacement for McDonald's. According to the journalists, Carlson said "thank you" in Russian. Media also widely covered any reaction to Carlson's visit back in the United States. State-controlled Izvestia published an article on the fuss in Washington surrounding Carlson's trip. According to Izvestia, the Democratic party accused Carlson of betraying the U.S., as they hate free press and free speech. "Yet the fundamental reason why the current leadership of the United States is so clearly wary of Carlson's announced interview was his promise to 'speak honestly' about what is happening today in the conflict in Ukraine, a conflict in which Washington is currently doing poorly, to put it mildly," the author claims. News about Carlson reached around 86M views. [Rossiya 1](#) [TASS](#) [RIA](#) [Izvestia](#) [RBC](#)

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Social Media Coverage

On purposes of Tucker Carlson's visit to Moscow: Both pro-Kremlin and liberal channels continue to discuss Tucker Carlson. Among other things, bloggers suggest that interviewing Putin is not the only purpose of the journalist's visit to Moscow. Pro-Kremlin channel [Turned on the Z War](#) (726K) highlights Carlson's connection to Donald Trump, who "is a favorite in the campaign". The channel writes that perhaps Carlson also wants to "pave the way for further

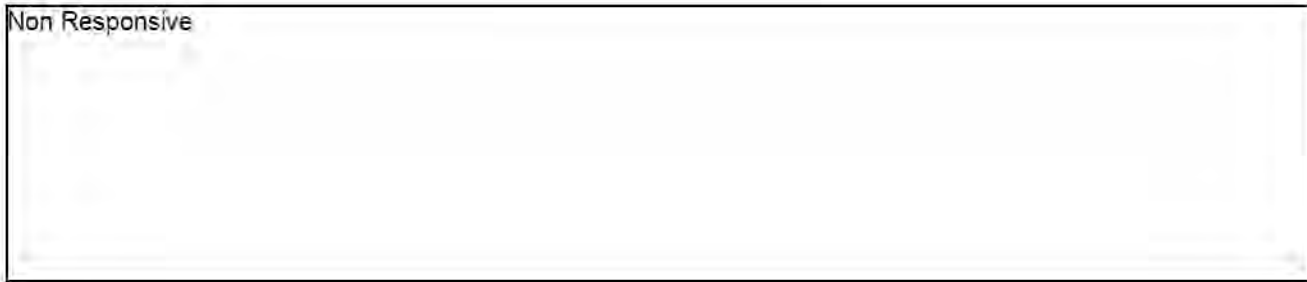
Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

outreach to Trump's future government" (Views: 211K). Right-wing philosopher often referred to as "the Kremlin's brain" Alexander Dugin ([AGDchan](#)) (61K) also believes that Carlson is acting as "Trump's liaison" and "the most important issues were discussed by the parties without cameras". Dugin also points out the coincidence of Carlson's visit with the fight between Republicans and Democrats in Congress over aid to Ukraine (Views: 11K). Political-military publicist and pro-Kremlin blogger Mikhail Onufrienko ([The World by Mikhail Onufrienko](#)) (599K) reports that according to insider information, the purpose of Carlson's visit is to get clear information from the Kremlin about Russia's requests on Ukraine. "Broad schemes for a swap are looming, essentially a geopolitical redistribution of the world, where Ukraine's fate will be decided without Ukraine," the report says (Views: 236K). Opposition political scientist [Abbas Gallyamov](#) (93K) believes that Putin is not an object of worship for Carlson, as Kremlin propaganda will now tell us, but one of the many tools the journalist uses against his enemy - American liberals (Views: 41K).

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From: Jim Ainsworth
Sent: Thu, 25 Jan 2024 03:58:33 -0500
To: George, Suzy; Sullivan, Thomas D; (b)(6)@state.gov; Nuland, Victoria J; Jenkins, Bonnie D; Chollet, Derek H; Holmgren, Brett M; Kerry, John F; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Rand Paul Rages 'Half The GOP Wants To Sell Out The US Border To Fund Ukraine War'

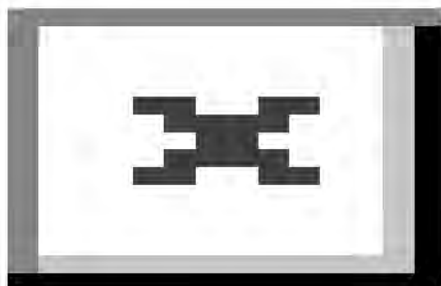
Rand Paul Rages 'Half The GOP Wants To Sell Out The US Border To Fund Ukraine War'

by Zero Hedge

Wednesday, Jan 24, 2024 - 11:00 PM ET

Authored by Steve Watson via Modernity.news

During an interview with Tucker Carlson on X, Senator Rand Paul expressed anger at his own party, declaring that half of them would rather fund a war in Ukraine than secure their own border.



“It gets to me when I see people who I think care more about the borders of Ukraine than our own Southern border,” Paul stated adding “And I see these people every day because they are the entire Democrat caucus up here, but they are half of my caucus.”

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

He continued, “Half of my Republican caucus is, as we speak, ready to sell out, and they’re ready to sell out fake border reform in exchange for what they really want, which is to send more of your tax dollars to Ukraine.”

“I think Nikki Haley fits right in that camp,” Paul further urged, adding “I think she’s from the McConnell/Dick Cheney wing of the party. And this is the antithesis of everything I believe in.”

“I’ve spent a few years trying to promote the ideas of liberty, there is a wing of the party that believes in that,” Paul further noted, adding “I want to make sure anybody who follows what I do knows there is no way, shape, or form I could support Nikki Haley.”

Watch the interview:

Rand Paul is one of the few Republicans in the Senate who understands the threat of Nikki Haley. He may be the only one who cares where COVID came from. “Anthony Fauci should be in jail,” he says.

pic.twitter.com/LoxtDSEI6d

— Tucker Carlson (@TuckerCarlson) [January 23, 2024](#)

Paul has set up an entire website dedicated to derailing Haley’s campaign, but he is yet to officially endorse Trump as of time of writing. This will likely change following Trump’s decisive New Hampshire primary win in the face of Democrat shenanigans.

Meanwhile, Biden’s handlers are now openly admitting they want the border completely open:

They just openly admit it now. More here:

<https://t.co/rA67g7mtTv>

pic.twitter.com/BPC0k9iQt5

— m o d e r n i t y (@ModernityNews) [January 23, 2024](#)

Again, straight up admitting they want an open border today. More here

<https://t.co/rA67g7mtTv>

pic.twitter.com/iqG0JwVMJK

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

— m o d e r n i t y (@ModernityNews) January 23, 2024

Biden's America, where the National Guard has to desperately cobble together its own fences out of razor wire in a last ditch effort to secure the overrun border, and then the Feds come and take them down with the backing of the Supreme Court. Shameful.

<https://t.co/QOXBS2OlqQ>

<pic.twitter.com/Hj9WKt72ra>

— m o d e r n i t y (@ModernityNews) January 23, 2024

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From: Jim Ainsworth
Sent: Fri, 9 Feb 2024 20:20:37 -0500
To: George, Suzy; Sullivan, Thomas D; (b)(6) Palladino, Robert J; Nuland, Victoria J; Jenkins, Bonnie D; Chollet, Derek H; Holmgren, Brett M; Kerry, John F; Podesta (b)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Putin Tells West Russia Cannot Be Defeated In Ukraine, But Is 'Ready' For Negotiated Peace

Putin Tells West Russia Cannot Be Defeated In Ukraine, But Is 'Ready' For Negotiated Peace

by Zero Hedge

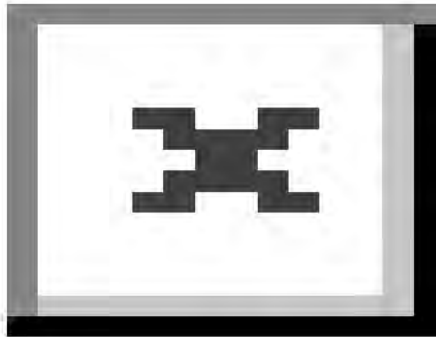
Friday, Feb 09, 2024 - 05:20 PM ET

President Vladimir Putin in his lengthy interview released Thursday with journalist Tucker Carlson clearly wanted to deliver a firm message of defiance to the West. At one point he stressed that Kiev's Western supporters must understand it is "impossible" to defeat Russia in Ukraine.

"Up until now, there has been the uproar and screaming about inflicting a strategic defeat to Russia on the battlefield. But now they are apparently coming to realize that it is difficult to achieve, if possible, at all. In my opinion, it is impossible by definition," he said according to the transcript.

The war is days away from reaching its exact two year-mark, on Feb. 22, and though front lines have been largely stalemated while Russia has solidified its hold over much of the east and parts of the south, the ferocity of the war hasn't lessened, given it has moved to a new and perhaps more dangerous *cross-border phase*.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.



Sputnik via Reuters

Ukraine has not only taken responsibility for several attacks on Russian oil refineries and key installations of late, but its cross-border attacks deep into Russian territory are coming almost daily at this point. Russia's defense ministry said Friday its forces shot down 19 Ukrainian drones over four different regions and the Black Sea overnight

"An attempt by the Kyiv regime to commit a terrorist attack with 19 aerial drones against sites on Russian territory has been thwarted," the ministry said, identifying intercepts over the Kursk, Bryansk, Oryol and Krasnodar regions. One drone was sent to within 300 kilometers southwest of Moscow and targeted the country's energy infrastructure.

The more the conflict spills over into Russian territory, and utilizing Western long-range weapons, the greater the potential for direct Russian-NATO clash, which would be an unmitigated disaster with potential nuclear implications.

This is why during the Tucker Carlson interview in Moscow, Putin's words on the causes of the Ukraine war and the prospect for a future peace were being closely watched both in Ukraine and the West. Below are some key sections we have zeroed in on, in order to understand Putin's thinking in his own words.

Putin on the origins of the Ukraine conflict

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

As expected Putin emphasized the threat of NATO and US military expansion near Russia's borders. "We also know who the main adversary for the U.S. and NATO is — it's Russia. In NATO documents, our country is officially and directly declared the main threat to Euro-Atlantic security. And Ukraine will serve as the advanced foothold for such an attack," he told Carlson.

Putin also at one point sought to downplay that Moscow thought the US would eventually engage in direct attack: "It's not that America was going to launch a surprise strike on Russia. I didn't say that," he said.

Going back to the 1990's, Putin explained: "Russia even agreed voluntarily and proactively to the collapse of the Soviet Union, and believed that this would be understood by the so-called civilized West as an invitation for cooperation and association." But, "We were promised no NATO to the east, not an inch to the east, as we were told. And then what? They said, well, it's not enshrined on paper, so we'll expand."

On the West thwarting peace: Boris Johnson

Putin at one point explained that a "huge document" had been prepared and was backed by the head of the Ukrainian negotiating team during the early months of the war in 2022, but very quickly then UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson stepped in and "dissuaded" Ukraine's president Volodymyr Zelensky.

"He put his signature and then he himself said, 'we were ready to sign it and the war would have been over long ago'. However, Prime Minister Johnson came to talk us out of it, and we've missed that chance," Putin said. He described that this had presented a legitimate window of peace by the Spring of 2022. But then... "Prime Minister Johnson came to talk us out of it and we missed that chance. Well, you missed it," he said.

"The fact that they obey the demand or persuasion of Mr Johnson, the former Prime Minister of Great Britain, seems ridiculous. Where is Mr Johnson now? And the war continues."

Carlson replied: "That's a good question. Where do you think he is, and why did he do that?" Putin then said that it was because of Johnson's "arrogance, because of a pure heart, but not because of a great mind."

Looks like the Biden Administration deployed Boris Johnson to scuttle a tentative peace agreement between Russia and Ukraine in spring 2022.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

This was never about the Ukrainian people. It was always about engineering a war against Russia. #Kennedy24

<https://t.co/SYyFEqy5Ei>

— Robert F. Kennedy Jr (@RobertKennedyJr) June 19, 2023

On how the war could quickly escalate to direct war with NATO: World War III

Putin said Washington has been engaged in "cheap provocation" given its extensive aid to the Zelensky government and military. He pointed out that if Western boots are on the ground, this could lead to World War III: "If somebody has the desire to send regular troops, that would certainly bring humanity to the brink of a very serious global conflict," he told Carlson.

That's when he emphasized America must focus on its many problems at home. "Don't you have anything better to do? You have issues on the border. Issues with migration, issues with the national debt. More than \$33 trillion," he said. "Wouldn't it be better to negotiate with Russia? Make an agreement. Already understanding the situation that is developing today, realizing that Russia will fight for its interests to the end."

He held out of the possibility of a new Cold War exploding in the heart of Europe: "If NATO expands, everything would be just the same as during the Cold War, only closer to Russia's borders."

But, Putin said "It goes against common sense to get involved in some kind of a global war and a global war will bring all humanity to the brink of destruction."

Is Putin seeking to expand the war into Europe?

From the start of the war it has remained a key talking point of Western pundits and leaders to assume Putin is driving an 'expansionist' war that threatens the rest of Europe. This has even resulted in some leading European allies to drastically increase their defense spending and arms production.

Zelensky too has long said that if the West doesn't stop Russia in Ukraine, then EU countries are next to be attacked. But Putin in the

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

interview batted down the idea that it's an expansionist war or based on 'imperial ambitions'. He called it "out of the question".

He addressed it specifically in the following: "Only in one case, if Poland attacks Russia. Why? Because we have no interest in Poland, Latvia or anywhere else. Why would we do that? We simply don't have any interest."

He said this likely given Poland has in recent years been host to growing US and NATO military infrastructure, even at one point Warsaw leaders proposed a sprawling 'Fort Trump' base.

Putin on the potential for negotiated peace

"I will tell you what we are saying on this matter and what we are conveying to the U.S. leadership. If you really want to stop fighting, you need to stop supplying weapons," Putin said at one point.

He suggested there are ongoing talks related to prisoner/hostage swaps with the US: "Certain terms being discussed via special services channels," he said of imprisoned WSJ journalist Evan Gershkovich.

He again complained that early on, a peaceful settlement was actually close: "There have been [talks] they reached a very high stage of coordination of positions in a complex process, but still they were almost finalized. But after we withdrew our troops from Kiev... the other side threw away all these agreements," Putin told Carlson.

"Wouldn't it be better to come to an agreement with Russia? To agree, understanding the situation that is today, understanding that Russia will fight for its interests to the end, and, understanding this, actually return to common sense, start respecting our country, its interests and look for some solutions?"

He said he's 'ready' for negotiations, despite Russia clearly being dominant in the war. Putin explained: "Let us go back to the fact that NATO and U.S. military bases started to appear on the territory, Ukraine creating threats to us. Let us go back to coup d'etat in Ukraine in 2014. It is pointless, though, isn't it? We may go back and forth endlessly, but they stopped negotiations. Is it a mistake? Yes. Correct it. We are ready. What else is needed?"

* * *

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Interestingly, Russian media is touting the Tucker Carlson interview as the first time Putin has offered 'concrete conditions' which can lead to settlement. "I think the most important message in Putin's interview is that Russia is ready for for a political or diplomatic solution of the Ukraine conflict," said Dmitry Suslov, deputy director of the Center for European and International Studies at Russia's Higher School of Economics, to Russia's Sputnik. "But it requires a political will from the United States." he said.

The West is calling all of this more of Putin's 'propaganda' - but the reality remains that Russia is *winning the war*, and thus has *less reason* to enter negotiations. This fact alone means Putin's words mark a significant invitation and overture. Yet Ukraine would have to do the one thing Zelensky has vehemently refused to do: territorial concessions as well as forever giving up claims on Crimea. But this is an inevitability, even if it takes years, Putin and his officials have pointed out.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: White House Press Office
Sent: Fri, 9 Feb 2024 20:29:50 +0000
To: nuland[]@state.gov
Subject: Pool Report 4/Oval

From: Steven Nelson <(b)(6)>
Date: February 9, 2024 at 3:21:01 PM EST
To: Wranglers <DL.WHO.Wranglers@who.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Pool Report 4/Oval

The pool entered the Oval Office at 3:12.

President Biden called on Congress to pass more funding for Ukraine and mentioned the Mideast conflict in about two minutes of opening remark in which he referred to the German chancellor as "Olaf."

Scholz, in English, attacked Vladimir Putin for his "ridiculous interview" about Ukraine, seemingly a reference to Tucker Carlson's.

Biden then said the House GOP resisting Ukraine spending was "close to criminal" and "outrageous."

He ignored many questions about the special counsel report as reporters were escorted out at 3:17.

--

Steven Nelson
New York Post

(b)(6)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

This email was sent to nuland@state.gov

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From:

(b)(6)

Sent:

Mon, 12 Feb 2024 13:09:01 +0000

To:

Coulter, Sonata N

Subject:

Lowlights: Monday in Russian News - February 12, 2024

Non Responsive

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Non Responsive

Very best,

(b)(6)

Director

Office of Russian Affairs (EUR/RUS)

From: Moscow, Press <MoscowPressMail@state.gov>**Sent:** Monday, February 12, 2024 7:37 AM**Subject:** Monday in Russian News - February 12, 2024

Putin Interview “Changed the World”, No Advertising for “Foreign Agents”, FSB Raids over Aircrafts Sold to Ukraine



Monday in Russian News - February 12, 2024

Top Stories

Kremlin says “world changed” after Putin-Carlson interview: Over the weekend, Russian media continue to collect reactions to Vladimir Putin’s interview with American journalist Tucker Carlson. The goal of having the Russian president “heard and seen” globally had been achieved, and “the world had changed” after this interview, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said in an [interview](#) with state Rossiya 1 correspondent Pavel Zarubin. “The numbers we see now — the first numbers in terms of views — they exceed the ratings of the world’s top broadcasters by a significant margin. Thus, the main task of ensuring that Putin is heard and seen — I believe it has been successfully achieved,” Peskov says in a snippet of the Moscow.Kremlin.Putin program was posted on Zarubin’s Telegram channel on February 11. Peskov also noted that by speaking with an American journalist, Putin sends a message to an international audience, in the United States, Europe, and elsewhere, however, not everyone wants to hear it. Propagandist Margarita Simonyan said that after Putin’s interview, Americans realized that they were lied to about Ukraine. The interview also sparked a reaction from right-

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

wingers around the globe, which the Russian media were quick to cover. For instance, Fox News host Greg Gutfeld's was quoted, saying that Putin showed "complete superiority over Biden". French right-wing politician Florian Filippo's claims that NATO countries were in "hysteria" after the interview were also reported. All in all, the topic garnered over 130M views. [TASS 1](#), [2](#) [RIA](#) [RBC](#) [Vedomosti](#) [RG](#) [Izvestia](#) [Komsomolskaya Pravda](#)

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Peskov says Kremlin website is subject to dozens of cyberattacks every day. The Kremlin website is subjected to dozens of cyberattacks every day, but Russian specialists ensure its protection around the clock. This statement was made by Russian presidential spokesperson Dmitry Peskov when asked whether hackers tried to prevent the publication of journalist Tucker Carlson's interview with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "I don't know if there have been any extraordinary attacks. But there are dozens of attacks on the Kremlin website every day. Every day for a year. There are strong DDoS attacks and attacks to gain control over the site," Peskov said. Hackers have made more than 600M DDoS attacks on the Russian portal of public services in 2023, according to a separate statement by the vice president of Rostelecom (state-controlled Russian telecom company) Igor Lyapunov. He spoke on February 11 at the Day of Communications exhibition forum "Russia". [TASS](#) [1](#), [2](#) [Kommersant](#) [Komsomolskaya Pravda](#) [Gazeta.ru](#)

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Fri, 9 Feb 2024 18:49:29 +0000
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.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

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,

(b)(6) | Intern | Office of Eastern European Affairs (EUR/EE)
Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs | U.S. Department of State

(b)(6)@state.gov

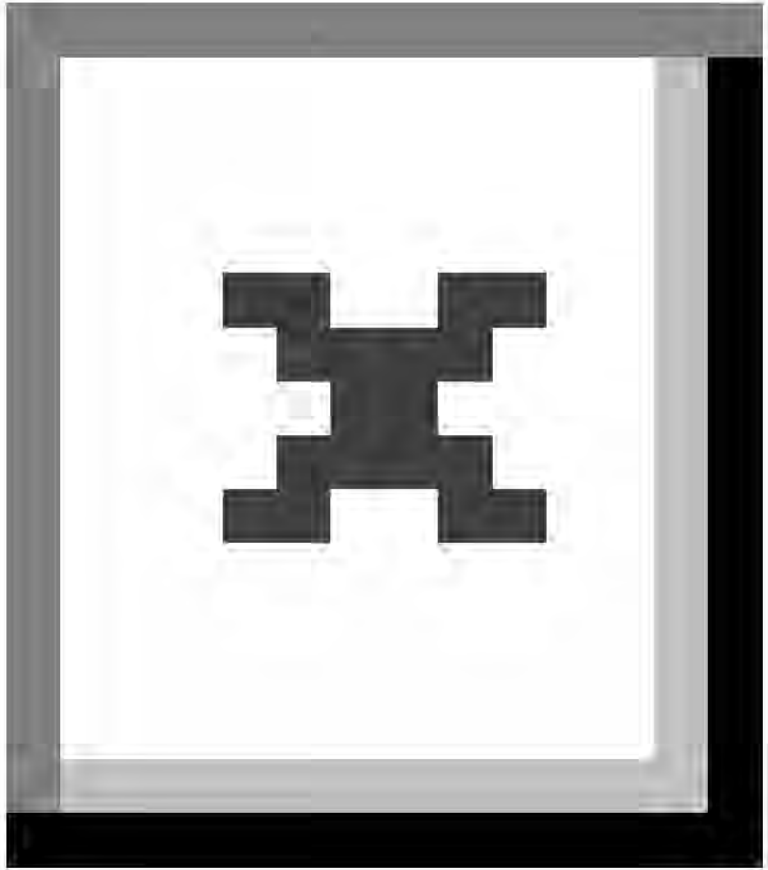
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From: Ramos, D. Jacqueline
Sent: Fri, 9 Feb 2024 04:01:20 +0000
To: Coulter, Sonata N
Subject: Fwd: Putin says a swap deal to free WSJ reporter Gershkovich might be possible (Reuters)

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From: Ops News Update - EUR <donotreply@infodesk.com>
Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 4:51:49 AM
To: OpsNews_EUR <OpsNews_EUR@state.gov>
Subject: Putin says a swap deal to free WSJ reporter Gershkovich might be possible (Reuters)



Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Putin says a swap deal to free WSJ reporter Gershkovich might be possible (Reuters)

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview aired on Thursday that it might be possible to free Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who is awaiting trial on spying charges, in exchange for a Russian prisoner.

Putin, speaking to U.S. television host Tucker Carlson, said Russian and American special services were discussing the case and had made some progress.

The Russian president suggested that in return, Moscow wanted Germany to free Vadim Krasikov, who was convicted of the 2019 murder of a Chechen dissident in Berlin.

Gershkovich was arrested on March 29, 2023 in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg and accused of trying to obtain defence secrets. He and his newspaper strongly reject the charges and the U.S. government has designated him as wrongfully detained.

"We are willing to solve it but there are certain terms being discussed via special services channels. I believe an agreement can be reached," said Putin, stressing that Russia's partners needed to take what he called reciprocal steps.

"There have been many successful examples of these talks crowned with success. Probably this is going to be crowned with success as well but we have to come to an agreement," said Putin, who was speaking through an interpreter.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Russia and the United States have agreed high-profile prisoner swaps in the past - most recently in December 2022 when Moscow traded Brittney Griner, a U.S. basketball star convicted of a drugs offence in Russia, for Russian arms trafficker Viktor Bout.

Putin, without mentioning Krasikov by name, referred to a person who "due to patriotic sentiments, eliminated a bandit in one of the European capitals".

Last month a Moscow court **extended** Gershkovich's custody by two months. Putin said the reporter had been "caught red handed when he was secretly getting confidential information".

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wed, 27 Mar 2024 13:09:13 -0600
To: Coulter, Sonata N
Subject: Fwd: Fw: WSJ: In a Secret Game of Prisoner Swaps, Putin Has Held Most of the Cards

In a Secret Game of Prisoner Swaps, Putin Has Held Most of the Cards

By Aruna Viswanatha, Bojan Pancevski, Drew Hinshaw
and Joe Parkinson

March 27, 2024 12:01 am ET

https://www.wsj.com/world/russia/russia-u-s-prisoner-swaps-gershkovich-whelan-be4576f8?mod=latest_headlines

There were no aides and no note-takers in the Oval Office—just President Biden and his German guest.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz came on such short notice that the only plane he could book, a small Airbus 321, had to refuel in Iceland. Russia's war in Ukraine and the fighting in Gaza dominated the 90-minute meeting.

There was one last secret item on the agenda: Were Germany and America willing to conduct one of the most complex prisoner trades with the Kremlin since the Cold War?

Washington wanted Vladimir Putin to send home two Americans it deemed unlawfully jailed in Russia, former Marine Paul Whelan and Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who will mark a year in captivity on Friday. Putin wanted Berlin to release Vadim Krasikov, a Russian hit man serving a life sentence in Germany for murder.

It would be a tough thing for the U.S. ally to deliver, but perhaps it could be sold to the German public if Russia agreed to free its most prominent dissident, Alexei Navalny, who was imprisoned in an Arctic gulag.

Both administrations agreed to explore the idea further.

The White House never had a chance to make a formal proposal to Moscow. Word of the discussions reached the Kremlin via a private intermediary, according to people familiar with the matter. On Feb. 16, one week after the Oval Office meeting, Navalny died suddenly of unknown causes.

"Such is life," the Russian president told reporters the night after his re-election.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

It was the most shocking of a series of setbacks in secret prisoner talks between Washington and Moscow that have now bedeviled two U.S. presidencies.

America once had only one prisoner it considered wrongfully jailed in Russia, the 54-year-old Whelan. But through nearly six years of intense and combative negotiations, Putin has run up the score, stockpiling his prisons with Americans to swap for the very few Russians abroad he cares to bring back.

Both Presidents Biden and Trump found themselves facing the crude asymmetry between the U.S. and Russia, whose leader of a quarter-century can order foreigners plucked from their hotel rooms and sentenced to decades on spurious charges.

Putin, whom Biden called "a butcher," hasn't been a normal negotiating partner. After news of Navalny's sudden death interrupted an annual lunch among chiefs of the leading Western security agencies, several attendees immediately wondered if the Russian ruler had ordered a hit. Weeks later, the U.S. hasn't offered a public assessment of how he died, while Russia has cited only "natural causes."

At the same time, America has been an easy mark, polarized by its culture wars and susceptible to the power of celebrity-driven campaigns that leveled a degree of pressure on the White House never felt by the Kremlin.

The Biden administration came into office determined to craft a consistent approach to prisoner talks—only to be knocked off course by viral outrage when Russia jailed Olympic basketball champion Brittney Griner. As her representatives lobbied the president to free her, if necessary by trading notorious Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout, the Justice Department was concerned such a deal would make it harder to free Whelan and encourage Putin to grab more Americans.

The unreported story of this escalating hostage crisis takes place in clandestine meetings in hotels in neutral capitals booked under false names. The Journal spoke to dozens of current or former U.S., European, Middle Eastern and Russian officials, including individuals directly involved in negotiations. It also reviewed court records and interviewed former prisoners, their families and the people who worked as their backchannel representatives.

The drama features walk-on roles by Hillary Clinton, media personality Tucker Carlson and former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who became involved in the negotiations only to die before Whelan, now closing in on his 2,000th day in prison, could come home.

As of today, the U.S. doesn't have any Russians in its prison system of the category the Kremlin wants in return for the Americans it has jailed. Washington has been reduced to hoping foreign governments might be willing to trade Russians they hold on espionage or murder charges.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

"Putin will take more and more Americans," said Fiona Hill, who sat across the table from Russia's president as the top Russia adviser for President Trump. "He has figured out he can exploit our domestic preoccupations and anxieties."

'I'm a Marine, I'm tough'

The first time the name "Paul Whelan" landed in the American Embassy in Moscow, nobody knew who he was—just that he had been grabbed in a raid on his hotel room during the Christmas holidays of 2018.

In the compound's safe room, combed daily for surveillance equipment, Ambassador Jon Huntsman was asking the CIA station chief the same question he'd asked other diplomatic staff: Who was this Michigan bachelor, repeatedly traveling to Moscow as a tourist on an ordinary visa?

The station chief was as befuddled as the ambassador, and replied that Whelan wasn't working for the CIA. The two contacted the White House, where officials determined he'd been set up.

Held in Moscow's infamous Lefortovo Prison, Whelan told his lawyer he'd been handed a thumbdrive by a friend, then almost immediately arrested by agents of Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB. One of them had passed on a reassuring message: You'll be traded.

Days later, Huntsman arrived to meet him. Whelan was being kept in a complex of roughly 9-by-12-foot cells where lights were turned brighter through the night. Inmates' sole windows were a slice of translucent glass, so high above eye level that when morning broke, they could only see the gray Moscow sky.

"I'm a Marine, I'm tough," Whelan told the ambassador. "I can get through this."

Days later, Huntsman bypassed Russia's Foreign Ministry to talk directly to Yuri Ushakov, Putin's chief foreign-policy adviser. With a direct line to Putin, Ushakov could get things done.

Their meeting, in an office next to the Kremlin, was to the point. A Russian activist named Maria Butina had pleaded guilty two weeks before Whelan's arrest to being part of a conspiracy to influence U.S. politics by becoming involved with conservative groups including the National Rifle Association at the direction of a top official from Russia's central bank. Russia would be willing to trade her for Whelan. Or it could trade him for a pilot, Konstantin Yaroshenko, sentenced to 20 years for drug smuggling.

"Put a deal on the table and let's talk," said Ushakov, who would interrupt meetings to take a call from the president he called "the boss."

There was another prisoner the Kremlin wanted more: Viktor Bout, the Russian arms trafficker loosely fictionalized by Nicolas Cage in the blockbuster "Lord of War."

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

America's Drug Enforcement Administration had busted him in Thailand in a 2008 sting operation. Russian diplomats had ritualistically invoked Bout in almost every meeting since, calling him a victim of America's overreach as a global policeman.

Yaroshenko, grabbed by the DEA in Liberia in 2010, was another American kidnapping on foreign soil, they insisted. Their complaints fell flat with the Obama administration and with Trump.

Huntsman headed to the White House and pressed Trump for a quick deal. "We've got to get this done," the president said.

But Trump sounded a more skeptical tone to Russia specialists in his administration. The president and his national security team feared Putin would sense weakness if the U.S. started eagerly petitioning for Whelan's release.

The proposition of swapping Whelan for Butina or Yaroshenko never gained momentum. Trading Bout sounded so lopsided that Trump's national security adviser, John Bolton, dismissed it outright: "There's no way we're going to agree to this," he said he told his staff.

In April 2019, the U.S. lost a card in its hand: A federal judge sentenced Butina to just 18 months in prison. Anatoly Antonov, Russia's ambassador to Washington, teased U.S. officials that the short sentence had made it easy: Rather than trade Butina, Moscow was now inclined to let her jail time run out.

In August, the score shifted again. Police in Russia arrested another former Marine, Trevor Reed, during a drunken night out with his Russian girlfriend. They had been preparing to release him when two counterintelligence officers walked into the station. Reed, who had served at Camp David when Biden was vice president, found himself facing a nine-year sentence for assaulting a police officer. He denied the charge and said Russian law enforcement provided no credible evidence. The State Department declared him wrongfully detained.

The next month, the House of Representatives began an impeachment inquiry into President Trump's dealings with Ukraine, removing any political room for swapping prisoners with the Kremlin. "Everything involving Russia basically became radioactive," one senior official said. In October, Huntsman, the ambassador who had championed Whelan's cause, resigned.

The best the U.S. could do was a complex exchange of medical care, partially arranged by former Gov. Richardson, who, over the course of nearly a year, got the Justice Department to persuade the warden of Yaroshenko's federal penitentiary to permit an outside dentist to treat the inmate's toothache.

The Kremlin allowed Whelan to see a hernia specialist at a Moscow clinic. Richardson hoped this was building momentum, but in June 2020, a Moscow judge handed Whelan a 16-year

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

sentence. Standing in a glass defendants' cage and struggling to understand the untranslated Russian, Whelan held up a handwritten note: "SHAM TRIAL!"

Days in IK-17, his new home—a maze of low-slung cell blocks wreathed in razor wire some 300 miles east of Moscow began with the Russian national anthem blaring from tinny loudspeakers, its melody the same as in Soviet times. On the prison floor, Whelan was ordered to stitch pants and coats in a sea of inmates in black uniforms huddled over sewing desks for Technoavia, Russia's industrial-clothing corporation. Food was scarce and fights were frequent in the labor camp sardonically nicknamed "Fashion Colony."

When the new U.S. ambassador, John Sullivan, visited him, Whelan was eager to share historical trivia on the prison: It had once held German prisoners of war during its days as a Stalinist gulag. Whelan was keeping a small notebook where he meticulously recorded the slights prison guards meted out to him.

Bout, meanwhile, was teaching yoga to inmates in a medium-security Illinois prison. In the mornings, he read the Journal, English being one of at least five languages he spoke—six, counting Esperanto. At times, he dreamed about once again tasting fresh garlic and grapes. Frequent visits from Russian diplomats stopped after Washington restricted their movements, but there was hope for Bout, relayed to him in regular phone calls: In all likelihood, he would be traded for Whelan.

That idea was going nowhere inside the Trump White House. New national security adviser Robert O'Brien vowed there would be "no more ransoms." Instead, he tried to shake Whelan and Reed free at the end of a meeting with Putin's most important official, national security chief and former FSB director Nikolai Patrushev.

The two led delegations to Geneva, barely five weeks before the 2020 election, to negotiate an extension to a nuclear arms control treaty. Russia also wanted to restart conversations on cybersecurity and counterterrorism. In return, O'Brien asked, could Russia release Whelan and Reed as a gesture of goodwill?

Patrushev offered a loose handshake agreement O'Brien understood as a yes, a fleeting diplomatic win the same day the campaigning president Trump was hospitalized with Covid-19. The State Department was skeptical Patrushev had committed Russia to anything more conclusive than a maybe.

A month later, Trump lost re-election. In his final days in office, O'Brien pinged the Russians again, but they never responded.

"We were aware the Russians were saying nyet. And everything gets frozen," one official said.

The backchannel

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Six months later, America's new president met Putin in a mansion by Lake Geneva, the choreography echoing the city's famous Reagan-Gorbachev peace summit. Biden wanted a "stable and predictable relationship with Russia," and agreed to establish a backchannel to discuss prisoner exchanges.

Russian and U.S. intelligence officials arrived for the first backchannel talks at a European hotel, where a conference room had been booked to disguise its true purpose. The U.S. delegation had come reluctantly, leaving phones behind, wary of the prisoner trades they were sent to explore.

The interlocutor studying the Americans from across the table suggested Russia's appetite for a deal was souring. When it came to Whelan, Russia had a grim new demand: a spy for a spy. If Washington wanted Moscow to free an American convicted in a Russian court of espionage, the U.S. would have to secure the release of a Russian sentenced for an equivalent crime. And the U.S., he added, didn't have such a convict anywhere in its prison system.

There was, however, one Russian that Putin was starting to ask about: Vadim Krasikov, the former FSB officer serving a murder sentence in Germany. The two were so close the hit man had once bragged about passing time with the president at an elite military training facility: Putin, the erstwhile chief of the FSB, "shoots well," he'd told friends.

The price for Whelan, after two years in jail, was ratcheting up again.

In the weeks that followed, U.S. officials watched as police at Russian airports and elsewhere began scooping up more Americans. In August, customs officers arrested Marc Fogel, a history teacher at the Moscow high school U.S. Embassy children attend, for carrying less than an ounce of medical marijuana.

David Barnes flew to Russia to find his two sons his ex-wife had taken there, only to be sentenced to 21 years for child abuse charges that he denied and which Texas authorities didn't find evidence to support. Around the same time, Sarah Krivanek, an American teaching English in Russia was arrested for assault after injuring the male Russian roommate she said had been drunkenly beating her.

None of those cases registered with the American public or with officials—Krivanek says no diplomat ever visited her in jail.

But on Feb. 17, Russian customs agents finally seized someone whose ordeal would resonate.

A basketball star

The authorities at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport had installed three new color security cameras, perfectly aligned to record cinematic details as Brittney Griner, a two-time basketball Olympic gold medalist, lifted her black rucksack onto a customs table, en route to play with her

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

offseason team UMMC Ekaterinburg. Inside were vape cartridges containing less than a gram of medically prescribed hash oil, illegal in Russia.

News of her arrest became fodder for America's gathering culture wars: a Black lesbian sports star had been imprisoned by a regime with draconian laws on LGBTQ rights. In the ensuing months, Hollywood and sports celebrities including LeBron James, Kerry Washington and Amy Schumer joined an exploding social-media campaign: #WeAreBG.

"Brittney Griner is Trapped and Alone," read an opinion headline in the New York Times. "Where's Your Outrage?"

While other Americans had struggled to get government attention, the crash team including executives and sports agents working to free Griner could immediately reach the heart of the White House; one had served in the Clinton administration with Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Russian officials realized they had leverage and floated a possible deal: Bout and Yaroshenko for Griner and Trevor Reed, the former White House Marine who had served at Camp David during Biden's vice presidency. Biden was also under pressure to free Reed: "Trevor had been willing to die for you," his father, Joey Reed, told the president during a meeting in March.

Joey Reed says his son's yearslong detention left him shocked at the inability of the U.S. government, under both parties, to negotiate with Moscow: "I don't think they generally know how to work these kinds of deals," he said. Putin, he added, has managed to outfox Washington for 24 years: "They know our government better than we know our government."

Biden approved an exchange of Yaroshenko for Reed. On April 27, 2022, the former Marine was flown to a Turkish airport. As he walked out onto the tarmac, and into an American jet, he asked the U.S. delegation escorting him on board: "Where's Paul?"

Whelan, still sewing coats in IK-17 prison, had become the subject of a difficult moral calculus. The U.S. wanted to trade Bout for both Griner and Whelan, arguing the world's most famous gunrunner was surely worth a basketball center caught with hash oil and an obscure former Marine. Russia, watching the celebrity-studded campaign to free Griner, proposed to trade both the sports star and Whelan for Krasikov.

U.S. officials protested. The convicted murderer was in a German prison, but the Russians were unmoved. Tell Germany to release Krasikov, the Russians suggested.

Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, notified his German counterpart of the Russian proposal, but the U.S. didn't submit a formal request for Krasikov. The CIA sent a query down to its station chief in Berlin—who responded that it wouldn't even be worth asking. For months, the U.S. and Russia waged a stare-down, the Kremlin hoping the U.S. would deliver Krasikov, and the White House hoping to exchange two prisoners for one.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

On Sept. 16, Griner's wife and agent met Biden in the White House and communicated a plea: Don't let the negotiations needlessly drag out if there is a narrower deal—either for Griner or Whelan—to be had. The president met Whelan's sister Elizabeth the same day.

The U.S. tried offering Bout for Whelan—hoping to then trade another Russian convicted of a lesser charge for the celebrity athlete—but Moscow stuck to its guns. For Griner, Bout. And if the U.S. wanted Whelan, they could discuss a trade involving Krasikov.

The Whelan family could feel the tide turning against them once more. "Does this mean he is going to be left behind yet again?" his sister Elizabeth had said to the Detroit News.

Justice Department officials were concerned: Trading Griner for Bout would make it harder to free Whelan, they argued, because there were no other inmates left in U.S. prisons that Russia wanted, plus it could make other countries reluctant to extradite criminals to America. The president overrode internal objections. The State Department dispatched an official to tell the Whelan family that Biden had agreed to exchange Bout to bring Griner home.

"Sadly, for totally illegitimate reasons, Russia is treating Paul's case differently than Brittney's," Biden told reporters, after calling the Whelans.

To retrieve Griner, the State Department chartered a private medical jet with trauma specialists on hand to bring her back to the U.S., where she was later honored at the White House.

That same day, the State Department put Krivanek—whose sentence for assaulting her abusive roommate had ended—on a commercial flight and told her she would have to repay nearly \$4,000 in traveling expenses. She had been assaulted in a coed prison, she said, her knee and two cervical spine discs fractured, injuries treated when a friend met her at the airport and drove straight to a local emergency room.

Watching from afar, Trump criticized the deal on his social-networking site, TruthSocial. "I would have gotten Paul out," he wrote.

It was the first time the Whelan family ever saw Trump publicly mention Paul's name.

The journalist

Putin still didn't have his hit man back.

Just under two weeks after Griner's release, the Russian president delivered a video speech to the FSB, admonishing them to find more spies: "You need to significantly improve your work," he told FSB top brass assembled to celebrate Security Agency Workers' Day, a Russian holiday.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

By the new year, U.S. officials had noticed an uptick in surveillance toward the few Americans still in Russia. Evan Gershkovich had been followed on reporting trips in Moscow and western Russia.

On March 29, he was on another reporting trip, waiting at a steakhouse in Yekaterinburg, when masked agents barged in.

Gershkovich was charged with espionage and jailed alone in a Lefortovo prison cell, prompting a worldwide outcry. The State Department within weeks deemed him unlawfully detained and Biden pledged to push for his freedom.

Putin now had two Americans spuriously classified as spies.

When the news reached Whelan in IK-17, it took him weeks to stabilize. He seemed “rattled like never before” and afraid he’d be overlooked for a third time, his family wrote in an online statement.

Months passed with little movement forward in the negotiations. Weeks after Gershkovich’s arrest, the U.S. offered five people, including cybercriminals, a bid it hoped would open new options to return Gershkovich and Whelan without freeing Krasikov. The Russians waited.

From his cell in Lefortovo, Gershkovich was writing letters to friends and family, asking them to deliver flowers to loved ones and to send him obscure Russian literature.

A more ambitious transnational effort to free them had begun to take shape, initially spearheaded by an unexpected source: Hillary Clinton.

The former secretary of state had accepted a proposal from Christo Grozev, a friend and associate of Navalny, to lobby the White House to include the imprisoned Russian opposition leader in negotiations, handing the Russians Krasikov in exchange.

Navalny’s wife, Yulia Navalnaya, had been approaching German officials informally, but the government was divided. Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock opposed any deal involving Krasikov, who had gunned down a perceived enemy of the Kremlin in a Berlin park in broad daylight.

And yet Navalny was such a popular figure in Germany that when he was poisoned with the nerve agent Novichok in 2020, then-Chancellor Angela Merkel helped arrange for him to be airlifted to Berlin, where doctors saved his life. Scholz, the current chancellor, visited him during his recovery and has spoken about how impressed he was with Navalny’s courage and moral strength.

Spokespeople for Navalny and the German government declined to comment.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Putin, meanwhile, was hinting strongly that he would be open to an exchange that included Gershkovich.

In February, former Fox News host Tucker Carlson arrived in Moscow to interview the Russian leader. Beforehand, Carlson advised the president's aides that he planned to press Putin to release Gershkovich then and there, so he could personally bring him back to the U.S. An official close to Putin said it would be a "great idea" and could generate a positive response, Carlson told the Journal.

When it came time to spring the question, Putin demurred, although he suggested Gershkovich could be traded for an unnamed prisoner who fit Krasikov's profile. The Russian leader left Carlson with the sense that he was ambivalent. "Putin basically acknowledged that Gershkovich was held hostage, and my sense was that he was embarrassed about it," Carlson said.

Momentum appeared to be growing but there was still no final U.S.-German agreement nor any proposal to the Russians. Seven days after Biden met Scholz, Navalny's closest aides and his wife Yulia arrived at the global gathering of security officials in Munich, where they hoped negotiations could soon reach a breakthrough.

It was not to be. Hours after hearing her husband had died in prison, a tearful Navalnaya held an impromptu speech declaring, "This regime and Vladimir Putin should be held personally responsible."

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(b)(6)

(b)(6) state.gov

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wed, 7 Feb 2024 13:22:26 +0000
To: Coulter, Sonata N
Subject: FW: Wednesday in Russian News - February 7, 2024

Hi Sonata: flagging these two items if you'd want to mention them at the 0830 meeting today. Best,

(b)(6)

Tucker Carlson teases interview with Putin: After days of speculations on the topic, former Fox News presenter Tucker Carlson finally confirmed that he was in Moscow to interview Russian president Vladimir Putin. In the video address [published](#) on the X platform, Carlson said he would air his "unedited" conversation with the Russian leader to counter what he described as pro-Kyiv "fawning pep sessions" by Western media covering the war in Ukraine. Some Russian journalists noted that Carlson's video appears to have been filmed from the top of a hotel overlooking the Kremlin, a location typically restricted for foreign journalists for security reasons. This rooftop is allegedly [secured](#) by the Federal Protective Service, a government agency in charge of protecting Putin and other top officials. However, U.S. film director Oliver Stone, who conducted a contentious interview with Putin in 2017, was a rare exception allowed access to such vantage points. Russian media extensively covered Carlson's every step in Moscow for the past few days. The visit made it to almost every Russian state-run TV channel, news outlet, and blog. On the morning of February 7, the visit was featured by state-controlled Channel One and Gazprom-Media's NTV, which highlighted Carlson's claims that the U.S. administration has repeatedly tried to prevent him from talking with the Russian leader and that he is self-financing his trip to Russia. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov confirmed that Carlson interviewed Putin. The cumulative reach of the news surpassed 60M views. [TV: Channel One](#) [NTV](#) [News: TASS](#) [RIA](#) [Kommersant](#) [RG](#) [Izvestia](#)

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Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: Moscow, Press <MoscowPressMail@state.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 7, 2024 6:19 AM
Subject: Wednesday in Russian News - February 7, 2024

Carlson Interviews Putin, No Decision on Nadezhdin, Chinese Banks End Russian Deals



Wednesday in Russian News - February 7, 2024

Top Stories

Tucker Carlson teases interview with Putin: After days of speculations on the topic, former Fox News presenter Tucker Carlson finally confirmed that he was in Moscow to interview Russian president Vladimir Putin. In the video address [published](#) on the X platform, Carlson said he would air his "unedited" conversation with the Russian leader to counter what he described as pro-Kyiv "fawning pep sessions" by Western media covering the war in Ukraine. Some Russian journalists noted that Carlson's video appears to have been filmed from the top of a hotel overlooking the Kremlin, a location typically restricted for foreign journalists for security reasons. This rooftop is allegedly [secured](#) by the Federal Protective Service, a government agency in charge of protecting Putin and other top officials. However, U.S. film director Oliver Stone, who conducted a contentious interview with Putin in 2017, was a rare exception allowed access to such vantage points. Russian media extensively covered Carlson's every step in Moscow for the past few days. The visit made it to almost every Russian state-run TV channel, news outlet, and blog. On the morning of February 7, the visit was featured by state-controlled Channel One and Gazprom-Media's NTV, which highlighted Carlson's claims that the U.S. administration has repeatedly tried to prevent him from talking with the Russian leader and that he is self-financing his trip to Russia. Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov confirmed that Carlson interviewed Putin. The cumulative reach of the news surpassed 60M views. [TV: Channel One](#) [NTV](#) [News: TASS](#) [RIA](#) [Kommersant](#) [RG](#) [Izvestia](#)

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Social Media Coverage

On Tucker Carlson's upcoming interview with Vladimir Putin: Pro-Kremlin channels are looking forward to the upcoming interview and have high hopes for it. "The excitement around it [the interview] is off the charts. That means tens of millions of Americans will watch it. It's just a great PR move on our part. The best way to bring our president's opinion directly to the American audience," pro-Kremlin channel [Mir segodnya s Yuri Podolyaka \(The world today with Yuri Podolyaka\)](#) (2.7M) says (Views: 355K). It is emphasized that one of the main reasons for the interview according to Carlson is "the blindness and deafness of the West, where corrupt elites hide from people the reality of what is happening in Russia and Ukraine" (Views: 38K). Pro-Kremlin political scientist Sergey Markov ([Logika Markova \(Markov's Logic\)](#)) (65K) considers the interview very important because it "will help break through the rigid blockade of political censorship that Western governments have built". "The Russian position is so much closer to the truth and reality than the Western position that it is often enough just to tell Russia's position - and millions of people will agree with Russia and Putin," the report says (Views: 23K). Independent journalist [Dmitry Kolezev](#) (57K), commenting on the hype surrounding the interview, points out that in previous years Putin regularly gave interviews to American TV channels and no one cared much about it. "But now an interview with a host with a problematic reputation is apparently seen as an unprecedented breakthrough," Kolezev posts (Views: 15K).

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Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tue, 13 Feb 2024 13:08:23 +0000
To: Coulter, Sonata N
Subject: FW: Tuesday in Russian News - February 13, 2024

Non Responsive

Very best,

(b)(6)

Director

Office of Russian Affairs (EUR/RUS)

From: Moscow, Press <MoscowPressMail@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 6:44 AM

Subject: Tuesday in Russian News - February 13, 2024

***Western Envoy to Ukraine, Inflated Numbers for
Carlson-Putin Interview, Estonian PM on Wanted
List***

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.



Tuesday in Russian News - February 13, 2024

Top Stories

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Russian media spread false viewership numbers of Carlson's interview with Putin: A few days after former Fox News host Tucker Carlson's interview with president Vladimir Putin, Russian media are still ecstatic about the fact that the American came to Moscow. Speaking at the World Government Summit in Dubai, Carlson said Moscow makes a better impression than any city in the United States. "It shocked me that Moscow, where I had never been before, the largest city in Europe with 13M people, is much nicer than any city in my country," Carlson said. A Channel One anchor, quoting Carlson on a prime-time news bulletin, said, "for us, the residents of the capital, there is nothing surprising in these words". Russian media and propagandists have also been counting the views of the interview, competing to see who can come up with the highest number. For instance, propagandist Margarita Simonyan claimed that the total views exceeded one billion views. Channel One also claimed that the interview was breaking viewing records, and "on social network X alone, the number of views is approaching 200M". However, this figure is exaggerated. As management of X explains itself, X counts views every time someone sees a tweet, no matter where it happens. A view counts if the user saw the tweet in a search or repost of a post they have seen before. "That's the number you and I see under tweets and that's what the state media erroneously refers to," writes social media and YouTube expert Maya Wolf. The cumulative reach of Carlson's words about Moscow exceeded 47M views. TV: Channel One News: TASS RIA Kommersant

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War in Ukraine

Carlson says Putin ready for compromise on Ukraine. While speaking at the World Government Summit in Dubai, American journalist Tucker Carlson expressed the opinion that Russian President Vladimir Putin is ready to make a serious compromise on Ukraine. "The very work of the leaders of any country on this planet, except perhaps the United States during the period of a unipolar world, makes it necessary to find compromise. This is what is called diplomacy. And he [Putin] is among them," Carlson said. In a separate interview, Carlson added that Ukraine would not win the conflict with Russia even with the West's money. "The Ukrainian military, even with hundreds of billions of dollars in Western support, will not be able to push back the Russian military from areas in eastern Ukraine," he claimed. The morning news on state Rossiya 1, state-controlled Channel One, and Gazprom-Media's NTV highlighted his remarks about Ukraine's incapability of winning the war. [Channel One](#) [Rossiya 1](#) [NTV](#) [TASS](#) [RIA Kommersant](#) [Komsomolskaya Pravda](#)

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Mon, 4 Mar 2024 14:01:45 +0000
To: Ramos, D. Jacqueline
Subject: FW: Russian leak rocks Berlin

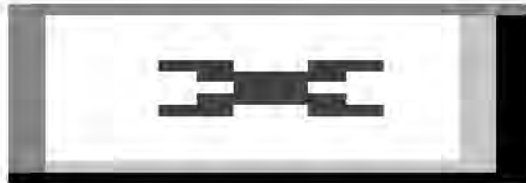
More on that.

(b)(6)
Chief of Staff
Office of the Sanctions Coordinator (S/SC)

(b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: POLITICO Brussels Playbook <playbook@politico.eu>
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 1:05 AM
To: (b)(6)@state.gov>
Subject: Russian leak rocks Berlin



By SARAH WHEATON

with ZOYA SHEFTALOVICH

Send tips [here](#) | Tweet [@swheaton](#) | [Listen to Playbook and view in your browser](#)

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POLICY CORNER



Non Responsive

ORBÁN'S AMERICAN DREAM: Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán appears to be launching another edition of his charm offensive with U.S. Republicans. He's slated to visit former President Donald Trump in Florida next week and connect with Kevin Roberts, the president of the hyper-conservative Heritage Foundation think tank, according to an [X post](#) from Balázs Orbán, the prime minister's (unrelated) political adviser — who also posted a "[behind the scenes](#)" photo with Tucker Carlson on Sunday, in what appears to be Carlson's log-cabin style studio, urging us to "stay tuned."

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Mon, 5 Feb 2024 13:01:44 +0000
To: Coulter, Sonata N
Subject: FW: Monday in Russian News - February 5, 2024

Good morning!

In addition to a couple highlights below

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Very best,

(b)(6)

Director

Office of Russian Affairs (EUR/RUS)

From: Moscow, Press <MoscowPressMail@state.gov>

Sent: Monday, February 5, 2024 7:47 AM

Subject: Monday in Russian News - February 5, 2024

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

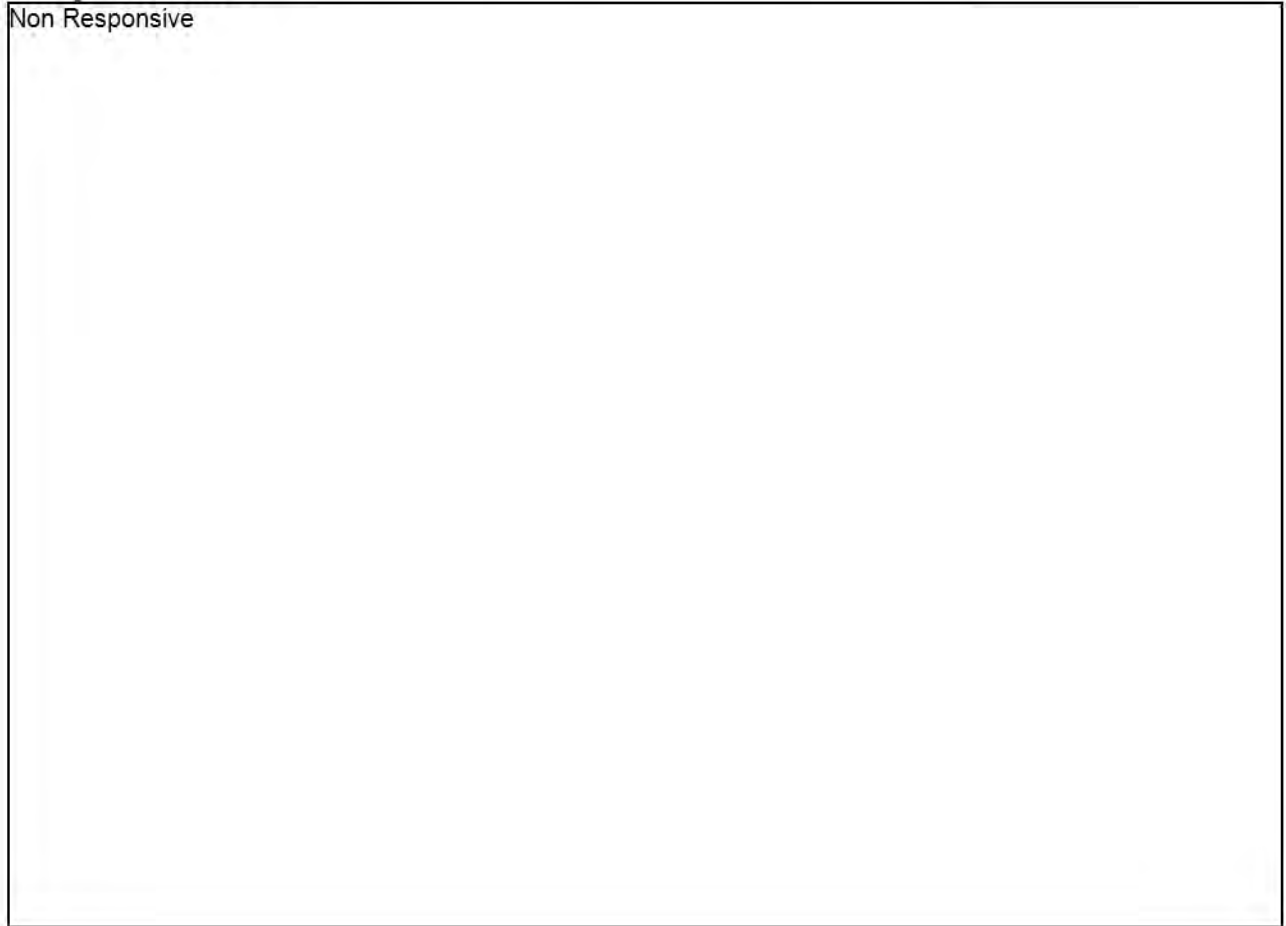
Deadly Strike on Lysychansk, Anti-Mobilization Protest near Kremlin, Tucker Carlson Visits Moscow



Monday in Russian News - February 5, 2024

Top Stories

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State propaganda trumpets Tucker Carlson's arrival in Moscow: American journalist Tucker Carlson is in Russia, visiting for the first time. He has been in Moscow for three days. According to the breaking news Telegram channel Mash, on the morning of February 1, the former FoxNews host was spotted at Istanbul airport boarding a Turkish Airlines flight to Moscow. During his time in Moscow, Carlson held several meetings and went to the Bolshoi Theater. The main intrigue is the official purpose of Carlson's visit. The obvious option would be an interview with Russian president Vladimir Putin, but the TV host himself said "We'll see" on the short video interview published by pro-Kremlin daily Izvestia. The author of the video noted that Carlson's visit "blew up" the media in the United States, to which Carlson replied, "They're really crazy". Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that the Kremlin will inform if Putin's plans include an interview with Tucker Carlson, so far there is no such information. Russian media also quoted statements from former U.S. House of Representatives member Adam Kinzinger, who called Carlson a "traitor" because of his visit to Russia. Pro-Kremlin Telegram channels believe that "the U.S. is in a panic" because they fear that ordinary Americans "may hear the truth that goes against White House policy". The news around the visit garnered 64M views. TV: NTV News: TASS RIA Izvestia Vedomosti Telegram: Mash Kornilov Voennyi obozervatel (Military observer)

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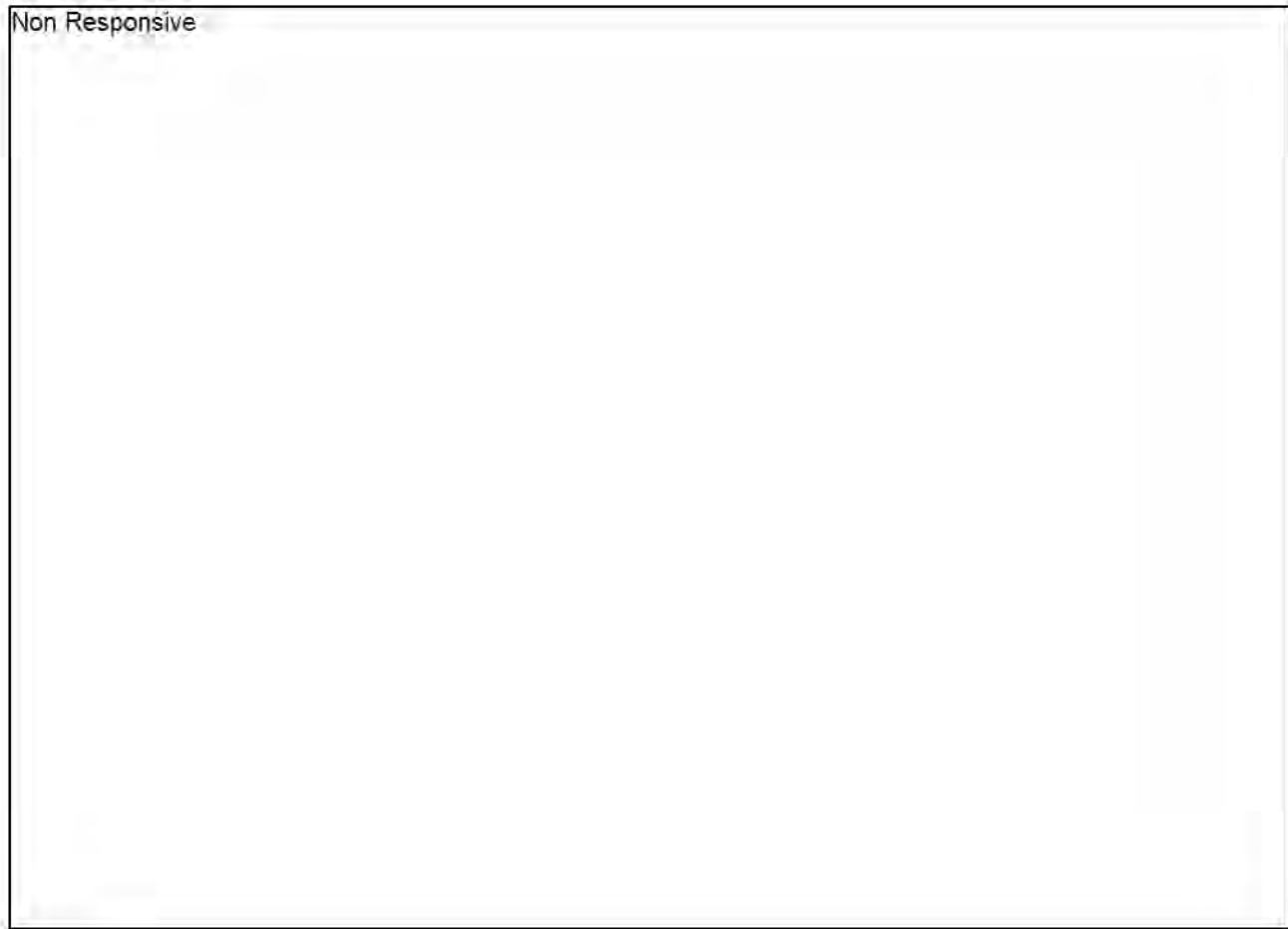
Non Responsive

On Tucker Carlson's arrival to Moscow: Pro-Kremlin channels discuss the arrival of American journalist Tucker Carlson to Moscow and rumors that he is going to interview Vladimir Putin. Propagandists gloat over the fact that "the U.S. is already in a panic" over the fact that Western audiences will be able to listen to Putin. "U.S. officials and lawmakers have already called Carlson's possible conversation with Putin a 'disaster' because of the highest approval ratings for the journalist's work among ordinary Americans and fear of hearing the truth that goes against White House policy among officials," pro-Kremlin military channel Voennyi obozrevatel (Military observer) (199K) posts (Views: 46K). "How scared they are that the nurtured image of the enemy in the person of Russia and Vladimir Putin may suddenly turn out to be empty propaganda. The censorship of the 'democratic' West simply cannot allow this," pro-Kremlin journalist and TV host Ruslan Ostashko (Ostashko! Vazhnoe (Ostashko! Important)) (371K) says (Views: 46K).

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From: (b)(6)
Sent: Fri, 9 Feb 2024 13:19:49 +0000
To: Coulter, Sonata N
Subject: FW: Friday in Russian News - February 9, 2024

Lowlights from the Carlson interview:

Very best,

(b)(6)

Director

Office of Russian Affairs (EUR/RUS)

From: Moscow, Press <MoscowPressMail@state.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 9, 2024 6:26 AM

Subject: Friday in Russian News - February 9, 2024

Putin Interview with Carlson, Media Slam New Ukrainian Commander-in-Chief, New Initiative on “Undesirable” Organizations



Friday in Russian News - February 9, 2024

Top Stories

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Putin uses Carlson's interview to discuss history, push propaganda: American political commentator Tucker Carlson published his interview with Russian President Vladimir Putin early Friday morning. While the former Fox News host asked the Russian president questions on topics ranging from the future of AI technology to the imprisonment of American journalist Evan Gershkovich, the bulk of the two-hour conversation was dedicated to Putin's motivations for launching the war in Ukraine. In response to the first question, Putin gave a lengthy lecture about Russia-Ukraine history covering a period of hundreds of years, claiming that Ukraine is an "artificial state that was shaped at Stalin's will". He also said that Washington's policy does not depend on the president but on the mood of the elites, and added that the United States is using force to adapt to a changing world, but "the tools the U.S. is using are not working". Putin also stated that the world order, including the position of the U.S. in it, will change regardless of how the war in Ukraine ends. The Russian media were expectedly ecstatic about the interview. Gazprom-owned NTV said the interview started with "a basic history lesson for his interlocutor". State Rossiya 1 characterized the Western reaction ahead of the broadcast as "extremely nervous", while state-controlled Channel One said it was "toxic". The interview has also been extensively promoted on Telegram, with many praising both Putin and Carlson, although some were not happy with the conversation. Lev Vershinin, an associate of now-detained separatist Igor Strelkov, said that Putin was a "weak, small, confused man". The interview garnered 83.3M views. TV: Channel One Rossiya 1 NTV News: RIA Kommersant RG Izvestia In detail: TASS Telegram: Obraz Budushego (Image of the Future) Lev Vershinin

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Putin names condition for Gershkovich's release in interview with Carlson.

American journalist Evan Gershkovich, who is detained in Russia, may return to his homeland if the U.S. intelligence agencies meet their Russian counterparts' demands on certain issues, Russian President Vladimir Putin said. During an interview with Putin, journalist Tucker Carlson asked whether Russia could release Gershkovich as a

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

goodwill gesture. "We have made so many goodwill gestures that I think we have exhausted all the limits. No one has ever responded to our goodwill gestures with similar gestures," Putin responded. "But we are, in principle, ready to talk about the fact that we do not exclude the fact that we can do it with a counter-movement from our partners," he continued. He also echoed the narrative that the journalist had been passing information to U.S. intelligence services. Carlson ended by expressing hope that Gershkovich would still be released. [TASS](#) [Interfax](#) [Vedomosti](#) [Izvestia](#)

Tucker Carlson meets with Snowden, Tara Reade in Russia. American journalist Tucker Carlson during his trip to Russia met with ex-U.S. intelligence officer Edward Snowden and Tara Reade, who accuses U.S. President Joe Biden of harassment. Russian media circulate this news, citing the news site Semafor. "On Thursday, the former Fox News host met with [...] Edward Snowden for several hours. Although the former NSA whistleblower made regular media appearances in the years after he fled to Russia, he has largely shied away from public appearances in recent years, citing a desire for greater privacy for his family," the publication said. According to him, Carlson spoke with Snowden for several hours; he also recorded an interview with Reed. Kremlin's representative Dmitry Peskov noted that he does not have information about Carlson's meetings. [RIA](#) [RBC](#) [Izvestia](#) [Moskovskiy Komsomolets](#)

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Putin says BRICS share in world economy surpassed the one of G7. The share of the BRICS countries in the world economy has surpassed that of the G7, Vladimir Putin said in an interview to American journalist Tucker Carlson. "In 1992, I think, the share of the G7 countries in the world economy was 47%, and in 2022 it fell somewhere, I think, to 30% and a little bit. The share of the BRICS countries in 1992 was only 16%, and now it exceeds the level of the G7," Putin pointed out. In his opinion, "this is not related to any events in Ukraine". Putin also emphasized that the share of the U.S. dollar in Russia's trade payments with third countries has fallen to 13%, while the ruble's share is now 34%, and the yuan's share has grown from almost 3% to more than 34%. [RIA Lenta.ru](#) [Gazeta.ru](#)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

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Social Media Coverage

On Putin's interview with Tucker Carlson: All Telegram channels exploded with discussions of Vladimir Putin's interview with American TV host Tucker Carlson. Pro-Kremlin bloggers call it "the most high-profile interview of our time". Commentators

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

emphasize that the interview was aimed at a Western audience, and that "not much new was said" for Russian residents. Bloggers are jubilant about the fact that the cumulative reach of the interview has exceeded several tens of millions of views and "the entire Western Twitter feed is full of quotes from our President". "This is an unambiguous success. A real breakthrough in the West's information dome, which the West has been building with regard to information from Russia for decades. Moreover, the whole world is watching it, including Ukraine, whose residents already understand perfectly well that it is the decisions made by the Russian President that largely determine not only their present day, but also the future," pro-Kremlin channel Mir segodnya s Yuri Podolyaka (The world today with Yuri Podolyaka) (2.7M) posts (Views: 1.2M). Pro-Kremlin channels praise Putin's erudition. Political-military publicist and pro-Kremlin blogger Mikhail Onufrienko (The World by Mikhail Onufrienko) (599K) believes that Carlson is apparently "for the first time talking to a man who knows EVERYTHING" (Views: 174K). "Too bad Tucker didn't start a conversation about conservative values...This is the one thing Russia can and should be building an ideology outward on right now," media manager and propagandist; editor-in-chief of the state broadcaster RT Margarita Simonyan (477K) posts (Views: 199K). Liberal channels have sharply criticized the interview, saying it shows Putin is "disconnected from reality". "The only reason to watch [the interview] is just to understand the extent of the marasmus," opposition journalist and publicist Alexander Nevzorov (1M) says (Views: 333K). Opposition journalist and political scientist Michael Naki (123K) believes that the interview is just another "pseudo-historical speech" after which "an American Redneck-Trumpist will get bored after a couple of minutes" or "will simply realize that he is just another crazy grandfather with a nuclear button who deserves no sympathy or respect" (Views: 33K).

Non Responsive

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DANIEL KANIGAN

Deputy Spokesperson - United States Embassy Moscow

(b)(6)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: White House Press Office
Sent: Fri, 9 Feb 2024 21:04:46 +0000
To: nuland[]@state.gov
Subject: Foreign pool report #2 / Oval Office quotes

From: Juliane Schäuble <(b)(6)>
Date: February 9, 2024 at 3:43:32 PM EST
To: Wranglers <DL.WHO.Wranglers@who.eop.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Foreign pool report #2 / Oval Office quotes

Pool entered the Oval Office at 3:12pm. Potus and Chancellor Scholz were already seated next to the (very active) fireplace. They spoke in English for less than five minutes. Pool left at 3:17pm. It was hard to hear. They didn't take questions. After Potus welcomed the Chancellor back and spoke for two minutes, Scholz thanked the President for continuing the conversation. The Chancellor said: "Germany and the US have to play a role to keep peace in the world." He added: "This is especially so looking at the Russian aggression against Ukraine, which is still ongoing". He then mentioned "the ridiculous interview" the Russian President Wladimir Putin gave to Tucker Carlson in which Putin is "always telling a lot of lies about the history of this war". The Russian President only "wants to get part of the territory of its neighbors". He called this behavior "imperialism. Therefore, it would be "necessary that we do all our best to support Ukraine and to give them the chance to defend the country". Scholz. "And so, I'm very happy that in Europe, we made now decisions to give the necessary financial support to the budget. Also, that Germany was ready to increase its support with weapons delivery. He expressed the hope, that the House of Representatives "will follow you and make te decision on giving the necessary support. Because without the support of United States and without the support of European states, Ukraine has not a chance to defend its own country. On the Middle East, Scholz said: "I really think that it's worthy that we are working together looking at the situation in the Middle East and especially working on a two-state solution, which is necessary for lasting peace. And I'm sure that the United States and Germany are aligned intensely." Potus added: "We are." And then he said: "The failure of the United States Congress if it occurred, not to support Ukraine is close to criminal neglect. It is outrageous."

Juliane Schäuble
Der Tagesspiegel
US Correspondent
(b)(6)
@berlin_juliane

Verlag Der Tagesspiegel GmbH
Askanischer Platz 3, 10963 Berlin

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Geschäftsführung: Gabriel Grabner, Ulrike Teschke
Amtsgericht Charlottenburg HRB 43850 B

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PS: Lesen Sie den Tagesspiegel Checkpoint - Berlins beliebtester Newsletter. Hier geht es zur [kostenlosen Anmeldung](#).

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White House Press Office - 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW - Washington, DC 20500-0003 - USA

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: Jim Ainsworth
Sent: Mon, 8 Jan 2024 19:30:13 -0500
To: George, Suzy; Sullivan, Thomas D; (b)(6)@state.gov; Nuland, Victoria J; Chollet, Derek H; Holmgren, Brett M; Kerry, John F; Miller (b)@state.gov; Kerry, John F; (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: Biologist Warns WHO Planning To Take Control Over Nations For Next Pandemic, Confirms COVID 'Vaccines' Killed 17 MILLION People

Biologist Warns WHO Planning To Take Control Over Nations For Next Pandemic, Confirms COVID 'Vaccines' Killed 17 MILLION People

The WHO is drafting "pandemic preparedness plan modifications" to end free speech in response to "dissidents" in America who "upended" establishment COVID-19 narratives and talking points.

Infowars.com

January 6th 2024, 1:04 PM CT

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.



Image Credit: X screenshot/Tucker Carlson

Biologist Bret Weinstein warned that the World Health Organization (WHO) is preparing “troubling” new health emergency measures that could eviscerate national sovereignty and free speech as we know it.

In an appearance on “The Tucker Carlson Encounter” Friday, Weinstein explained how the WHO was taken by surprise by a “small group of dissidents” were who able to “upend the narrative” surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccines, and is drafting “pandemic preparedness plan modifications” in response to prevent similar pushback when another pandemic arises.

“The fact that a small number of dissidents were able to get around the false narrative and bring awareness to the people of the massive level of harmfulness the shots are, is, in some way, the most surprising element of the story,” Weinstein stated.

“And I think it truly surprised Pharma and its partners in social media and government — and government-run organizations — I think they thought that they own enough of the media that they could sell us any narrative they wish. And I think, surprising as it is, they didn’t really understand that podcasts could possibly be a

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

countervailing force of significance,” he said, adding the WHO is “looking for a rematch” with humanity.

“What I believe is going on is the World Health Organization is now revising the structures that allowed the dissidents to upend the narrative. And I think they are looking for a rematch.”

“What they want are the measures that would have allowed them to silence the podcasters in a way that would prevent the emergence of a control group that would allow us to see harms clearly,” he added, noting their ability to completely end the First Amendment in the U.S. is “currently under discussion at the international level.”

Weinstein also explained how governments’ COVID public health emergency measures were the only way for Big Pharma to push its unsafe mRNA technology, sold as “vaccines” to the public.

“Because they called it a vaccine, people were much more willing to accept it,” he said.

“What I’ve come to understand is something I call the game of pharma. If you think about what pharma is, we tend to imagine that it is an industry that is hellbent on finding drugs that will make us healthier. That’s not what it is. In fact, pharma is healthy when people are sick.”

“...basically every day of the year, pharma is engaged in portraying the properties that it owns as more useful than they are, safer than they are, and persuading the medical establishment, the journals, the societies, the hospitals, the government to direct people towards drugs they wouldn’t otherwise be taking,” he continued. “So that’s what the racket is.”

Weinstein also cited the bombshell scientific report Infowars covered in September showing a “credible estimate” of about 17 million who died globally as a result of the COVID mRNA shots.

“So I’m not a math genius, but one in eight hundred shots times billions is a lot of people...17 million deaths from the COVID vaccine? Just for perspective. I mean, that’s like the death toll of a global war,” Carlson noted.

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“Yes, absolutely. This is a great tragedy of history, and amazingly there is no way in which it’s over,” Weinstein said.

“I mean, they are still apparently recommending these things for healthy children who never stood any chance of getting any benefit from them, and every chance of suffering harm, that is not only serious, but tragic on the basis that these children would have had long lives ahead of them.”

Watch the full interview:

Ep. 60 Is the lesson of the COVID disaster that we should give its architects more power? Bret Weinstein on the WHO’s plans for you.

pic.twitter.com/ku3O5BdeoF

— Tucker Carlson (@TuckerCarlson) January 5, 2024

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tue, 20 Feb 2024 18:14:13 -0500
To: Nuland, Victoria J; O'Brien, James C; George, Suzy; Brink, Bridget A; Kim, Yuri J; Smith, Christopher W
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

Please do share with (b)(6) Penny had a very good call with him on Thursday (b)(5)
 (b)(5)

Official

~~SECRET~~

Classified By: Karen Donfried - A/S, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/20/2049

Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: Nuland, Victoria J <(b)(6)>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:32 PM
To: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; O'Brien, James C <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Toloui, Ramin <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Pyatt, Geoffrey R <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Ramos, D. Jacqueline <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Bitter, Rena (Ambassador Vientiane) <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)

Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

Hugely helpful, thanks, (b)(6) OK to share w (b)(6) when he is on line? (b)(1); (b)(5)
 (b)(1); (b)(5)

(b)(6) see highlight below – anything we can/should do?

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Classified By: Karen Donfried - A/S, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/20/2049

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 2:07 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; O'Brien, James C <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Toloui, Ramin <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Pyatt, Geoffrey R <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Ramos, D. Jacqueline <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)

Subject: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

Penny asked me to share a note with some of her impressions coming out of the weekend. We will have our raw notes from the meetings ready for distribution later today. Best, (b)(6)

Coming back from the Munich Security Conference, I wanted to share six key takeaways on Ukraine's economic recovery posture right now. These six points provide both a snapshot of the current state of play and start to give a sense of this semester's homework as we head toward the Berlin Ukraine Recovery Conference in June:

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

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Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

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(b)(1); (b)(5)

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Declassify On: 2/20/2049

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Wed, 6 Mar 2024 20:43:18 -0500
To: O'Brien, James C; Smith, Christopher W; Nuland, Victoria J; Brink, Bridget A; Sullivan, Thomas D; George, Suzy; Kim, Yuri J; Coulter, Sonata N; Pritzker, Penny S; (b)(6)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

+ Penny who finally has HS access (and apologies on my end as mine has been down for days).

Jim – we will get on your calendar. Generally, some broad points below...

(b)(1); (b)(5)

(b)(6)

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Classified By: Bridget Brink - Ambassador, Office:EXEC, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/25/2034

Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: O'Brien, James C <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 6:06 PM

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

To: Smith, Christopher W <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Nuland, Victoria J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Barker, (b)(6) <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

(b)(1); (b)(5)

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Classified By: Bridget Brink - Ambassador, Office:EXEC, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/25/2034

Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: Smith, Christopher W <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 29, 2024 5:38 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; O'Brien, James C <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

Roger - <(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)>

(b)(1); (b)(5)

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Classified By: Bridget Brink - Ambassador, Office:EXEC, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/25/2034

Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: Nuland, Victoria J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 11:30 AM
To: Brink, Bridget A <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; O'Brien, James C <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

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(b)(1); (b)(5)

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Classified By: Bridget Brink - Ambassador, Office:EXEC, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/25/2034

Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: Brink, Bridget A <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

Sent: Sunday, February 25, 2024 11:58 AM

To: Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; Nuland, Victoria J <(b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>;

<(b)(1); (b)(5) @state.sgov.gov>; O'Brien, James C <(b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy

<(b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W

<(b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>

Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(1); (b)(5)

Best, Bridget

Official - Sensitive

~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Classified By: Bridget Brink - Ambassador, Office:EXEC, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/25/2034

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

From: Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2024 4:39 AM

To: Nuland, Victoria J <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; O'Brien, James C <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

Thanks Toria. Are we able to get the info below (b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: Nuland, Victoria J

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 6:24 PM

To: Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (h)(6)@state.sgov.gov; O'Brien, James C <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

(b)(1); (b)(5)

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Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Classified By: Victoria Nuland - Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Office:P, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/22/2049

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

From: Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 6:02 PM

To: Nuland, Victoria J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; O'Brien, James C <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

S also found this very helpful. (b)(1); (b)(5)

(b)(1); (b)(5)

Thanks.

From: Nuland, Victoria J

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:32 PM

To: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov; O'Brien, James <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Toloui, Ramin <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Pyatt, Geoffrey R <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)

(b)(6)

<(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Ramos, D. Jacqueline <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Bitter, Rena (Ambassador Vientiane) <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

Hugely helpful, thanks, (b)(6) OK to share w (b)(6) when he is on line? Fyi, (b)(1); (b)(5)

(b)(1)

(b)(6) see highlight below – anything we can/should do?

Official

~~SECRET~~

Classified By: Karen Donfried - A/S, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/20/2049

Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 2:07 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J <(b)(6)>; O'Brien, James C <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Toloui, Ramin <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Pyatt, Geoffrey R <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (h)(6) <(b)(6)>
 (b)(6) <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Ramos, D. Jacqueline <(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>
Cc: (b)(6)
 (b)(6)

Subject: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

Penny asked me to share a note with some of her impressions coming out of the weekend. We will have our raw notes from the meetings ready for distribution later today. Best, (b)(6)

Coming back from the Munich Security Conference, I wanted to share six key takeaways on Ukraine's economic recovery posture right now. These six points provide both a snapshot of the current state of play and start to give a sense of this semester's homework as we head toward the Berlin Ukraine Recovery Conference in June:

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(1); (b)(5)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

(b)(1); (b)(5)

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Classified By: Karen Donfried - A/S, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/20/2049

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

From: Nuland, Victoria J
Sent: Mon, 26 Feb 2024 11:18:10 -0500
To: Sullivan, Thomas D; (b)(6) O'Brien, James C; George, Suzy; Brink, Bridget A; Kim, Yuri J; Smith, Christopher W; Coulter, Sonata N; (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

(b)(1); Our finer call tonight (b)(1); (b)(5)
 (b)(1); (b)(5) More after the call.

Jim (b)(1); (b)(5)

BB (b)(1); (b)(5) (b)(6)

Official - Sensitive

~~SECRET~~

Classified By: Victoria Nuland - Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Office:P, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/26/2049

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

From: Sullivan, Thomas D (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 23, 2024 9:39 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J (b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; (b)(1); (b)(5) @state.sgov.gov>; O'Brien, James C (b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy (b)(6) Brink, Bridget A (b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J (b)(1) @state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W (b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N (b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>
Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

Thanks Toria. Are we able to get the info below (b)(5)
 (b)(5)

From: Nuland, Victoria J
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 6:24 PM
To: Sullivan, Thomas D (b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6) @state.sgov.gov>; O'Brien, James C (b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy (b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A (b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J (b)(1) @state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W (b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N (b)(1); @state.sgov.gov>
Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

(b)(1); (b)(5)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

Official - Sensitive

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Classified By: Victoria Nuland - Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Office:P, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/22/2049

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

From: Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)>
Sent: Thursday, February 22, 2024 6:02 PM
To: Nuland, Victoria J <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov> <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; O'Brien, James C <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>
Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

S also found this very helpful. (b)(1); (b)(5)
 (b)(1); (b)(5)

Thanks.

From: Nuland, Victoria J
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:32 PM
To: (b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; O'Brien, James C <(b)(1); (b)(5)>@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Toloui, Ramin <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Pyatt, Geoffrey R <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; <(b)(1); (b)(5)> <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Ramos, D. Jacqueline <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Sullivan, Thomas D <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>; Bitter, Rena (Ambassador Vientiane) <(b)(6)>@state.sgov.gov>
Cc: <(b)(6)>
 (b)(6) >;

Subject: RE: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

Hugely helpful, thanks, (b)(6) OK to share w (b)(6) when he is on line? (b)(1); (b)(5)
 (b)(1); (b)(5)

(b)(6) see highlight below – anything we can/should do?

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Classified By: Karen Donfried - A/S, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/20/2049

Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 2:07 PM

To: Nuland, Victoria J (b)(1):@state.sgov.gov>; O'Brien, James C (b)(1):@state.sgov.gov>; George, Suzy (b)(1):@state.sgov.gov>; Brink, Bridget A (b)(1):@state.sgov.gov>; Kim, Yuri J (b)(1):@state.sgov.gov>; Smith, Christopher W (b)(1):@state.sgov.gov>; Toloui, Ramin

(b)(1):@state.sgov.gov>; Pyatt, Geoffrey R (b)(1):@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(1):@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(1): (b)(5)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov>; Ramos, D. Jacqueline (b)(1):@state.sgov.gov>; Coulter, Sonata N (b)(1):@state.sgov.gov>

Cc: (b)(6)
(b)(6)

Subject: Penny's Six MSC Takeaways

Penny asked me to share a note with some of her impressions coming out of the weekend. We will have our raw notes from the meetings ready for distribution later today. Best, (b)(6)

Coming back from the Munich Security Conference, I wanted to share six key takeaways on Ukraine's economic recovery posture right now. These six points provide both a snapshot of the current state of play and start to give a sense of this semester's homework as we head toward the Berlin Ukraine Recovery Conference in June:

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

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(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

(b)(1); (b)(5)

Obtained via FOIA by Judicial Watch, Inc.

(b)(1); (b)(5)

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Classified By: Karen Donfried - A/S, Office:EUR, Agency:U.S. Department of State

Declassify On: 2/20/2049

Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.