



FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20463

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MEMORANDUM

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TO: The Commission

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FROM: Lisa J. Stevenson
Acting General Counsel

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Charles Kitcher
Associate General Counsel for Enforcement

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BY: Jin Lee *JL*
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SUBJECT: MUR 7207 (Taub)
Recommendation to Accept Signed Conciliation Agreement

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On June 10, 2021, the Commission authorized the Office of General Counsel to engage in

pre-probable cause conciliation with H. Russell Taub to settle violations of 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a)

and 11 C.F.R. § 110.20(g) after the Commission found reason to believe that Taub knowingly

solicited, accepted, and received prohibited foreign national contributions.¹ A Twitter direct

message transcript and emails show that Taub, a 2016

congressional candidate, asked Guccifer 2.0, a hacker persona controlled by Russian military

intelligence, for a donor list, and that Guccifer 2.0 responded by providing Taub with opposition

¹ Certification ¶ 3, MUR 7207 (June 11, 2021); Factual & Legal Analysis at 10, MUR 7207; *see also* Certification ¶ 4(a), MUR 7207 (Apr. 26, 2021) (finding reason to believe that an Unknown Congressional Candidate violated 52 U.S.C. § 30121(a) and 11 C.F.R. § 110.2(g)); Certification ¶ 1, MUR 7207 (June 11, 2021) (substituting the name H. Russell Taub in the place of “Unknown Congressional Candidate” in the Commission’s previous findings in this matter).

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1 research reports, polling data, news articles, and other information relating to Taub's general
2 election opponent.²

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29 Given the seriousness of the violations at issue, we believe the Commission
30 also has an interest in quickly resolving this matter so that it can be made public.

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² Second Gen. Counsel's Rpt. at 2-9, MUR 7207 (Taub).

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1 We therefore believe this settlement represents an acceptable resolution of the matter and
2 recommend that the Commission accept the signed conciliation agreement with Taub.⁶
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4 **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

5 1. Accept the signed conciliation agreement with H. Russell Taub;
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7 2. Approve the appropriate letters; and
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9 3. Close the file as to H. Russell Taub.
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⁶ We note that, on June 1, 2021, this Office circulated a memorandum recommending that the Commission open a new MUR with Taub (then known as Unknown Congressional Candidate) as the respondent, approve revised Factual and Legal Analyses as to the Internet Research Agency and the Russian Federation, and close the file. Those recommendations are still pending with the Commission and, therefore, Taub remains a respondent in MUR 7207 until such time that the Commission votes to open a new MUR.