

MUR # 7705OFFICE OF
GENERAL COUNSELFEC Complaint

2020 FEB 26 PM 2:03

Violation of Illegal Contributions from Foreign Governments

"It is illegal for any person to solicit, accept, or receive anything of value from a foreign national in connection with a U.S. election."

52 U.S.C. 30121 (a)(2)

To: Office of General Counsel
 Federal Election Commission
 1050 First Street, NE
 Washington, DC 20463

From: Rose Clara White (Complainant)

La Crosse, WI 54601



Rose Clara White - February 25, 2020

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 25th day of February, 2020

State of Wisconsin
 County of La Crosse
 Personally came before me this 25th day of February, 2020, the above named
Rose Clara White
 to me known to be the person(s) who executed the foregoing instrument and
 acknowledged the same.
Terri Foley
 Terri Foley, Notary Public
 La Crosse County, Wisconsin
 My Commission Expires: 6/3/2022



1. Republican presidential candidate, Donald John Trump (respondent) solicited help from a foreign government (I believe) as part of a political strategy to harm his 2016 general election opponent, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton:

C-Span and The New York Times -

July 27, 2016 – (from the podium): “Russia, if you’re listening, I hope you’re able to find the 30,000 (Hillary Clinton) e-mails that are missing.”

[Twitter.com/cspan/status/758320094619381760](https://twitter.com/cspan/status/758320094619381760)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/28/us/politics/donald-trump-russia-clinton-emails.html>

April 23, 2019 – Joe Biden announced his bid for the 2020 Democratic Party Presidential Nomination. Seven other candidates had already announced. Biden soon became a formidable frontrunner. I believe Trump (respondent) saw Biden as a threat to his own re-election.

2. Trump (respondent) solicited help from a foreign government as part of a political strategy (I believe) to harm 2020 Democratic Party presidential candidate, former Vice President Joe Biden. (Based on information) He pressured Ukraine into cooperating.

a. The Wall Street Journal and CNBC

September 20, 2019 – Biden led Trump (respondent) in early general election polls. In an effort (I believe) to discredit Biden and hurt his chances of becoming the Democratic nominee, Trump (respondent) pressured (based on information) Zelenskiy eight times to investigate Biden’s son, Hunter and his business dealings in that country. Trump (respondent) (based on information) urged Zelenskiy to work with Giuliani on a probe that involved Burisma and Hunter Biden.

b. USA Today, September 25, 2019

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2019/09/25/trump-releases-transcript-call-ukraine-president/2438300001/>

From July 25, 2019 phone call between U.S. President Donald Trump (respondent) and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy:

Trump (respondent) - "Congratulations on a great victory....It's a fantastic achievement...I will say that we do a lot for Ukraine. We spend a lot of effort and a lot of time. Much more than the European countries are doing and they should be helping you more than they are...the United States has been very very good to Ukraine. I wouldn't say that it's reciprocal necessarily because things are happening that are not good but the United States has been very very good to Ukraine."

Zelenskiy - "Yes, you are absolutely right...the United States is a much bigger partner than the European Union and I'm very grateful to you for that because the United States is doing quite a lot for Ukraine, much more than the European Union especially when we are talking about sanctions against the Russian Federation. I would also like to thank you for your great support in the area of defense. We are ready to continue to cooperate for the next steps, specifically we are almost ready to buy more Javelins (anti-tank missiles) from the United States for defense purposes."

Trump (respondent) - "I would like you to do us a favor though because our country has been through a lot and Ukraine knows a lot about it. I would like you to find out what happened with this whole situation with Ukraine, they say Crowdstrike...The server, they say Ukraine has it...I would like you to get to the bottom of it...Whatever you can do, it's very important that you do it if that's possible."

Zelenskiy - "Yes, it is very important for me as a president... and we are open for any future cooperation. We are ready to open a new page on cooperation in relations between the United States and Ukraine...I just wanted to assure you once again that you have nobody but friends around us...We are great friends and you Mr. President have friends in our country so we can continue our strategic partnership."

Trump (respondent) - "Good because I heard you had a prosecutor who was very good and he was shut down and that's really unfair. A lot of people are talking about that, the way they shut your very good prosecutor down and you had some very bad people involved. Mr. Giuliani is a highly respected man. He was the mayor of New York City, a great mayor, and I would like him to call you. I will ask him to call you along with the Attorney General. Rudy very much knows what's happening and he is a very capable guy. If you could speak to him that would be great. The former ambassador from the United States, the woman, was bad news and the people she was dealing with in the Ukraine were bad news so I just want to let you know that. The other thing, there's a lot of talk about Biden's son, that Biden stopped the prosecution and a lot of people want to find out about that so whatever you can do with the Attorney General would be great. 'Biden went around bragging that he stopped the prosecution so if you can look into it...It sounds horrible to me.'"

Zelenskiy – “First of all I understand and I’m knowledgeable about the situation. Since we have won the absolute majority in our Parliament, the next prosecutor general will be 100% my person, my candidate, who will be approved by the Parliament and will start as a new prosecutor in September. He or she will look into the situation, specifically to the company that you mentioned in this issue. The issue of the investigation of the case is actually the issue of making sure to restore the honesty so we will take care of that and will work on the investigation of the case. On top of that, I would kindly ask you if you have any additional information that you can provide to us, it would be very helpful for the investigation to make sure that we administer justice in our country with regard to the Ambassador to the United States from Ukraine as far as I recall her name was Ivanovich. It was great that you were the first one who told me that she was a bad ambassador because I agree with you 100%. Her attitude towards me was far from the best as she admired the previous President and she was on his side. She would not accept me as a new President well enough.

Trump (respondent) – “Well, she’s going to go through some things. I will have Mr. Giuliani give you a call and I am also going to have Attorney General Barr call and we will get to the bottom of it. I’m sure you will figure it out. I heard the prosecutor was treated very badly and he was a very fair prosecutor so good luck with everything. Your economy is going to get better and better I predict. You have a lot of assets. It’s a great country. I have many Ukrainian friends, they’re incredible people.”

Zelenskiy – “I would like to tell you that I also have quite a few Ukrainian friends that live in the United States. Actually, last time I traveled to the United States, I stayed in New York near Central Park and I stayed at the Trump Tower. I will talk to them and I hope to see them again in the future. I also wanted to thank you for your invitation to visit the United States, specifically Washington D.C...as to the economy, there is much potential for our two countries and one of the issues that is very important for Ukraine is energy independence. I believe we can be very successful and cooperating on energy independence with the United States. We are already working on cooperation. We are buying American oil but I am very hopeful for a future meeting. We will have more time and more opportunities to discuss these opportunities and get to know each other better. I would like to thank you very much for your support.”

Trump (respondent) – “Good. Well, thank you very much and I appreciate that. I will tell Rudy and Attorney General Barr to call you. Thank you.”

(They exchange Invitations to visit the other’s country.)

Zelenskiy – “Thank you very much Mr. President.”

Trump (respondent) – “Congratulations on a fantastic job you’ve done. The whole world was watching. I’m not sure it was so much of an upset but congratulations.”

Zelenskiy – “Thank you Mr. President.”

c. <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/read-white-house-transcript-of-trumps-call-with-ukraines-president>, September 25, 2019

d. U.S. News and World Report

10/3/2019 - "President Donald Trump on Thursday publicly repeated his suggestion that Ukraine begin an investigation into former Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter and added that China should open an investigation into the Bidens as well."

e. <https://news.yahoo.com/after-trump-solicits-biden-investigations-from-china-and-ukraine-fec-chair-post-reminder-that-doing-so-is-illegal-193941937.html>

President Trump (respondent) (based on information) called on the governments of China and Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a potential rival in the 2020 presidential campaign.

Trump (respondent) (based on information) told ABC News he would not alert the FBI if he was approached by a country such as Russia with damaging information about his 2020 opponent, and he would consider the information. "'It's not an interference, they have information — I think I'd take it,' Trump told ABC."

f. <https://www.cnbc.com/2019/10/03/trump-calls-for-ukraine-china-to-investigate-the...>

g. <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/testimony-texts-trump-ukraine-allegations-fit-timeline/>

Mike Levine, November 20, 2019 – "Trump even wanted Zelenskiy to announce the investigation in public, witnesses testified.

While the Ukrainians were pushing for a White House visit and Trump administration officials were pushing for a Biden investigation, Trump directed the U.S. government to freeze much-needed military aid (\$391 million) to Ukraine. (For years, Ukraine has been engaged in a bloody war with Russia. The United States was sending military aid to Ukraine to help keep Russia at bay and keep Ukrainian soldiers alive -- and that aid enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress and even 'unanimous' support within relevant parts of the U.S. government.)

The Ukrainian officials may not have realized it, but Trump's top diplomat to Ukraine alleged that the White House refused to restart military aid until Ukraine agreed to investigate Biden and announce it publicly. And, while the military aid was frozen, Trump specifically wanted to know the status of Ukraine's investigations.

Military assistance to Ukraine was finally restarted two days after three House committees announced they were investigating recently-received allegations that Trump sought 'to pressure the government of Ukraine to assist the president's reelection campaign' by, among other things, withholding the military aid."

Donald Trump: "Russia, if you're listening, I hope you're able to find the 30,000 emails that are missing."

10:16 AM · Jul 27, 2016 · [Twitter Web Client](#)

Trump urged Ukraine president eight times during call to investigate Joe Biden's son, report says**Published Fri, Sep 20 2019 3:38 PM EDT Updated Fri, Sep 20 2019 8:06 PM EDT**Dan Mangan@ DanMangan**Key Points**

- President Donald Trump repeatedly urged Ukraine's president to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden's son Hunter, a new report says.
- The Wall Street Journal reports that Trump urged Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky "about eight times to work with Rudy Giuliani, his personal lawyer, on a probe, according to people familiar with the matter."
- In another report, a top Ukraine official says Trump "is looking" for Ukraine officials to investigate business dealings of Biden's son in that country in an effort "to discredit" Biden as he seeks the Democratic presidential nomination.

President Donald Trump repeatedly urged Ukraine's president during a telephone call in July to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden's son Hunter and his involvement with a Ukraine natural gas company, a new report says.

The Wall Street Journal reported that Trump encouraged Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky "about eight times to work with Rudy Giuliani, his personal lawyer, on a probe, according to people familiar with the matter."

Biden called on President Donald Trump Friday to release the transcript of a call that is the subject of a whistleblower complaint so "the American people can judge for themselves."

"If these reports are true, then there is truly no bottom to President Trump's willingness to abuse his power and abase our country. This behavior is particularly abhorrent because it exploits the foreign policy of our country and undermines our national security for political purposes," Biden said in a statement. "It means that he used the power and resources of the United States to pressure a sovereign nation — a partner that is still under direct assault from Russia — pushing Ukraine to subvert the rule of law in the express hope of extracting a political favor. Such clear-cut corruption damages and diminishes our institutions of government by making them tools of a personal political vendetta. At minimum, Donald Trump should immediately release the transcript of the call in question, so that the American people can judge for themselves, and direct the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to stop stonewalling and release the whistleblower notification to the Congress."

Biden is the current front-runner in the race to win the Democratic presidential nomination and face the Republican nominee, expected to be Trump, in the 2020 election.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment from CNBC about the Journal report.

Trump reportedly urged Ukraine's president to investigate Biden's son 8 times on a single phone call

September 20, 2019

President Trump in July reportedly urged Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden's son, not once, not twice, but eight different times on a single phone call.

That's according to a report Friday from The Wall Street Journal, which cites sources familiar with the matter saying Trump pressured Zelensky to work with his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, on an investigation into the matter.

The president reportedly wanted to probe whether Biden worked to shield from investigation a Ukrainian gas company with ties to his son, Hunter Biden. One of the sources the *Journal* cited said they did not believe Trump offered the Ukrainian president a quid-pro-quo.

This comes amid an ongoing scandal surrounding a whistleblower who filed a complaint in August regarding Trump's communications with a foreign leader, which The Washington Post reported Thursday is related to Ukraine. The whistleblower was reportedly troubled upon hearing the phone call and alerted Intelligence Community Inspector General Michael Atkinson, who marked the complaint as being of "urgent concern."

On Friday, Trump denied having any "dicey" conversation with a foreign leader, writing, "there was nothing said wrong." But he did not deny discussing Biden in conversations with Ukraine; when directly asked if he did, Trump responded, "It doesn't matter what I discussed." The White House did not comment on the story from The Wall Street Journal. *Brendan Morrow*

Read the summary of President Trump's call with Ukraine president about BidenDavid JacksonJohn Fritze

USA TODAY Sept. 25, 2019 2:45 p.m. ET

The Department of Justice on Wednesday released the summary of the conversation between President Donald Trump and Ukraine counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky that was reported to include talks of investigating Joe Biden.

The release comes the day after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., authorized an impeachment inquiry into whether Trump pressured Ukraine to dig up dirt on a political rival, Democratic presidential candidate Biden.

Read the summary**SUBJECT:** Telephone Conversation with President Zelenskyy of Ukraine**PARTICIPANTS:** President Zelenskyy of Ukraine**Notetakers:** The White House Situation Room**DATE, TIME** July 25, 2019, 9:03 – 9:33 a.m. EDT**AND PLACE:** Residence

CAUTION: A Memorandum of a Telephone Conversation (TELCON) is not a verbatim transcript of a discussion. The text in this document records the notes and recollections of Situation Room Duty Officers and NSC policy staff assigned to listen and memorialize the conversation in written form as the conversation takes place. A number of factors can affect the accuracy of the record, including poor telecommunications connections and variations in accent and/or interpretation. The word "inaudible" is used to indicate portions of a conversation that the notetaker was unable to hear.

The President: Congratulations on a great victory. We all watched from the United States and you did a terrific job. The way you came from behind, somebody who wasn't given much of a chance, and you ended up winning easily. It's a fantastic achievement. Congratulations.

President Zelenskyy: You are absolutely right Mr. President. We did win big and we worked hard for this. We worked a lot but I would like to confess to you that I had an opportunity to learn from you. We used quite a few of your skills and knowledge and were able to use it as an example for our elections and yes it is true that these were unique elections. We were in a unique situation that we were able to achieve a unique success. I'm able to tell you the following; the first time, you called me to congratulate me when I won my presidential election, and the second time you are now calling me when my party won the parliamentary election. I think I should run more often so you can call me more often and we can talk over the phone more often.

The President: [laughter] That's a very good idea. I think your country is very happy about that.

President Zelenskyy: Well yes, to tell you the truth, we are trying to work hard because we wanted to drain the swamp here in our country. We brought in many many new people. Not the old politicians, not the typical politicians, because we want to have a new format and a new type of government. You are a great teacher for us and in that.

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Editor-in-chief Nicole Carroll gives an inside look at the week's must reads.

Delivery: Fri

The President: Well it's very nice of you to say that. I will say that we do a lot for Ukraine. We spend a lot of effort and a lot of time. Much more than the European countries are doing and they should be helping you more than they are. Germany does almost nothing for you. All they do is talk and I think it's something that you should really ask them about. When I was speaking to Angela Merkel she talks Ukraine, but she doesn't do anything. A lot of the European countries are the same way so I think it's something you want to look at but the United States has been very very good to Ukraine. I wouldn't say that it's reciprocal necessarily because things are happening that are not good but the United States has been very very good to Ukraine.

President Zelenskyy: Yes you are absolutely right. Not only 100%, but actually 1000% and I can tell you the following; I did talk to Angela Merkel and I did meet with her. I also met and talked with Macron and I told them that they are not doing quite as much as they need to be doing on the issues with the sanctions. They are not enforcing the sanctions. They are not working as much as they should work for Ukraine. It turns out that even though logically, the European Union should be our biggest partner but technically the United States is a much bigger partner than the European Union and I'm very grateful to you for that because the United States is doing quite a lot for Ukraine. Much more than the European Union especially when we are talking about sanctions against the Russian Federation. I would also like to thank you for your great support in the area of defense. We are ready to continue to cooperate for the next steps specifically we are almost ready to buy more Javelins from the United States for defense purposes.

The President: I would like you to do us a favor though because our country has been through a lot and Ukraine knows a lot about it. I would like you to find out what happened with this whole situation with Ukraine, they say Crowdstrike... I guess you have one of your wealthy people... The server, they say Ukraine has it. There are a lot of things that went on, the whole situation. I think you're surrounding yourself with some of the same people. I would like to have the Attorney General call you or your people and I would like you to get to the bottom of it. As you saw yesterday, that whole nonsense ended with a very poor performance by a man named Robert Mueller, an incompetent performance, but they say a lot of it started with Ukraine. Whatever you can do, it's very important that you do it if that's possible.

President Zelenskyy: Yes it is very important for me and everything that you just mentioned earlier. For me as a President, it is very important and we are open for any future cooperation. We are ready to open a new page on cooperation in relations between the United States and Ukraine. For that purpose, I just recalled our ambassador from United States and he will be replaced by a very competent and very experienced ambassador who will work hard on making sure that our two nations are getting closer. I would also like and hope to see him having your trust and your confidence and have personal relations with you so we can cooperate even more so. I will personally tell you that one of my assistants spoke with Mr. Giuliani just recently and we are hoping very much that Mr. Giuliani will be able to travel to Ukraine and we will meet once he comes to Ukraine. I just wanted to assure you once again that you have nobody but friends around us. I will make sure that I surround myself with the best and most experienced people. I also wanted to tell you that we are friends. We are great friends and you Mr. President have friends in our country so we can continue our strategic partnership. I also plan to surround myself with great people and in addition to that investigation, I guarantee as the President of Ukraine that all the investigations will be done openly and candidly. That I can assure you.

The President: Good because I heard you had a prosecutor who was very good and he was shut down and that's really unfair. A lot of people are talking about that, the way they shut your very good prosecutor

down and you had some very bad people involved. Mr. Giuliani is a highly respected man. He was the mayor of New York City, a great mayor, and I would like him to call you. I will ask him to call you along with the Attorney General. Rudy very much knows what's happening and he is a very capable guy. If you could speak to him that would be great. The former ambassador from the United States, the woman, was bad news and the people she was dealing with in the Ukraine were bad news so I just want to let you know that. The other thing, There's a lot of talk about Biden's son, that Biden stopped the prosecution and a lot of people want to find out about that so whatever you can do with the Attorney General would be great. Biden went around bragging that he stopped the prosecution so if you can look into it... It sounds horrible to me.

President Zelenskyy: I wanted to tell you about the prosecutor. First of all I understand and I'm knowledgeable about the situation. Since we have won the absolute majority in our Parliament, the next prosecutor general will be 100% my person, my candidate, who will be approved by the parliament and will start as a new prosecutor in September. He or she will look into the situation, specifically to the company that you mentioned in this issue. The issue of the investigation of the case is actually the issue of making sure to restore the honesty so we will take care of that and will work on the investigation of the case. On top of that, I would kindly ask you if you have any additional information that you can provide to us, it would be very helpful for the investigation to make sure that we administer justice in our country with regard to the Ambassador to the United States from Ukraine as far I as I recall her name was Ivanovich. It was great that you were the first one who told me that she was a bad ambassador because I agree with you 100%. Her attitude towards me was far from the best as she admired the previous President and she was on his side. She would not accept me as a new President well enough.

The President: Well, she's going to go through some things. I will have Mr. Giuliani to give you a call and I am also going to have Attorney General Barr call and we will get to the bottom of it. I'm sure you will figure it out. I heard the prosecutor was treated very badly and he was a very fair prosecutor so good luck with everything. Your economy is going to get better and better I predict. You have a lot of assets. It's a great country. I have many Ukrainian friends, their incredible people.

President Zelenskyy: I would like to tell you that I also have quite a few Ukrainian friends that live in the United States. Actually last time I traveled to the United States, I stayed in New York near Central Park and I stayed at the Trump Tower. I will talk to them and I hope to see them again in the future. I also wanted to thank you for your invitation to visit the United States, specifically Washington DC. On the other hand, I also want to ensure you that we will be very serious about the case and will work on the investigation. As to the economy, there is much potential for our two countries and one of the issues that is very important for Ukraine is energy independence. I believe we can be very successful and cooperating on energy independence with United States. We are already working on cooperation. We are buying American oil but I am very hopeful for a future meeting. We will have more time and more opportunities to discuss these opportunities and get to know each other better. I would like to thank you very much for your support.

The President: Good. Well, thank you very much and I appreciate that. I will tell Rudy and Attorney General Barr to call. Thank you. Whenever you would like to come to the White House, feel free to call. Give us a date and we'll work that out. I look forward to seeing you.

President Zelenskyy: Thank you very much. I would be very happy to come and would be happy to meet with you personally and get to know you better. I am looking forward to our meeting and I also would like to invite you to visit Ukraine and come to the city of Kyiv which is a beautiful city. We have a beautiful country which would welcome you. On the other hand, I believe that on September 1 we will be in Poland and we can meet in Poland hopefully. After that, it might be a very good idea for you to travel to Ukraine.

We can either take my plane and go to Ukraine or we can take your plane, which is probably much better than mine.

The President: Okay, we can work that out. I look forward to seeing you in Washington and maybe in Poland because I think we are going to be there at that time.

President Zelenskyy: Thank you very much Mr. President.

The President: Congratulations on a fantastic job you've done. The whole world was watching. I'm not sure it was so much of an upset but congratulations.

President Zelenskyy: Thank you Mr. President bye-bye.

READ: White House transcript of Trump call with Ukrainian president

by Jerry Dunleavy

September 25, 2019 10:04 AM

The transcript of the July 25 phone call between President Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky mentioning former Vice President Joe Biden and allegations of corruption was released today following an intelligence community whistleblower complaint centered on the conversation.

A whistleblower with knowledge of the phone call made a complaint to Trump-appointed Intelligence Community Inspector General Michael Atkinson, who deemed the complaint "serious" and "urgent," but acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire declined to release the contents of the whistleblower complaint to Congress after consulting with the Justice Department. This set off a firestorm on Capitol Hill, and lawmakers called for Trump to be impeached following claims that the president pressured Ukraine to investigate the 2020 Democratic presidential front-runner and his son Hunter Biden.

The former vice president bragged in 2018 that he threatened to withhold \$1 billion in U.S. loan guarantees if Ukraine didn't fire top prosecutor Viktor Shokin. Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani alleged for months that Biden wanted Shokin fired because Giuliani says Shokin undertook an investigation into Ukrainian oligarch Mykola Zlochevsky, the owner of Burisma Holdings, which employed Biden's son as a board member starting in 2014, reportedly paying him \$50,000 a month.

Democrats and others countered the claims made by Giuliani and Trump's allies by pointing out that the governments in the United States and many European countries saw Shokin as a hindrance to Ukraine's anti-corruption investigations and called for his ouster. Ukraine removed Shokin in 2016.

Election Commission chair hints that Trump asking foreign countries for help against Biden violates lawDavid Knowles

Editor

Yahoo News•October 3, 2019

Minutes after President Trump called on the governments of China and Ukraine to investigate former Vice President Joe Biden, a potential rival in the 2020 presidential campaign, the chair of the Federal Election Commission posted a reminder that seeking foreign political help is illegal.

In a tweet posted Thursday morning, Ellen Weintraub struck an incredulous tone.

Trump has said he wanted Ukraine to investigate “corruption” by Biden and his son Hunter, but the former vice president is a leading candidate to oppose him for reelection, and as his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, has admitted, damaging Biden’s reputation is his actual purpose.

Weintraub is a Democrat, according to the FEC website, but was appointed to the commission in 2002, under President George W. Bush. Her nominal term expired more than a decade ago, but she has remained in the post as successive administrations have found it impossible to choose and confirm a successor.

On June 13, Weintraub originally posted a statement clarifying the illegality of candidates receiving election assistance from foreign governments after Trump told ABC News he would not alert the FBI if he was approached by a country such as Russia with damaging information about his 2020 opponent, and he would consider the information.

“It’s not an interference, they have information — I think I’d take it,” Trump told ABC. “If I thought there was something wrong, I’d go maybe to the FBI — if I thought there was something wrong. But when somebody comes up with oppo research, right, they come up with oppo research, ‘Oh, let’s call the FBI.’ The FBI doesn’t have enough agents to take care of it. When you go and talk, honestly, to congressmen, they all do it, they always have, and that’s the way it is. It’s called oppo research.”

Trump Says Ukraine, China Should Investigate the Bidens

Trump says countries should investigate the Bidens while facing an impeachment inquiry for saying the same thing.

By [Claire Hansen, Staff Writer](#) Oct. 3, 2019, at 12:19 p.m.

Trump Says Ukraine, China Should Investigate Bidens

President Donald Trump on Thursday publicly repeated his suggestion that Ukraine begin an investigation into former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter, and added that China should open an investigation into the Bidens as well.

It was a stunning admission from Trump, who is facing an impeachment inquiry over making the same suggestion privately to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

READ:

[Pompeo Confirms He Was on Ukraine Call](#)]

Trump urged Zelenskiy to investigate the Bidens on a July phone call. Biden is currently the frontrunner in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination and the House is investigating if Trump used his office to solicit foreign interference in an election or for personal gain.

"Well I would think that if they were honest about it they'd start a major investigation into the Bidens," Trump said to reporters at the White House, referring to Ukraine. "They should investigate the Bidens ... likewise, China should start an investigation into the Bidens because what happened in China is just about as bad as what happened with Ukraine."

Trump also repeated his claims that a whistleblower complaint that set off the impeachment inquiry was "total fiction" and said his July call with Zelenskiy was "perfect."

Trump has accused Biden and his son of corruption involving a Ukrainian business Hunter Biden sat on the board of and a Ukrainian prosecutor, but there is no evidence of wrongdoing by either Biden or his son. Trump [had been warned](#) by a former top adviser that the Ukraine theory was "completely debunked."

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/10/03/trump-calls-for-ukraine-china-to-investigate-the-bidens.html>

Trump says China should investigate the Bidens, doubles down on Ukraine probe

Published Thu, Oct 3 2019 10:26 AM EDT Updated Thu, Oct 3 2019 8:01 PM EDT

Kevin Breuninger@KevinWilliamB

Key Points

- President Trump says China should look into former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter, on the eve of restarted trade negotiations between the two economic superpowers.
- Despite an impeachment inquiry, Trump also doubles down on his call for Ukraine to launch a probe into Biden and his son.
- “China should start an investigation into the Bidens, because what happened in China is just about as bad as what happened with Ukraine,” Trump says.

Trump: Ukraine and China should investigate Bidens

President Donald Trump on Thursday called on China to look into former Vice President Joe Biden and his son Hunter, on the eve of restarted trade talks

Testimony and texts: How the Trump-Ukraine allegations fit together in a timeline*Congress has now heard from more than a dozen U.S. officials.*

By

Mike Levine

November 20, 2019, 10:23 AM

With so many current U.S. officials testifying in open hearings, and with hundreds of real-time text messages and nearly a dozen transcripts of closed-door testimony now public, the story of President Donald Trump and Ukraine is sometimes hard to follow.

How do each of the testimonies and text messages fit together? What allegations do they contain about Trump's actions and those of his government advisers?

(MORE: The facts behind GOP claims about Ukraine and 2016 likely to surface this week)

These are the bottom-line allegations:

- Driven by debunked claims promoted by conservative media and his personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, Trump pushed the newly-elected president of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, to investigate Trump's political rival, former Vice President Joe Biden. Trump even wanted Zelenskiy to announce the investigation in public, witnesses testified.
- Meanwhile, Zelenskiy was eager to visit the White House and meet with Trump. At the White House's behest, senior U.S. officials made clear to Zelenskiy's team that a White House visit would only happen if Ukraine investigated Biden and announced it publicly.
- While the Ukrainians were pushing for a White House visit and Trump administration officials were pushing for a Biden investigation, Trump directed the U.S. government to freeze much-needed military aid to Ukraine. (For years, Ukraine has been engaged in a bloody war with Russia. The United States was sending military aid to Ukraine to help keep Russia at bay and keep Ukrainian soldiers alive – and that aid enjoyed bipartisan support in Congress and even "unanimous" support within relevant parts of the U.S. government.)
- The Ukrainian officials may not have realized it, but Trump's top diplomat to Ukraine alleged that the White House refused to restart military aid until Ukraine agreed to investigate Biden and announce it publicly. And, while the military aid was frozen, Trump specifically wanted to know the status of Ukraine's investigations.
- Military assistance to Ukraine was finally restarted two days after three House committees announced they were investigating recently-received allegations that Trump sought "to pressure the government of Ukraine to assist the president's reelection campaign" by, among other things, withholding the military aid.

Here is a timeline of this year's events, as relayed in testimony – under oath – to Congress and in publicly-released documents from the time:

BY JANUARY: Giuliani launched a quiet campaign to corroborate claims of Obama-era corruption in Ukraine, including claims that Ukraine had "colluded" with Democrats in the 2016 U.S. presidential

election and that, as vice president, Biden abused his position to protect his son. Giuliani believed that Biden pressured Ukraine to fire the nation's top prosecutor because the prosecutor was investigating Burisma, a Ukrainian company paying Biden's son to be on its board. (U.S. officials have since testified that the claims were not credible and that they were being peddled by the prosecutor's successor, Yuriy Lutsenko, who was trying to save his job. In fact, officials testified, Biden pressured Ukraine to fire the prosecutor because he was ineffective and accused of corruption.)

BY MID-APRIL: Lutsenko publicized his claims about Biden in an interview with a Trump-friendly journalist, and larger conservative media outlets began to cover them. Giuliani promoted the claims on Fox News.

APRIL 21: Zelenskiy was elected president of Ukraine after vowing to root out corruption. Trump called Zelenskiy to congratulate him. The call was "complimentary" and "positive," and Trump "extended an invitation [for Zelenskiy] to visit the White House," according to testimony.

MAY 23: After returning from Zelenskiy's inauguration, Trump's special envoy to Ukraine, Kurt Volker, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Trump's ambassador to the European Union, Gordon Sondland, met with Trump to discuss Ukraine. The group told the president he should meet with Zelenskiy at the White House. Trump complained that Ukraine "tried to take him down" in 2016 and told the group, "talk to Rudy [Giuliani]," Volker and Sondland each testified. (The three officials ended up working with Giuliani "at the express direction of the president," Sondland testified publicly.)

MAY 29: Trump sent a letter to Zelenskiy, congratulating him on taking charge and saying, "I would like to invite you to meet with me at the White House in Washington, D.C., as soon as we can find a mutually convenient time."

MID-JUNE: "The Ukrainians were clearly eager for the meeting to happen," according to Trump's top U.S. diplomat to Ukraine, Bill Taylor. But in multiple "communications" Volker and Sondland both told Taylor "that the president wanted to hear from Zelenskiy before scheduling the meeting in the Oval Office," Taylor testified. U.S. officials then began preparing Trump for a phone call with Zelenskiy, according to Taylor.

JUNE 28: Volker separately told colleagues that, while in Toronto with Zelenskiy on July 2, he was going to tell the Ukrainian president that if he wants a White House meeting, he will have to show Trump that he's willing to "cooperate" on investigations, according two people in those separate conversations, Taylor and National Security Council staffer Army Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman.

JULY 3: After meeting with Zelenskiy in Toronto, Volker claimed to others that he told Zelenskiy that Trump would want to hear about "the investigations," Taylor testified. (Without disputing it, Volker did not corroborate that account himself, telling Congress only that while in Toronto he warned Zelenskiy that Giuliani was promoting "a negative narrative about Ukraine" and it was "probably influencing President Trump's thinking.")

JULY 7: Taylor texted Volker: "Can you tell [the Ukrainians] that we can schedule the phone call if Ze[lenskiy] is ready to say that he is not interfering, one way or another, in any investigations?"

JULY 10: In a meeting with senior Ukrainian officials in Washington, including Zelenskiy's top aide Andriy Yermak, Sondland testified that he mentioned "the pre-requisite of investigations before any White House call or meeting." Vindman and Hill recalled Sondland's mention of "the deliverable required in order to get the meeting," as Vindman, who was at the meeting with Ukrainians, described it.

JULY 10, LATER IN AFTERNOON: In another meeting with Ukrainian officials, Sondland again outlined "the deliverable for these investigations in order to secure this meeting," insisting "that the Ukrainians would

have to deliver an investigation into the Bidens," Vindman testified. Sondland also said his message "had been coordinated with White House Chief of Staff Mr. Mick Mulvaney," Vindman testified. Hill, again, offered a similar account. (Sondland testified he could not recall such discussions from the follow-up meeting.)

MID-JULY: "By [this time] it was becoming clear that the meeting President Zelenskiy wanted was conditioned on the investigations of Burisma and alleged Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. elections," Taylor testified. "It was also clear that this condition was driven by the irregular policy channel I had come to understand was guided by Mr. Giuliani." At this time, Giuliani "had been communicating with Ukrainians without our knowledge," Sondland testified.

JULY 13: Sondland emailed an NSC official saying the "sole purpose" of a phone call between Trump and Zelenskiy "is for Zelenskiy to give [Trump] assurances of 'new sheriff' in town," including assurances that "any hampered investigations will be allowed to move forward transparently. Goal is for Potus to invite him to Oval."

JULY 18: On a multi-agency conference call, an official with the Office of Management and Budget announced that military aid to Ukraine had been inexplicably suspended at Trump's direction, Taylor and senior State Department official George Kent testified. In a text message to Volker and Sondland that day, Taylor wrote that the OMB official said "all security assistance to Ukraine is frozen per a conversation with Mulvaney and POTUS."

JULY 19: Volker texted Sondland and Taylor to set up a call with Yermak, Zelenskiy's aide. "Most impt is for Zelensky to say that he will help investigation," Volker texted. At this time, Zelenskiy's team knew Trump wanted the Bidens investigated and that Trump had not yet agreed to a White House visit, Volker testified. (No evidence has surfaced so far suggesting Zelenskiy's team knew at this point that military aid had been frozen.)

JULY 25, MINUTES BEFORE TRUMP-ZELENSKIY CALL: Volker texted Yermak: "Heard from White House – assuming President Z convinces trump he will investigate / 'get to the bottom of what happened' in 2016. we will nail down date for visit to Washington."

JULY 25, THE PHONE CALL: According to a rough transcript released by the White House, Trump insisted on the phone with Zelenskiy that "the United States has been very, very good to Ukraine. I wouldn't say that it's reciprocal necessarily." Then Trump said to Zelenskiy: "I would like you to do us a favor ... I would like you to find out what happened with this whole situation with Ukraine." Later in the call, Trump raised Biden and his son, claiming, "Biden stopped the prosecution and a lot of people want to find out about that so whatever you can do with the Attorney General would be great." After Zelenskiy noted that one of his "assistants spoke with Mr. Giuliani just recently," Trump asked Zelenskiy to work with Giuliani.

JULY 26: After meeting with Yermak in Ukraine, Sondland went with three U.S. embassy staffers to a restaurant, where Sondland called Trump from an outdoor terrace, one of those staffers, David Holmes, testified. During the conversation, much of which Holmes could overhear because Trump was speaking so loudly, Sondland told Trump that Zelenskiy, "loves your ass;" Trump then asked, "So he's gonna do the investigation?" Holmes recalled. "Ambassador Sondland replied "he's gonna do it" and he would "do anything you ask him to." After the call, Sondland told Holmes that Trump did not "give a s— about Ukraine" and only cared about "big stuff" like the Biden investigation, Holmes testified. (Sondland confirmed in his public testimony that he spoke with Trump by phone that day, and while he has "no recollection of discussing Vice President Biden or his son" afterward, he also has "no reason to doubt [the others'] accounts." Trump said he "knows nothing" about such a call with Sondland.)

EARLY TO MID-AUGUST: Trump wanted Zelenskiy to publicly announce the investigations, several officials testified. And, in several calls with Sondland, Giuliani "demanded" that the public statement include investigations of the 2016 election, Sondland testified. "He kept repeating Burisma and 2016 election," Sondland said. Giuliani "was expressing the desires of the president," and "Giuliani's requests were a quid pro quo for arranging a White House visit for President Zelenskiy," according to Sondland's public testimony.

AUG. 9: Discussing the proposed Trump-Zelenskiy meeting, Sondland texted Volker: "I think potus really wants the deliverable."

AUG. 10: Yermak texted Volker: "I think it's possible to make this declaration," but "it will be logic to do after we receive a confirmation of date" for the White House visit. Later that same day, Yermak texted again, saying, "Once we have a date, we will call for a press briefing, announcing upcoming visit and outlining vision for the reboot of US-UKRAINE relationship, including among other things Burisma and election meddling investigations."

AUGUST 11: Sondland sent an email to senior State Department officials intended for Secretary of State Mike Pompeo: "Mike – Kurt and I negotiated a statement from Ze[lenskiy] to be delivered for our review in a day or two. The contents will hopefully make the boss happy enough to authorize an invitation. Ze plans to have a big presser on the openness subject (including specifics) next week."

AUG. 13: After consulting with Sondland and Giuliani, Volker sent Yermak a draft of Zelenskiy's proposed announcement, which said Ukraine would investigate "Burisma and the 2016 U.S. election." Volker told Yermak those references were "2 key items." Ultimately, Volker recommended to Yermak that any statement not include the specific references, Volker testified.

AUG. 16: Kent, the senior State Department official, wrote a memo saying he had "concerns that there was an effort to initiate politically motivated prosecutions that were injurious to the rule of law, both Ukraine and U.S.," as Kent later described it to Congress.

AUG. 28: Politico published [an article](#) saying U.S. assistance to Ukraine had been suspended. The Ukrainians were on notice.

SEPT. 1: Vice President Pence and Zelenskiy met in Warsaw. Before the meeting, Sondland told Pence he had "had concerns that the delay in aid had become tied to the issue of investigations," Sondland testified publicly. In a brief one-on-one meeting with Yermak while in Warsaw, Sondland told Yermak "that resumption of U.S. aid would likely not occur until Ukraine provided the public anti-corruption statement that [they] had been discussing for many weeks," Sondland told Congress. On the same day, Sondland recalled to Taylor that -- in a previous conversation -- Trump said "he wants President Zelenskiy to state publicly that Ukraine will investigate Burisma and alleged Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. election," Taylor testified. (Sondland told Congress he didn't recall making such statements to Taylor.)

SEPT. 8: After Trump demanded that Zelenskiy "clear things up and do it in public," Sondland informed Zelenskiy that "if President Zelenskiy did not clear things up in public, we would be at a stalemate," Taylor said he was told, which Taylor took to mean "Ukraine would not receive the much-needed military assistance." Zelenskiy then agreed to make a public statement in an interview with CNN. Kent said he recalled Sondland suggesting that announcing investigations on CNN would clear the way for a White House visit.

SEPT. 9: Taylor sent a text to Volker and Sondland, saying, "Withholding security assistance in exchange for help with a domestic political campaign in the United States would be crazy."

SEPT. 9: After receiving information from the U.S. intelligence community's inspector general, three House committees announced they were launching a "wide-ranging investigation" into whether Trump and Giuliani sought "to pressure the government of Ukraine to assist the President's reelection campaign" by, among other things, withholding military aid to Ukraine.

SEPT. 11: The hold on military aid to Ukraine was lifted, according to Taylor.

SEPT. 25: The rough transcript of Trump's July 25 call with Zelenskiy was released. On the same day, Trump and Zelenskiy met in New York, alongside the U.N. General Assembly. Sitting next to Trump and in front of cameras, Zelenskiy told reporters he felt "no pressure" from Trump, adding, "Nobody pushed me." Zelenskiy called their July 25 call "good" and "normal."

ABC News' Allison Pecorin contributed to this report