

SCOTT BALBER COORDINATES THE JUNE 9 MEETING STORY A FOURTH TIME

This morning, I did a post showing how Rob Goldstone's story about the June 9 Trump Tower meeting that he plans to tell the Mueller inquiry compared with the three times one-time Trump lawyer and current Aras Agalarov lawyer telegraphed testimony through public stories.

- 1. A meeting between Rinat Akhmetshin and Ike Kaveladze (the latter of whom Balber represents as an employee of Agalarov) in Moscow in June 2017, just as Jared Kushner and Paul Manafort were both belatedly disclosing the meeting to various authorities; this story appears to have been an attempt to pre-empt the damage that would be done when Akhmetshin's involvement became public*
- 2. A Balber trip sometime before October to Russia to coordinate a story with and get documents from Natalia*

Veselnitskaya to back her version of the talking points she reportedly shared with Trump's people

3. Another October story, this "revealing" that Veselnitskaya's research came from (or actually was shared with) Russian prosecutor Yuri Chaika, but insisting (per Balber) that Agalarov had no ties with the prosecutor

No sooner did Goldstone air his story in public than Balber filled in a hole in the story for Goldstone: he told the Daily Beast that after his client Ike Kaveladze saw an email (from whom he doesn't describe) indicating that Jared Kushner, Paul Manafort, and Don Jr would be at the meeting, he called a close associate of Goldstone's (and a former employee of Balber's client), Roman Benjaminov, to find out what the meeting was about. That's the first he learned – at least as far as he told congressional investigators – that the meeting was about dealing "dirt" on Hillary.

Scott Balber, Kaveladze's attorney, told The Daily Beast that before Kaveladze headed from Los Angeles to New York for the meeting, he saw an email noting that Kushner, Manafort, and Trump Jr. would all be involved. He thought it would be odd for them to attend the meeting, so he called Benjaminov before heading to New York. Both Benjaminov and Kaveladze have worked with the Agalarov's real estate development company, the Crocus

Group.

Balber said that Benjaminov told Kaveladze that he heard Rob Goldstone– Emin Agalarov’s music manager– discuss “dirt” on Hillary Clinton. It’s never become completely clear what kind of “dirt” the Russians were talking about.

According to Balber, Benjaminov was the only person to give Kaveladze any information about the meeting’s purpose.

“That was the only data point Ike had, which was inconsistent with everything else he had heard, which was that the meeting was about the Magnitsky Act,” Balber said.

I guess this answers my earlier question on whether Balber went to Thailand to coach Goldstone on his testimony: Nope! That’s why he’s doing it through the press again.

I eagerly await Goldstone’s revised story and Balber’s response, to see if they can finally settle on a story that coheres.