

THE PARNAS FILES RAISE THE IMPORT OF DOJ'S FAILURE TO CONNECT-THE-DOTS ON THE WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINT

Last night, HPSCI released some of Lev Parnas' files that were seized as part of the investigation into Rudy Giuliani and his grifters.

The most important document, for the legal impeachment case against Donald Trump, is a letter Rudy sent to Volodymyr Zelensky stating clearly that he was contacting the Ukrainian president as Trump's personal lawyer, not a government lawyer.

Just to be precise, I represent him as a private citizen, not as President of the United States.

It makes it clear that – contrary to the Republican cover story – Rudy and Zelensky both knew they were negotiating a personal benefit for Trump, not a benefit to the US.

But the most important files showing Trump's abuse of power are texts between Parnas and a thoroughly American grifter, Robert F. Hyde, who appears to have had people on the ground in Kyiv surveilling Marie Yovanovitch in the days before she was recalled. He not only appears to have known precisely where she was, but he seemed to suggest to Parnas that he could have her assassinated for a price. "Guess you can do anything in the Ukraine with money," he quipped.

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde

She under heavy protection outside Kiev

Status: Read

Platform: Mobile

3/23/2019 8:42:45 PM(UTC+0)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde

My guy thinks maybe FSB..?

Status: Read

Platform: Mobile

3/23/2019 8:50:23 PM(UTC+0)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde

They are moving her tomorrow

Status: Read

Platform: Mobile

3/25/2019 9:58:41 PM(UTC+0)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde

The guys over they asked me what I would like to do and what is in it for them

Status: Read

Platform: Mobile

3/25/2019 9:59:03 PM(UTC+0)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde

Wake up Yankees man

Status: Read

Platform: Mobile

3/25/2019 9:59:13 PM(UTC+0)

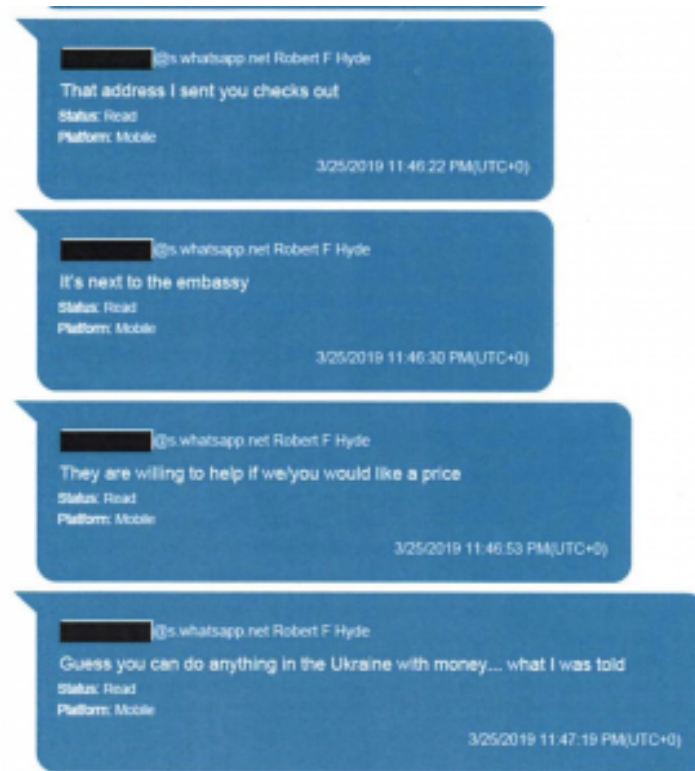
[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Robert F Hyde

She's talked to three people. Her phone is off. Computer is off.

Status: Read

Platform: Mobile

3/25/2019 11:39:42 PM(UTC+0)



Viewed in isolation, these comments are (at least) a chilling indication of the lengths to which Trump supporters will go to push his conspiracies.

But viewed in light of Trump's comment to Zelensky about Yovanovitch – "Well, she's going to go through some things" – it suggests a direct tie between Trump and the more sordid things that Parnas was doing.

Which makes DOJ's remarkable failure to connect the dots on the whistleblower complaint all the more damning.

As I have laid out, by August 15, top people at DOJ knew of the complaint and knew that Trump had invoked the Attorney General in his comments to Zelensky. Perhaps ten days later, DOJ got the full complaint from the whistleblower, discussing the call itself but also the larger context. Based on a claim that there was no first hand reporting in the complaint, DOJ evaluated just the MEMCON in their review of whether or not a crime was committed, not the complaint as a whole. (Not only was the claim that the whistleblower offered no first hand information false – he was in the loop on the

July 18 call and July 23 and 26 meetings about withholding aid – but the complaint included concerns about withholding funding not mentioned on the call.) They quickly publicly declared that the call did not constitute a campaign finance violation, and then did not share the complaint with the FEC (which could have imposed civil penalties) and tried to prevent Congress from obtaining the complaint.

By reviewing the MEMCON instead of the full complaint, DOJ avoided doing what would be normal connect-the-dots database searches on all the names included in it, which – because the whistleblower included multiple references to and a link to this article, would have included searches on Parnas and Igor Fruman. As this table makes clear, if DOJ had done that basic connect-the-dots work they do when assessing tips, they would have found the investigation at SDNY – which Bill Barr had been briefed on when he was confirmed as AG and Jeffrey Rosen probably knew about as well.

Date	Location	Information
Prior to February	SDNY	March 3, 2018: Igor Fruman attends event April 11, 2018: GEP created Early May, 2018: Fruman and Parnas attend White House event May 17, 2018: GEP donates \$325,000 to American First Action June 21, 2018: GEP donates \$50,000 to Ron DeSantis June 25, 2018: Fruman and Lev Parnas max out to Pete Sessions
After February 14	Barr	Briefing on SDNY investigation
May	Unknown	Rudy dossier including anti-Yovanovitch material sent from White House to Mike Pompeo, including draft John Solomon column emailed to Joe DiGenova, Victoria Toensing, and Lev Parnas
June 20	SDNY	Parnas vehicle Aaron Investments receives \$1,260,329.80 wire transfer, marked GEP, from a Miami real estate attorney named Russell Jacobs who specializes in laundering foreign money
August 15	John Demers (NSD), then Jeffrey Rosen, Brian Benczkowski	Multiple people had raised concerns about Mr. Trump's call Contents of transcript, including Trump's invocation of Bill Barr and Rudy Giuliani and requests for dirt on 2016 and Biden
Late August	Public Integrity	Complete whistleblower complaint, including concerns about OMB withholding aid and repeated references (though not by name) to profile on Parnas and Fruman
Unknown date (several weeks before October 18)	Brian Benczkowski Fraud prosecutors	Rudy and two other lawyers pitch bribery defendant

And had DOJ tied the call to Zelensky – with its reference to potential violence targeting Yovanovitch – it would have immediately implicated Trump far more deeply in some really corrupt shit.

As if by magic, DOJ failed to do those searches, and therefore failed to obtain official notice that the President was personally involved with a grift that SDNY was close to indicting.