

JUDICIAL WATCH REVEALS REZA ZARRAB'S LAWYER MAY HAVE PITCHED ROSENSTEIN ON SPECIAL COUNSEL PICK

I love when Judicial Watch liberates documents they think are damning but actually demonstrate that conspiracy theories are false, as they did when they liberated Bruce Ohr documents showing he actually helped the FBI vet the Steele dossier. Then there's the recent release showing that current US Attorney George Terwilliger was pushing Bill Barr's theory that Jim Comey deserved to be fired the weekend before Robert Mueller was hired.

But there's something potentially more important in that batch.

The WaPo's coverage of Rudy Giuliani and Michael Mukasey's efforts to pressure Rex Tillerson to push DOJ to release Turkish money launderer Reza Zarrab contextualizes the fall 2017 meeting by recalling that Trump and Erdogan met on May 16, 2017



1:00 PM · May 16, 2017 · TweetDeck

The two leaders finished their first meeting and

performed their ceremonial handshake at about 1PM.

Just half an hour earlier, at 12:30 PM, Andrew McCabe had explained to Rod Rosenstein that he had opened an investigation into Donald Trump. The two then discussed Rosenstein's thoughts about appointing a special prosecutor. Rosenstein said he was choosing between two candidates, one (who must be Mueller) who could start immediately.

We discussed the issue of appointing a Special Counsel to oversee the FBI's Russia investigation. The DAG said he has two candidates ready, one of whom could start immediately. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The DAG said that he left a copy of the delegation with Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security Dana Boente to execute in the DAG's absence if the DAG were suddenly removed from his position. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] He anticipated that he may be terminated when he puts the Special Counsel in place, in light of the president's anger with AG Sessions when the AG recused himself from the Russia investigation. The DAG further stated that he was told that others heard the President tell the AG "you were supposed to protect me."

At 1:09, former Deputy Attorney General Mark Filip (and Bill Barr colleague) called Rosenstein from his Kirkland and Ellis phone, left a message, and asked Rosenstein to call him.

Rosenstein, Rod (USAMD)

From: Rosenstein, Rod (USAMD)
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 3:25 PM
To: Filip, Mark
Subject: Re: Tried you and left vmm. I'm at 312.862.2192. Please call when it works for you, and thank you.

Mukasey may call. Please listen.

**Please delete Rod.Rosenstein@usdoj.gov from your contacts and use my new DOJ email address instead: Rod.Rosenstein5@usdoj.gov.*

On May 16, 2017, at 1:09 PM, Filip, Mark <mark.filip@kirkland.com> wrote:

Mark Filip, P.C.

KIRKLAND & ELLIS LLP
300 North LaSalle, Chicago, IL 60654
T +1 312 862 2192

mark.filip@kirkland.com

At 3:25, Rosenstein wrote back and told him "Mukasey might call." It's unclear whether this is Marc or Michael Mukasey, but it doesn't much matter, because Michael was already representing Zarrab and Marc was very very close to Giuliani.

In other words, within hours after Erdogan met Trump at the White House and asked for Zarrab's release, someone effectively representing Zarrab

appeared to be in touch with Rosenstein, who then suggested that whichever Mukasey it was call Filip.

The thing is, by all appearances, this Mukasey call pertained to question about hiring a Special Counsel. That's because shortly thereafter, Rosenstein writes Filip back and tells him he's going with Mueller (which suggests Filip may have been his other candidate).

Rosenstein, Rod (USAMD)

From: Rosenstein, Rod (USAMD)
Sent: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 3:54 PM
To: Filip, Mark
Subject: Re: Tried you and left vmm. I'm at 312.862.2192. Please call when it works for you, and thank you.

I am with Mueller. He shares my view. Duty calls. Sometimes the moment chooses us.

**Please delete Rod.Rosenstein@usdoj.gov from your contacts and use my new DOJ email address instead: Rod.Rosenstein5@usdoj.gov.*

If all that's right, it suggests one of Zarrab's lawyers may have weighed in on the Special Counsel decision just minutes after Erdogan requested Trump release him and (simultaneously) a key McCabe-Rosenstein meeting.

That's not all that surprising. After all, the Mike Flynn investigation had already developed to include at least two of four strands, the lies about Russia and the lies about Turkey.

But then Rosenstein chose to appoint Mueller, not his other choice (who may have been Filip).

From that moment, Republicans were pushing the Bill Barr line. And Bill Barr is now in charge (and was, for the closure of the Mueller investigation). And that push may have had as much to do with Turkey as it did Russia.