

The Story so far: (3/2/17)

Wilbur Ross Major Owner in Bank of Cyprus with Rybolovlev...Ties to Trump...Russia

Ross, a wealthy business turnaround artist, has not responded [to a Feb. 16 letter from six Democratic senators](#) asking him to explain his relationship with several Russian oligarchs who hold stakes in the once-troubled foreign bank.

[Ross's involvement with the Cyprus bank](#) adds to a list of Russia connections that have dogged Trump's tenure in the White House. Investigations are underway by the FBI, the intelligence community and Congress into ties between Trump's campaign and Russia's plot to influence the U.S. election. The president has dismissed those suggestions as a "ruse." The Russian business and government elite have often sought financial security in the Mediterranean island's banking system. Oligarch Dmitry Rybolovlev took a nearly 10 percent stake in Bank of Cyprus in 2010. Two years earlier, amid the U.S. financial crisis when real-estate prices were softening, Rybolovlev purchased Donald Trump's Palm Beach mansion for \$95 million. [The transaction generated questions](#) because of its inflated market price, about \$60 million more than Trump had paid for the Florida property four years earlier ...

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article135001434.html#storylink=cpy>

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article135001434.html#storylink=cpy>

https://www.dcreport.org/wilbur-ross-comes-to-d-c-with-a-long-and-profitable-history-of-russian-connections/?preview_id=944 (Skip to Enter Dmitry Rybolovlev below....)

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article135001434.html>

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article121981259.html>

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/politics-government/article133217874.html>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-12-22/wilbur-ross-seen-cutting-bank-of-cyprus-ties-to-work-for-trump>

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/feb/27/commerce-nominee-wilbur-ross-bank-of-cyprus-putin>

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2017/02/27/wilbur-ross-is-still-another-trump-cabinet-pick-with-underexamined-russian-ties.html>

Enter Dmitry Rybolovlev

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/news/nation-world/national/article135243694.html>

Shuttle Election Diplomacy....Rybolovlev's Plane, Moscow and Trump

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/shuttle-election-diplomacy-dmitry-rybolovlevs-plane_us_58a7651ae4b026a89a7a2acb

<http://www.politico.eu/article/donad-trump-and-the-oligarch-russia-dmitry-rybolovlev-house-vladimir-putin-us-presidential-election-america-2016/>

Dmitry Rybolovlev: *Reportedly owned the largest stake in the Bank of Cyprus as of 2010 (9.7%); bought Donald Trump's Palm Beach house in 2008 for \$95 million, at the time the most expensive property in the U.S.,*

more than doubling what Trump paid four years earlier; his personal jet's flight pattern shows an odd coincidence of airports with Trump's appearances on the fall campaign trail. (See the discussion below.)

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2017/1/5/1617288/-Is-Dmitry-Rybolovlev-Putin-s-Secret-Courier>

...according to flight logs from *FlightRadar24* and *PlaneFinder*, as well as photos of planes on the ground taken from Jetphotos.co and amateur photos taken at airports by amateur Twitter journalists, an Airbus A319-133X(CJ) with the registration M-KATE that very much appears to belong to Dmitry Rybolovlev appears to have followed some very unusual flight patterns during the fall 2016 American presidential campaign.

[82] See, for example, Trump's campaign schedule for October 30, 2016 through November 5, 2016, when he was in Las Vegas, Charlotte NC, and Concord NC the very same dates that the flight records establish that Airbus A319 M-KATE was at those airports. <http://www.conservativedailynews.com/2016/10/donald-trumps-schedule-10-30-16-thru-11-5-16/>

[83] <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2017/1/5/1617288/-Is-Dmitry-Rybolovlev-Putin-s-Secret-Courier>

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/watch-trumps-russia-connections-30-of-them_us_58b6fe4be4b015675cf65af5

But Wait... There's more:

Okay...so tonight MSNBC had queued up David Remnick, their latest go-to person on Russia, who wrote that very long piece for the New Yorker on the restart of the US/Russia Cold War and Trump.

MSNBC just got sidelined...that is, their programming got sidetracked on account of two breaking stories one in the NYT and the other by WaPO

From the NYT: a story that when the Obama administration had all the raw intel on Trump's nefarious ties to Russia, during the campaign and after the election, but before he was sworn in., Obama administration operatives had this raw intel distributed or disbursed into as many niches in the 17 intel agencies as they could find, behind "securely classified sources," and left a trail of breadcrumbs so that investigators could find it but the political operatives in the Trump organization could not, and thus avoid having Trump and his ilk deep six it for political reasons. One other story coming out today was that the FBI also considered, at one point, of hiring the British agent who had compiled the infamous Trump dossier....in any case, the information on how Trump and his ilk have been corrupted by Putin is sitting there, waiting to be released at the "right moment?" The intel agencies are being recalcitrant, because they don't want to give up their sources....?? They live in their own worlds...they don't share much...not sure how that plays into this or what Obama operatives were trying to do. So you have to assume that "why they are sitting on this is that they want to use it against Trump, but they're going to pick the time and place

In the Obama administration's last days, some White House officials scrambled to spread information about Russian efforts to undermine the presidential election — and about possible contacts between associates of President-elect [Donald J. Trump](#) and Russians — across the government. Former American officials say they had two aims: to ensure that such meddling isn't duplicated in future American or European elections, and to leave a clear trail of intelligence for government investigators.

American allies, including the British and the Dutch, had provided information describing meetings in European cities between Russian officials — and others close to [Russia's president, Vladimir V. Putin](#) — and associates of President-elect

Trump, according to three former American officials who requested anonymity in discussing classified intelligence. Separately, American intelligence agencies had intercepted communications of Russian officials, some of them within the Kremlin, discussing contacts with Trump associates.

It also reflected the suspicion among many in the Obama White House that the Trump campaign might have colluded with Russia on election email hacks — a suspicion that American officials say has not been confirmed. Former senior Obama administration officials said that none of the efforts were directed by Mr. Obama to intelligence agencies, there was a push to process as much raw intelligence as possible into analyses, and to keep the reports at a relatively low classification level to ensure as wide a readership as possible across the government — and, in some cases, among European allies. This allowed the upload of as much intelligence as possible to Intellipedia, a secret wiki used by American analysts to share information.

The opposite happened with the most sensitive intelligence, including the names of sources and the identities of foreigners who were regularly monitored. Officials tightened the already small number of people who could access that information. They knew the information could not be kept from the new president or his top advisers, but wanted to narrow the number of people who might see the information, officials said.

More than a half-dozen current and former officials described various aspects of the effort to preserve and distribute the intelligence, and some said they were speaking to draw attention to the material and ensure proper investigation by Congress. All spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were discussing classified information, nearly all of which remains secret, making an independent public assessment of the competing Obama and Trump administration claims impossible.

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/01/us/politics/obama-trump-russia-election-hacking.html?_r=0

From WaPO: Jeff Sessions, when he was asked both directly, orally, and in writing, during his confirmation hearings, about whether he, personally had any contacts with any Russian officials during the Trump campaign or before the election or after the election but before being sworn in....tried to dodge the bullet....and managed to do so, until today. WaPO reports that Sessions met first with Ambassador Kislyak at the gathering that was held at the Heritage Foundation on the day/eve of Trump being nominated....and then as a follow up meeting in September, during the run up to the Election Day. Sessions said, categorically, that he had never met with any Russian officials; now it appears that he was lying about that.....

One of the meetings was a private conversation between Sessions and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak that took place in September in the senator's office, at the height of what U.S. intelligence officials say was a Russian cyber campaign to upend the U.S. presidential race.

When Sessions spoke with Kislyak in July and September, the senator was a senior member of the influential Armed Services Committee as well as one of Trump's top foreign policy advisers. Sessions played a prominent role supporting Trump on the stump after formally joining the campaign in February 2016.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/sessions-spoke-twice-with-russian-ambassador-during-trumps-presidential-campaign-justice-officials-say/2017/03/01/77205eda-feac-11e6-99b4-9e613afeb09f_story.html?utm_term=.b3c6fd9e45a6

So what they ?? who ??? wants to do with this info is move Sessions and the Justice Dept and the Trump Admin out of the way, so that a full-scale investigation can begin....continue....