

PAUL MANAFORT'S ONGOING CONSPIRACY WITH SUSPECTED RUSSIAN AGENT KONSTANTIN KILIMNIK

Update: The NYT had it correct the first time.
They got – badly – played.

Because the NYT corrected an error (noting that Paul Manafort instructed Konstantin Kilimnik to pass on Trump polling data to pro-Russian Ukrainian oligarchs Serhiy Lyovochkin and Rinat Akhmetov, not Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska), the usual suspects are claiming that the really damning disclosures revealed by Paul Manafort's filing of the other day don't yet prove Trump's campaign manager conspired with Russia.

Manafort already pled guilty to conspiring with Russian Konstantin Kilimnik

I saw claims as recently as the other day that no Trump associate has been charged or pled guilty to conspiring with a Russian. That's false.

As part of his plea agreement in September, Manafort pled guilty to conspiring with Kilimnik, a Russian citizen, to witness tamper. Admittedly, this particular conspiracy took place in 2018, not 2016, and it served not to tamper with the 2016 election, but to hide the ways in which Manafort kept secret that he was an agent of Ukraine spending millions to influence US policy. But, as Mueller has described it, Manafort committed a series of crimes designed to hide his ongoing ties to Russian-backed Ukrainian oligarchs after being

fired from the Trump campaign in significant part to sustain lies he and Rick Gates told while still working for Donald Trump.

In other words, one purpose of his conspiracy with Kilimnik was to hide the fact that Trump's campaign manager – who, in spite of being broke, worked for “free” throughout the campaign – had been a paid agent of Ukraine.

The Russian Manafort conspired with, Konstantin Kilimnik is suspected of ties to the same agency that hacked the DNC

Past Mueller filings have made it clear that Kilimnik is suspected to have ties to a Russian intelligence agency. The FBI thinks so.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agents assisting the Special Counsel's Office assess that [Kilimnik] has ties to a Russian intelligence service and had such ties in 2016

And Rick Gates knew of those ties.

During his first interview with the Special Counsel's Office, [Alex] van der Zwaan admitted that he knew of that connection, stating that Gates told him [Kilimnik] was a former Russian Intelligence Officer with the GRU.

The GRU, of course, is the Russian intelligence agency that hacked the Democrats in 2016. So Manafort has pled to conspiring not just with any Russian, but a Russian believed to have ties with the agency that hacked the DNC.

Akhmetov was named – in the same interview as Deripaska – in the affidavit for a 2017 probable cause search warrant targeting Manafort

Akhmetov, one of the oligarchs with whom NYT's correction say Manafort did share data, was described in the probable cause warrant the FBI used to raid Manafort's condo in July 2017. Indeed, Manafort described working for both Akhmetov and Deripaska in the same period he was supporting Viktor Yanukoych.

This suggests it's difficult to separate Manafort's historical criminal behavior involving Akhmetov from that involving Deripaska. And Kilimnik was involved in both.

Akhmetov and Lyovochkin were paying Manafort while he was working for Trump for “free”

As part of Manafort's spox's “clarifications” about the disclosures made clear in the redacted filing, he admitted that a \$2.4 million payment Manafort anticipated – in an August 2016 email to his accountant – that he would receive in November was from Akhmetov and Lyovochkin. While that payment is understood to be debts owed for past work, his decision to share campaign data with the oligarchs seems to have been tied to ensuring he did get that payment.

On Aug 10, 2016, at 8:38 PM, Paul Manafort <pmanafort@dmpint.com> wrote:

Cindy
The 2016 P&L should reflect collection of income earned in Ukr of 2.4M that is to be collected in Nov.
The 1.5m should be listed as income.
Pls correct the P&L.
Paul

From: Cindy Laporta <cindy.laporta@kwccpa.com>
Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 12:27 PM
To: PJM MacAir 2014 <pmanafort@dmpint.com>
Cc: Rick Gates <rgates@dmpint.com>
Subject: [REDACTED]

Hi Paul,
I'm working with David at Citizens bank regarding 2 last pieces needed for loan approval.

1. DMP 2016 P&L shows \$1.5 million in income.
 - a. How much more is expected in 2016?
 - b. Is \$1.5 million income or a loan?
2. Please ask Heather to update DMPs 2015 balance sheet and income statement to reflect the forgiveness of Peranova debt of \$1.5 million.

I told David I would get back to him today.

Thanks,
Cindy

If that's right, it suggests that that \$2.4 million payment, at a time when Manafort was broke but nevertheless working for "free," had some tie to his work on the campaign.

Lyovochkin made an illegal donation to Donald Trump's inauguration fund

Another Kilimnik business partner, Sam Patten, pled guilty (in part) to laundering a \$50,000 donation to Trump's inauguration fund for tickets to his inauguration.

To circumvent the foreign donation restriction, PATTEN, with the knowledge of Foreigner A, solicited a United States citizen to act as a "straw" purchaser so that he could conceal from the [Presidential Inauguration Committee] that the tickets for the inauguration were being paid for from a foreign source. The straw purchaser paid \$50,000 for four inauguration tickets. The straw purchaser paid that sum one day after receiving from [Begemot Ventures] a check signed by PATTEN in

the sum of \$50,000. In turn, [Lyovochkin] had paid [Begemot] for the tickets through a Cypriot account. [Kilimnik and Lyovochkin] another Ukrainian, and PATTEN were allocated the four inauguration tickets. Thereafter, PATTEN attended a PIC event in Washington, D.C. with [Lyovochkin].

Thus, in addition to paying Trump's campaign manager during the campaign, Lyovochkin made an illegal donation to Trump's inauguration (and remember, there are outstanding questions about where all the inauguration funds went).

Manafort discussed Ukraine every time he spoke with Kilimnik during the campaign; those discussions included a Russian-friendly "peace plan"

Among the other lies Manafort told when he was supposed to be cooperating with Mueller pertained to his repeated conversations with Kilimnik. And while Manafort tried to minimize the persistence with which they discussed such things, suggesting he may have discussed a Ukraine peace plan more than once.

After being shown documents, Mr. Manafort "conceded" that he discussed or may have discussed a Ukraine peace plan with Mr. Kilimnik on more than one occasion

But Mueller maintains they have detailed descriptions showing the peace plan came up "at each" meeting they had, which suggests it was a key part of why the Russians and Ukrainians in

touch with Manafort through Kilimnik were in touch with him.

And, again, both these lies and Manafort's lies in 2018 and Manafort's lies in 2016 and 2017 were all intended to hide these ongoing relationships, in significant part to hide Trump's campaign ties to all of this.

As I disclosed last July, I provided information to the FBI on issues related to the Mueller investigation, so I'm going to include disclosure statements on Mueller investigation posts from here on out. I will include the disclosure whether or not the stuff I shared with the FBI pertains to the subject of the post.