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SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
U.S. SENATE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: IKE KAVELADZE

FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 2018
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The interview in this matter was held at the
Russell Senate Office Building, [REDACTED],
commencing at 1:00 p.m.

1 APPEARANCES:

2 SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE:

3 Patrick Davis, Deputy Chief Investigative

4 Counsel, Chairman Charles E. Grassley

5 Daniel Parker, Investigative Assistant,

6 Chairman Grassley

7 Heather Sawyer, General Counsel,

8 Senator Feinstein

9 Brian Privor, Senior Counsel, Senator

10 Feinstein

11 John Lowry, Legislative Correspondent,

12 Senator Feinstein

13

14 ON BEHALF OF THE INTERVIEWEE:

15 Scott S. Balber, Herbert Smith Freehills

16 John O'Donnell, Herbert Smith Freehills

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MR. DAVIS: Good afternoon. This is the
3 supplemental transcribed interview of Ike
4 Kaveladze.

5 On October 18th, 2017, Chairman Grassley
6 sent Mr. Kaveladze a letter, stating that the
7 Judiciary Committee was seeking information
8 related to a meeting held on June 9th, 2016, at
9 Trump Tower, as well as related matters. The
10 letter requested an interview and certain
11 categories of documents. In response, Mr.
12 Kaveladze, through his counsel, produced documents
13 and participated in a voluntary interview on
14 November 3rd, 2017.

15 On February 7th, 2018, Mr. Kaveladze's
16 counsel submitted errata to the transcript of the
17 November 3rd interview, and his counsel notified
18 the committee that the errata contained
19 substantive changes to portions of Mr. Kaveladze's
20 testimony.

21 Committee counsel subsequently sought this
22 supplemental transcribed interview with Mr.
23 Kaveladze to inquire about the new information.
24 Mr. Kaveladze has, through his counsel, agreed to
25 voluntarily participate in this supplemental

1 transcribed interview. The interview is being
2 conducted via videoconference.

3 Would the witness please state your name for
4 the record?

5 MR. KAVELADZE: Ike Thomas Kaveladze.

6 MR. DAVIS: I'm sorry, can you say that
7 again?

8 MR. KAVELADZE: Ike Thomas Kaveladze.

9 MR. DAVIS: On behalf of the Chairman, I
10 want to thank Mr. Kaveladze again for speaking
11 with us. As you may recall, my name is Patrick
12 Davis, and I am the Deputy Chief Investigative
13 Counsel with the committee's majority staff.

14 I will ask everyone else from the committee
15 who is here to introduce themselves as well. We
16 will get to Mr. Kaveladze's counsel in a few
17 moments.

18 MR. PARKER: Daniel Parker, Investigative
19 Assistant, Chairman Grassley.

20 MR. LOWRY: John Lowry, Legislative
21 Correspondent with Senator Feinstein.

22 MS. SAWYER: Heather Sawyer, General Counsel
23 with Senator Feinstein.

24 MR. PRIVOR: Brian Privor, Senior Counsel
25 with Senator Feinstein.

1 MR. DAVIS: I would like to restate a few
2 key points we mentioned at your initial interview.

3 The Federal Rules of Civil Procedure do not
4 apply to any of the committee's investigative
5 activities, including transcribed interviews.
6 There are some guidelines we follow, and I will go
7 over those again now.

8 Our questioning will proceed in rounds. The
9 majority staff will ask questions for the first 30
10 minutes. Then the minority staff will have the
11 opportunity to ask questions for an equal amount
12 of time. We will go back and forth until there
13 are no more questions and the interview is over.

14 We typically take a short break at the end
15 of each hour, but should you need to take a break
16 at any other time, please just let us know.

17 We have an official reporter taking down
18 everything we say to make a written record, so we
19 ask that you give verbal responses to all
20 questions.

21 Do you understand?

22 MR. KAVELADZE: I do.

23 MR. DAVIS: So that the court reporter can
24 take down a clear record, we will do our best to
25 limit the number of people directing questions to

1 you during any given half hour to those whose turn
2 it is. It is also important that we don't talk
3 over one another or interrupt each other, if we
4 can help it. That goes for everybody present at
5 today's interview.

6 While Senators on the committee may observe,
7 the chairman and ranking member have agreed that
8 only staff will ask questions.

9 We encourage witnesses who appear before the
10 committee to consult freely with counsel, if they
11 so choose. You are appearing via videoconference
12 with counsel.

13 Counsel, could you please state your name,
14 for the record?

15 MR. BALBER: Yes, this is Scott Balber from
16 Herbert Smith Freehills on behalf of Mr.
17 Kaveladze. And we do want to express our
18 appreciation to the committee for allowing us to
19 do this by phone to obviate the need to travel to
20 D.C.

21 MR. O'DONNELL: And also, this is John
22 O'Donnell of Herbert Smith Freehills, also
23 appearing on behalf of Mr. Kaveladze.

24 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

25 Mr. Kaveladze, we want you to answer our

1 questions in the most complete and truthful manner
2 possible, so we will take our time. If you have
3 any questions or if you don't understand any of
4 our questions, please let us know. If you
5 honestly don't know the answer to a question or
6 don't remember, it is best not to guess. Just
7 give us your best recollection. It is also okay
8 to tell us if you learned of information from
9 someone else, if you indicate how you came to know
10 the information. If there are things that you
11 don't know or can't remember, we ask that you
12 inform us to the best of your knowledge who might
13 be able to provide a more complete answer to the
14 question.

15 It is this committee's practice to honor
16 valid common-law privilege claims as an
17 accommodation to a witness or party when those
18 claims are made in good faith and accompanied by
19 sufficient explanation, so that the committee can
20 evaluate the claim. When deciding whether to
21 honor a privilege, the committee weighs its need
22 for the information against any legitimate basis
23 for withholding it. The committee typically does
24 not honor contractual confidentiality agreements.

25 You should understand that although the

1 interview is not under oath, by law, you are
2 required to answer questions from Congress
3 truthfully.

4 Do you understand that?

5 MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I do.

6 MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

7 Witnesses who knowingly provide false
8 statements could be subject to criminal
9 prosecution and imprisonment for up to 5 years.

10 Do you understand this?

11 MR. KAVELADZE: Yes, I do.

12 MR. DAVIS: Is there any reason you are
13 unable to provide truthful answers to today's
14 questions?

15 MR. KAVELADZE: No, there is not.

16 MR. DAVIS: Finally, we ask that you not
17 speak about what we discuss in this interview with
18 anyone else outside of who is participating in the
19 videoconference today, in order to preserve the
20 integrity of our investigation.

21 Is there anything else that my colleagues
22 from the minority want to add?

23 MS. SAWYER: Only one thing.

24 Mr. Balber, I don't know if it is possible
25 for you --

1 MR. BALBER: Yes?

2 MS. SAWYER: Yes, sorry. I don't know if it
3 is possible for you to put your device on mute,
4 because there is a lot of background noise. It is
5 a little hard to hear your client.

6 MR. BALBER: Yeah, if I can figure it out, I
7 am happy to.

8 MS. SAWYER: Great. And, obviously, we
9 certainly don't want to interfere with your
10 ability to communicate with your client, if you
11 need to. But we will be watching you on video as
12 well, so if you want to flag for us if there is
13 something you want to interject, we will make sure
14 we catch it. Thank you.

15 MR. DAVIS: The time is now 1:12, and we
16 will get started with the first 30 minutes of
17 questions.

18 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MAJORITY

19 BY MR. DAVIS:

20 Q. Mr. Kaveladze, according to page 16 of
21 the transcript of your November interview with us,
22 you were asked, "Are you aware of any instances in
23 which Aras Agalarov sought to arrange meetings
24 between Mr. Trump or his associates and Russian
25 Government officials?"

1 At the time, you responded, "No, I am not
2 aware."

3 When your attorney submitted the errata
4 sheet for that transcript, this answer was changed
5 to yes, with the explanation, "Mr. Kaveladze has
6 recalled a conversation since testifying."

7 What was that conversation?

8 A. I had a -- I mean, the conversation I was
9 referring to was not really a conversation. It
10 was witnessed -- I had witnessed a part of a
11 telephone conversation with -- between Mr.
12 Agalarov and a Russian Government official where
13 Mr. Agalarov requested that -- he informed the
14 government official about the contest, the Miss
15 Universe contest, and then secretly* requested the
16 meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin.

* Note:
see errata

17 I only, unfortunately, witnessed a part
18 of the conversation, because I was at the office
19 of Mr. Agalarov at that time, and he received a
20 call on his cell phone, and he started conversing
21 with -- obviously, it was not a speakerphone. It
22 was a regular phone call. And he started this
23 conversation, and he gave this first introductory
24 information and request, and, you know,
25 communicated a request for a meeting. And then he

1 kind of left to the adjacent room for the privacy.

2 He would do it pretty frequently. When
3 he wants to have a private conversation, he would
4 leave the room. And so I heard a part of it.

5 But, yes, it was a conversation about the
6 request --

7 Q. And do you -- go ahead.

8 A. -- a request between Mr. Putin and Mr.
9 Trump.

10 Q. And do you recall when this phone call
11 occurred?

12 A. I cannot tell for sure, but I think it
13 was maybe around 40 days prior to the contest,
14 plus/minus 10 days, I would say. Unfortunately, I
15 don't have an exact recollection of the date.

16 Q. Okay. And as you understood it, he was
17 requesting a meeting specifically between Mr.
18 Putin and Mr. Trump? Is that correct?

19 A. Yes, I did.

20 Q. Do you know which official in the Russian
21 Government Mr. Agalarov was speaking with?

22 A. My assumption was that it was Dmitry
23 Peskov.

24 Q. What was the basis for that assumption?

25 A. During the prior organizational meetings,

1 Mr. Goldstone, Rob Goldstone, had requested that
2 call from Mr. Agalarov suggesting -- he was the
3 first one who actually related that topic to us.
4 He said -- you know, he came to Moscow. He said
5 he had meeting with Trump people, and he said they
6 requested that meeting. And so he related that
7 information to us.

8 So -- and he said, can we have a meeting
9 or phone conversation or relate the request to Mr.
10 Peskov? So I assumed Mr. Agalarov was speaking to
11 Mr. Peskov, Dmitry Peskov. That is the press
12 attaché of President of the Russian Federation,
13 press representative, I believe.

14 Q. Okay, I am not quite sure I followed your
15 last answer in full, so I am going to ask a few
16 follow-up questions.

17 When you say he requested the meeting
18 with Putin, was that Mr. Trump was requesting it
19 through Mr. Goldstone, or was that Mr. Goldstone
20 was making the request?

21 A. No, it was Mr. Trump requesting through
22 Mr. Goldstone.

23 Q. And did you know that the request
24 originated with Mr. Trump because of things Mr.
25 Goldstone had told you? Or how did you know where

1 the request originated?

2 A. Yes, in meetings, he related that to us.

3 We had group organizational meetings dedicated to
4 Miss Universe pageant, and during one of the
5 meetings, he said that he has that message.

6 Q. Now, you said that this call you observed
7 occurred at Mr. Agalarov's office. Is that
8 correct?

9 A. That is correct.

10 Q. Were you aware of any follow-up to the
11 call?

12 A. No, I was not. I read some media
13 reports, but I was not part of or was aware of
14 anything else, so.

15 Q. Do you know if such a meeting between Mr.
16 Putin and Mr. Trump did occur?

17 A. Again, from media reports, I know it did
18 not occur.

19 Q. But do you have any firsthand knowledge
20 of that?

21 A. No, I do not.

22 Q. Okay.

23 MR. BALBER: And, Mr. Kaveladze, let's keep
24 your observation of media reports out of the
25 equation.

1 MR. KAVELADZE: Sure. Okay.

2 MR. BALBER: I think counsel wants only what
3 you have personal knowledge of.

4 MR. KAVELADZE: Okay, I -- understood.

5 BY MR. DAVIS:

6 Q. Did Mr. Agalarov ever explain to you why
7 he was passing along this request, what his
8 personal motivations were?

9 A. No, I don't believe we ever had any
10 discussions with Mr. Agalarov about that request,
11 further discussions, let me put it this way.

12 Q. In the prior meetings in which Mr.
13 Goldstone had mentioned this, did he explain what
14 the purpose of such a meeting would be?

15 A. No, he did not.

16 Q. What prompted you to recall this meeting
17 after our interview?

18 A. I had numerous -- actually, two meetings
19 after the -- after your initial interview, I had
20 meetings with other interested committees and
21 other organizations, and I was asked this question
22 again, more precisely, though. They asked the
23 question not about the Russian Government but of
24 President Putin. And when they asked this
25 question, I had that recollection.

1 So at that point, I thought I need to
2 make a correction in my Judiciary Committee
3 interview transcript.

4 Q. Aside from your memory, did you have any
5 documents or other records reflecting your
6 awareness of this call?

7 A. Of -- of -- of that particular call, no,
8 there's no documents about that call.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. No.

11 Q. The errata your attorney submitted also
12 made changes to clarify that, after your trip to
13 New York for the June 9th, 2016, Trump Tower
14 meeting, you did not depart New York to return
15 home to California as you had told us previously,
16 but, instead, traveled from New York to Moscow.
17 The reason provided was that, "Per request, Mr.
18 Kaveladze reviewed travel records."

19 And the errata sheet also states, "Note
20 that Mr. Kaveladze traveled from Russia from June
21 10th, 2016, through approximately July 14th,
22 2016."

23 Is it correct that you departed New York
24 City for Russia on June 10th, 2016, the day after
25 the Trump Tower meeting?

1 A. To be more specific, I departed -- on
2 June 10, I have left New York City for Frankfurt,
3 Germany, and I believe I arrive to Moscow on June
4 11.

5 Q. And is it correct that you stayed in
6 Russia for more than a month, from June 10th
7 through July 14th? Is that correct?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. What was the purpose of this trip?

10 A. It was personal and business. Well, let
11 me put it, business and personal. And at that
12 time, I worked, you know, for Crocus International
13 as a senior vice president, so I spent half of my
14 time in Moscow. So it was pretty typical.

15 Q. Was it typical for your trips to be so
16 long? This one was over a month long. Or did you
17 usually take shorter trips?

18 A. For summertime, it was pretty typical.
19 Yeah, it was pretty typical.

20 Q. Did you discuss the Trump Tower meeting
21 with anyone in Russia?

22 A. I had a very quick conversation with Mr.
23 Agalarov. I didn't have much to add to the phone
24 conversations I had, which -- the only thing I
25 added is that I reiterated the statement that it

1 would have been better if the meeting was held
2 between Mrs. Veselnitskaya and attorneys, and not
3 with the individuals who have met.

4 Q. Did you have any interactions with any
5 Russian Government officials during the trip?

6 A. No, I did not.

7 Q. Did you have any interactions with anyone
8 you knew to be affiliated with the Internet
9 Research Agency during that trip?

10 A. No, I did not.

11 Q. Have you ever had communications with
12 anyone you knew to be affiliated with the Internet
13 Research Agency?

14 A. No, I have not.

15 Q. Do you know Yevgeny Prigozhin?

16 A. No, I do not. No.

17 Q. Do you know if Aras Agalarov knows him?

18 A. I have no knowledge of that.

19 Q. Do you know Mikhail Bystrov, B-Y-S-T-R-O-
20 V?

21 A. No, I do not. No.

22 Q. Mikhail Burchik, B-U-R-C-H-I-K?

23 A. No, I do not.

24 Q. Mikhail Abramov, A-B-R-A-M-O-V?

25 A. No, I do not.

1 Q. Aleksandra Krylova, K-R-Y-L-O-V-A?

2 A. No, I do not.

3 Q. Do you know Anna Bogacheva, B-O-G-A-C-H-
4 E-V-A?

5 A. No, I do not.

6 Q. Sergei Polozov, P-O-L-O-Z-O-V?

7 A. No, I do not.

8 Q. Maria Bovda, B-O-V-D-A?

9 A. No, I do not.

10 Q. Just a few more here. Maria Belyaeva?
11 That is B-E-L-Y-A-E-V-A.

12 A. No, I do not.

13 Q. What about Robert Bovda, B-O-V-D-A?

14 A. Could you spell the last name again,
15 please?

16 Q. B-O-V-D-A.

17 A. No, I do not.

18 Q. Okay, what about Dzheykhun Aslanov? And
19 I will spell that. D-Z-H-E-Y-K-H-U-N for the
20 first name. The last name, A-S-L-A-N-O-V.

21 A. No, I do not.

22 Q. What about Jay Aslanov?

23 A. No, I do not.

24 Q. Vadim Podkopaev, P-O-D-K-O-P-A-E-V?

25 A. Podkopaev?

1 Q. Right, I think that is the correct
2 pronunciation.

3 A. No, I do not.

4 Q. And do you know Vladimir Venkov, V-E-N-K-
5 O-V?

6 A. No, I do not.

7 Q. Do you know if Mr. Agalarov knows any of
8 those people I just asked you about?

9 A. I do not know.

10 Q. Okay. So returning to your activities
11 during your summer 2016 trip to Moscow, what kind
12 --

13 MR. O'DONNELL: Patrick, this is John
14 O'Donnell. Can I just ask a quick question?

15 MR. DAVIS: Sure.

16 MR. O'DONNELL: The first person that you
17 asked about, Prigozhny?

18 MR. DAVIS: That's right, Prigozhin.

19 MR. O'DONNELL: What was that? Can you
20 spell that for me?

21 MR. DAVIS: I can. P-R-I-G-O-Z-H-I-N.

22 MR. O'CONNELL: G-O-Z-H?

23 MR. DAVIS: I-N.

24 MR. O'CONNELL: Okay, and what was the next
25 one?

1 MR. DAVIS: It was Mikhail Bystrov, B-Y-S-T-
2 R-O-V.

3 MR. O'CONNELL: Okay, great. Thank you.

4 BY MR. DAVIS:

5 Q. So, Mr. Kaveladze, returning to your
6 Moscow trip during the summer of 2016, what type
7 of business did you engage in during that trip?

8 A. Well, there was numerous projects I was
9 involved in at that time. Most of them were
10 related to a refinancing of company -- corporate
11 debt. We also were trying to secure new financing
12 for the airplane. And I think that -- that's
13 mostly what I was busy with.

14 Q. In terms of refinancing the corporate
15 debt, do you recall if you worked with any or
16 interacted with any banks as part of that project?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. Do you recall which ones?

19 MR. BALBER: I'm sorry. This is Scott
20 Balber. I mean, obviously, you are entitled to
21 some leeway on these issues, but we are back here
22 to answer the two questions that were implicated
23 by the errata sheet. I'm not sure what the
24 identity of banks that Crocus Group was
25 potentially refinancing with have that is relevant

1 to this inquiry.

2 MR. DAVIS: Well, if they were the same
3 banks that members of the Trump campaign otherwise
4 had contact with, we would probably want to know.

5 BY MR. DAVIS:

6 Q. So I guess I can just ask, was Sberbank
7 one of the banks involved?

8 A. Well, yes, because Sberbank is a main
9 creditor of Crocus. And so we are in constant,
10 constant fight with them to get a better -- better
11 conditions of financing, basically, reduce their
12 interest rate and increase the balloon payment at
13 the end of the loan, which, that way, it would
14 reduce the amount of monthly payments.

15 This is what we are fighting for mostly.
16 And Sberbank was one of the banks, obviously,
17 because they credit -- I mean, they work with us.
18 And the other bank was Otkritie, Bank Otkritie
19 Bank.

20 Q. Thank you. Did you have any contact with
21 Ms. Veselnitskaya while you were in Russia on that
22 trip?

23 A. No. No. I did report about my contacts
24 with Ms. Veselnitskaya. But not during that trip,
25 no.

1 Q. You reported that to whom?

2 A. To you, to your committee.

3 Q. And what about with Mr. Akhmetshin? Did
4 you have any contact with him during that trip to
5 Russia?

6 A. No. My only contact -- no, I didn't have
7 any contacts during that trip. Again, that's
8 reported, my contact with him, but not during that
9 trip.

10 Q. Other than your conversation with Mr.
11 Agalarov about the Trump Tower meeting, did you
12 undertake any actions connected in any way to the
13 Trump Tower meeting while you were in Russia, any
14 follow-up activities or conversations?

15 A. No, I did not. We all qualified that
16 meeting as a complete loss of time, so it would be
17 -- no.

18 Q. Did the Crocus Group pay for your travel
19 while you were in Russia for that trip?

20 A. Pay for my travel when I was in Russia?
21 Did they pay for my travel expenses? Yes.

22 Q. Yes.

23 A. I collect salary from them, so.

24 Q. So were you reimbursed for the particular
25 travel, or did you just pay it out of your salary?

1 A. For which particular travel? Yeah, I was
2 reimbursed. Yeah.

3 Q. The travel from the summer of 2016.

4 A. Yeah, I was reimbursed.

5 Q. Okay, I think this is --

6 A. The Crocus Group --

7 Q. Go ahead.

8 A. There is a certain limit. You know, they
9 didn't reimburse all of my travel tickets, but,
10 like, I believe six times a year, I could travel
11 at the expense of Crocus, and that was one of
12 those travels.

13 Q. So as I recall the news, the first leaks
14 of information obtained from the hack of the
15 Democratic National Committee happened in mid-June
16 of 2016. Do you recall seeing news reports about
17 that while you were in Russia?

18 A. I don't recall if I was in Russia, but I
19 certainly did -- did see the news. Yeah, I saw
20 the news.

21 Q. And what was your personal reaction at
22 the time?

23 A. Surprise, outrage.

24 MR. DAVIS: I think we are at a good
25 stopping point for me right now, so we will go off

1 the record for a moment, and then begin with the
2 minority. We will go off the record at 1:31 p.m.

3 [Break.]

4 MR. PRIVOR: We are back on the record. It
5 is now 1:32.

6 Go ahead, Mr. Kaveladze.

7 MR. KAVELADZE: During my time in Moscow,
8 like months or something, more than months, I
9 spent approximately 8 days in Georgia. I took a
10 vacation, and we did a family trip to Georgia. My
11 roots, my ethnic roots, are from Georgia, and we
12 have relatives who live there, so we went to visit
13 relatives. I don't know if it is important or
14 not, but just.

15 MR. PRIVOR: Okay, very good. Thank you for
16 that clarification.

17 As you will recall from last time when we
18 took testimony, because we go in rounds, we will
19 sometimes overlap with one another. I will do my
20 best not to repeat questions that Mr. Davis has
21 already asked, but I will be touching on the same
22 topics, so please indulge us as we ask some
23 questions that might sound a little bit
24 repetitive, but we are trying to get some more
25 clarification.

1 So we started with -- the first question was
2 about this telephone call between Mr. Agalarov and
3 Mr. Peskov, and I wanted to ask you a few more
4 questions about that.

5 EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE MINORITY
6 BY MR. PRIVOR:

7 Q. You stated that this originated with a
8 request from Mr. Goldstone to Mr. Agalarov,
9 conveying Donald Trump's request for a meeting
10 with Putin. Was that Donald Trump Sr. that had
11 made the request?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. And when did the request for Mr.
14 Goldstone come in? What were the circumstances of
15 that? Was that an in-person meeting, or was that
16 a telephone request?

17 A. I think it was an in-person meeting. He
18 was in Moscow.

19 Q. Do you recall when that was?

20 A. My guess is sometime in September. I --

21 Q. Roughly, how long before you heard the --
22 overheard at least one side of the telephone
23 conversation between Mr. Agalarov and Mr. Peskov,
24 approximately how long before that was the meeting
25 with Mr. Goldstone?

1 A. Roughly, I would say from a week to 10
2 days.

3 Q. Do you recall how long Mr. Goldstone was
4 in Moscow?

5 A. I do not. No, I do not. He usually
6 would come for a few days, though, like between
7 three and seven. But I don't recall that specific
8 visit, no.

9 Q. Do you recall the particular purpose of
10 that visit by Mr. Goldstone? Did it have a
11 particular purpose?

12 A. Usually, there were two purposes for
13 these visits, I mean, at that time. One was Mr.
14 Emin Agalarov's musical career, so he would come,
15 and they do work with Emin and try to, you know,
16 plan their future concert activity and whatever.
17 I mean, unfortunately, I never -- I would miss
18 their meetings. And the other one at that period
19 of time was preparation for Miss Universe, so.

20 Q. With regard to his role in connection
21 with the Miss Universe pageant, who was Mr.
22 Goldstone representing at that time when he came
23 to meet in Moscow?

24 A. It is hard for me to say. I know he was
25 communicating the message he received in U.S., but

1 who exactly was he representing? Unfortunately, I
2 do not know, no.

3 Q. Were you present for that meeting?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Do you recall who else was present for
6 that meeting?

7 A. I remember Emin Agalarov, and I remember
8 numerous people who work for Emin and who were
9 involved in organizational aspects of the pageant.

10 Q. And was there anyone else?

11 A. No.

12 Q. How about -- I'm sorry. Go ahead.

13 A. No Agalarov Sr.

14 Q. Agalarov --

15 A. Agalarov Sr. was not present at that
16 meeting.

17 Q. Was there anyone else with Mr. Goldstone,
18 working with Mr. Goldstone?

19 A. No, I don't believe so.

20 Q. Was there anyone from the Trump
21 Organization at that meeting?

22 A. No, definitely not.

23 Q. Was there anyone else at all other than
24 you, Mr. Goldstone, Emin, and Emin's colleagues or
25 employees?

1 A. No. No one, no. Russian employees of
2 Crocus International involved in organizational
3 aspects of Miss Universe.

4 Q. Did anyone participate in that meeting by
5 telephone?

6 A. No.

7 Q. With regard to this particular meeting
8 and Mr. Goldstone conveying Donald Trump's request
9 for a meeting, can you tell us, as best as you can
10 recall, precisely what Mr. Goldstone said or asked
11 with regard to setting up a meeting?

12 A. He said he requested the meeting. I
13 don't remember what precisely he said, but I
14 definitely remember that request. But I don't
15 remember the details, unfortunately.

16 Q. And when you say, "he requested," do you
17 mean Donald Trump requested a meeting?

18 A. Through Mr. Goldstone, yes. Donald Trump
19 through Mr. Goldstone requested that meeting,
20 Donald Trump Sr.

21 Q. Apart from that meeting, were there any
22 other conversations in between that meeting and
23 the telephone call with Mr. Peskov that you have
24 described in which there was any discussion about
25 arranging a meeting between Donald Trump and

1 Vladimir Putin?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Before that meeting took place, do you
4 recall whether there were any other conversations
5 in which someone from the Trump side was
6 requesting a meeting with Vladimir Putin?

7 A. The only source about that meeting I had
8 was Rob Goldstone. I didn't see any requests from
9 anybody else.

10 Q. And the only source being Mr. Goldstone,
11 is that exclusively the meeting you have just
12 described? Or were there any other communications
13 about it?

14 A. We -- again, we might have had some quick
15 talk with him about, with Goldstone, but it is
16 Goldstone. I didn't have any -- I mean, that's
17 not -- it wasn't my topic, you know. I wasn't
18 really involved in those, you know, aspects of
19 meetings and stuff like that, so, no.

20 Q. Did you ever communicate with anybody
21 from the Trump Organization about setting up a
22 meeting?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Do you know whether Mr. Agalarov
25 communicated with anyone from the Trump

1 Organization about setting up a meeting?

2 A. I have no knowledge of this.

3 Q. So is your knowledge, then, limited to
4 the meeting with Mr. Goldstone in which he
5 reconveyed the request, as well as the telephone
6 call for which you overheard just one half of the
7 conversation?

8 A. That is correct.

9 Q. Okay, so just those two points in time,
10 those are the only two in which this meeting came
11 up that you are aware of -- or, I'm sorry,
12 requests for a meeting came up that you are aware
13 of?

14 A. I also believe there was an email from
15 Mr. Goldstone to Mr. Emin Agalarov with the same
16 topic where I was copied.

17 Q. Do you recall approximately when that
18 email came?

19 A. Sometime in September.

20 Q. Was it before the meeting with Mr.
21 Goldstone or after?

22 A. I don't remember. I think it is like
23 simultaneously. I don't remember that.

24 Q. Do you recall if anyone else was copied
25 or received that email as well as you?

1 A. I only know that it was addressed to Emin
2 Agalarov. I didn't see who else was copied. I
3 was copied.

4 Q. Was the sender Rob Goldstone?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Okay, so as best you can recall, it was
7 an email from Rob Goldstone to Emin copied to you?

8 A. That is correct, yes. That is correct.

9 Q. Did you do anything with that email when
10 you received it? For instance --

11 A. No.

12 Q. -- did you forward it to anyone?

13 A. No, I did not.

14 Q. Did you have any further discussions with
15 anybody about that email?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. And did you have any other discussions
18 about either the email or the meeting request from
19 Rob Goldstone concerning setting up a meeting
20 between Mr. Trump and Mr. Putin?

21 A. No, I have not.

22 Q. All right, so I just want to summarize
23 and make sure I've kind of captured your
24 recollection.

25 The best you can recall is there was an

1 email request from Rob Goldstone. There was an
2 in-person meeting request from Rob Goldstone to
3 arrange this meeting. And then there was a
4 telephone call between Aras Agalarov and Mr.
5 Peskov. And those are the --

6 A. Yes, I would like --

7 Q. Is that everything you remember?

8 A. I would like to specify. I assumed it
9 was Mr. Peskov.

10 Q. I'm sorry, could you say that again?

11 A. I assumed that the person on the other
12 side of the phone conversation was Mr. Peskov.

13 Q. I see. Thank you.

14 A. Okay.

15 Q. With regard to that email that Rob
16 Goldstone sent, do you recall what it said? Can
17 you recall any of the language that was used?

18 A. It was request for a meeting. I don't
19 remember it, I mean.

20 Q. Do you still have that email?

21 A. I believe I do.

22 Q. And is that something that you can
23 produce to the committee, if you have it still
24 available?

25 MR. BALBER: Mr. Kaveladze, I would really

1 caution you to be very certain when you say that
2 you -- that this email exists and that you have
3 it. If you are, so be it.

4 But I will tell the committee, we've
5 released everything that we are aware of in Mr.
6 Kaveladze's custody or control that is responsive
7 to the request, but if there is another email that
8 Mr. Kaveladze has, then, obviously, we will
9 provide it.

10 MR. PRIVOR: Okay, very good. We understand
11 the caveat. Thank you.

12 BY MR. PRIVOR:

13 Q. With regard to the telephone call between
14 Mr. Agalarov and the person that you have assumed
15 was Mr. Peskov, why did you think that it was Mr.
16 Peskov?

17 A. Because all requests from Rob Goldstone
18 were to talk to Mr. Peskov about, so --

19 Q. So going back to the email, do you recall
20 whether the email from Mr. Goldstone to Emin
21 specified that he wanted to speak to or convey a
22 message to Mr. Peskov?

23 A. I believe so, yes.

24 Q. And likewise, with regard to the in-
25 person meeting with Mr. Goldstone, did he specify

1 wanting to convey the message to Mr. Peskov?

2 A. I think Goldstone, during the meeting, I
3 remember him saying that he wanted to meet -- even
4 meet with Mr. Peskov and discuss that potential
5 meeting.

6 Q. Do you know whether Mr. Goldstone had
7 ever met Mr. Peskov before then?

8 A. I do not know that.

9 Q. Do you know whether he had ever
10 communicated with Mr. Peskov before then? For
11 example, via email or telephone?

12 A. No, I do not know that.

13 Q. Do you know if he had any relationship at
14 all with Mr. Peskov before then?

15 A. I have no -- I do not know that.

16 Q. How about with regard to Aras Agalarov?
17 Do you know what, if any, relationship he had with
18 Mr. Peskov before the request was made?

19 A. At that time, I know they knew each
20 other, but I don't -- I can't say what kind of
21 relationship they had.

22 Q. Do you know how they knew each other?

23 A. No, I do not know.

24 Q. With respect to the telephone call, was
25 that a call received by Mr. Agalarov, or did Mr.

1 Agalarov place the call to Mr. Peskov?

2 A. I believe it was received by Mr.

3 Agalarov.

4 Q. Do you know what prompted Mr. Peskov's
5 call to Aras? In other words, was there some
6 other call that you are aware of that was outgoing
7 to Mr. Peskov first?

8 A. There probably was a call, but, no, I am
9 unaware of that.

10 Q. Do you know if there was any email
11 communication with Mr. Peskov that asked for a
12 call or would have prompted a return call?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Do you know whether there was any in-
15 person meeting that would have asked for or
16 prompted a return call from Mr. Peskov?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Before that call took place, had you ever
19 had a conversation with Mr. Agalarov about
20 arranging a meeting between Mr. Trump and Mr.
21 Putin?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And after that call took place, did you
24 have any further conversation with Mr. Agalarov
25 about that topic?

1 A. No, I don't believe so. Like I said, it
2 was not my topic, you know, I was --

3 Q. With regard to the original request from
4 Mr. Goldstone, do you recall whether he specified
5 any particular reason that Mr. Trump wanted a
6 meeting with Mr. Putin?

7 A. I don't believe he specified any reason.

8 Q. Did you ever ask if there was a reason?

9 A. No, it was not my topic.

10 Q. Were you ever present when the topic of a
11 meeting between Trump and Putin was discussed?

12 Even if you didn't participate in the
13 conversation, did you observe any conversations,
14 other than --

15 A. Nothing -- nothing outside of that
16 organizational meetings, Emin Agalarov -- and in
17 conversation at Mr. Agalarov's office I told you
18 about.

19 Q. With respect to the telephone
20 conversation, which we understand you only heard
21 one side of it, were you able to infer from what
22 you could hear what President Putin's reaction was
23 to the request for a meeting?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Were you able to tell at all if he wanted

1 to have a meeting or not, or whether he was
2 rejecting the request for a meeting?

3 A. No idea, no.

4 Q. Do you know how often Mr. Agalarov
5 communicates, if at all, with Donald Trump?

6 A. Are you talking about current status or
7 --

8 Q. I'm sorry. I should have given you a
9 time period.

10 Putting yourself back in time, at the
11 time of that telephone call, do you know whether
12 Mr. Agalarov and Mr. Trump had communicated
13 directly before then?

14 A. Before that was the meeting in Vegas when
15 we signed the documents for Miss Universe, so I am
16 sure they communicated. Agalarov -- Agalarovs
17 were present, and Mr. Trump was there as well.

18 Q. Do you know how -- after that meeting in
19 Vegas to sign the paperwork for the Miss Universe
20 pageant, and until the telephone call between Mr.
21 Agalarov and Mr. Peskov, or who you assume was Mr.
22 Peskov, do you know how often Mr. Agalarov
23 communicated with Mr. Trump in that time period?

24 A. I have no knowledge of this.

25 Q. Were you ever present for a communication

1 between Mr. Agalarov and Mr. Trump?

2 A. Never.

3 Q. Were you ever present for any
4 communications between Mr. Agalarov and a
5 representative of Mr. Trump? For example, someone
6 from the Trump Organization?

7 A. No.

8 MR. BALBER: Again, just for clarity,
9 obviously, Mr. Kaveladze has already testified
10 previously about the events of the Miss Universe
11 pageant in Moscow, the events of the Miss USA
12 pageant in Moscow. So I assume, Mr. Privor, you
13 are talking about communications in the interim?
14 Is that fair?

15 MR. PRIVOR: Yes, sir. Yes. Thank you.

16 MR. KAVELADZE: No. The answer is no.

17 BY MR. PRIVOR:

18 Q. So with respect to, again, Mr. Goldstone
19 making this request on behalf of or conveying a
20 request to Mr. Trump, you communicated that one,
21 or it was eventually communicated by Mr. Agalarov
22 to Mr. Peskov, or whom you believe to be Peskov.
23 Were there other requests that you can recall in
24 which Mr. Goldstone had conveyed a request or any
25 information to Mr. Peskov on behalf --

1 A. No, sir. No --

2 Q. -- on behalf of Mr. Trump?

3 A. No, that was the only occasion.

4 Q. So that's the only one where you can
5 recall that a request was made from Goldstone to
6 Peskov?

7 A. Correct.

8 Q. And I apologize, because I think you may
9 have answered this. I just don't recall your
10 response. Do you know Mr. Peskov at all?

11 A. I do not know Mr. Peskov.

12 Q. And you've never met him or communicated
13 with him directly?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Did you ever discuss with Mr. Agalarov
16 what his relationship is with Mr. Peskov?

17 A. No, I did not.

18 Q. Do you know of any instances in which Mr.
19 Agalarov and Mr. Peskov have discussed Mr. Trump,
20 other than the one telephone call that you have
21 described? And again --

22 A. No, I do not.

23 Q. Again, I recognize you weren't certain it
24 was Mr. Peskov. But setting that aside, do you
25 recall any other instances in which Agalarov and

1 Peskov had discussed Trump?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. Do you know what Mr. Agalarov's
4 relationship is with President Putin?

5 A. I don't know if there is any
6 relationship, but I know that Mr. Agalarov was a
7 contractor on numerous government projects, so
8 that's all.

9 Q. Do you know if Mr. Agalarov communicates
10 directly with Mr. Putin? Or does it always go
11 through Mr. Peskov?

12 A. I'm not sure as to what Mr. Peskov
13 anybody else -- I don't know about the --

14 MR. BALBER: And maybe a foundational
15 question would be appropriate, which is whether
16 Mr. Kaveladze is aware of any communications with
17 Mr. Putin directly or indirectly, period.

18 MR. PRIVOR: Fair enough. We will pose that
19 as a question. Thank you, Scott.

20 MR. KAVELADZE: Between Mr. Putin and Mr.
21 Agalarov?

22 MR. PRIVOR: Yes, sir.

23 MR. KAVELADZE: I know there was some
24 official meetings, like dedicated to either World
25 Cup starting construction or Russian Island

1 construction project, where Mr. Agalarov was
2 invited to attend, along with many other people.
3 But I am not aware of any face-to-face meetings.

4 BY MR. PRIVOR:

5 Q. Whether face-to-face or not, are you
6 aware of any communications directly between Mr.
7 Agalarov and President Putin in which they
8 discussed Donald Trump?

9 A. I'm unaware of this.

10 Q. I'm sorry, you are unaware?

11 A. I am unaware of this.

12 Q. And same question, slightly different,
13 are you aware of any communications between Mr.
14 Agalarov and President Putin in which they
15 discussed the presidential election in the United
16 States?

17 A. No, I'm unaware of this.

18 Q. With respect to the call that you had
19 heard one half of it, or one side of it, did you
20 discuss that, what you had heard, with anyone
21 else, other than your counsel?

22 A. I have not discussed that with anybody.

23 MR. BALBER: Again, just to caveat it, I
24 assume you are excluding other representatives of
25 the U.S. Government, the other congressional

1 committees or Special Counsel's Office, et cetera.

2 MR. PRIVOR: Yeah, I think that is fair,
3 Scott.

4 BY MR. PRIVOR:

5 Q. I am interested, just for clarification,
6 Mr. Kaveladze, did you contemporaneously, sometime
7 around the time of that call, did you discuss that
8 call with anyone else?

9 A. No, I did not.

10 Q. And do you know whether Mr. Agalarov
11 discussed that call with anyone else?

12 A. I have no knowledge of this.

13 Q. Do you know if there was anyone else,
14 other than the request conveyed by Mr. Goldstone,
15 do you know if anyone else had tried to arrange a
16 meeting between Mr. Trump and any Russian
17 Government officials in connection with the Miss
18 Universe pageant?

19 A. I have no knowledge of this.

20 Q. You stated, in response to Mr. Davis'
21 question, that you did not know whether a meeting
22 occurred between Mr. Putin and Mr. Trump. Is that
23 right?

24 A. That is correct.

25 Q. Did you attend the Miss Universe pageant?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. And while you were at the pageant, you
3 never observed the two of them together? Is that
4 right?

5 A. That is a correct statement.

6 Q. Do you know whether there was any meeting
7 between Mr. Trump and another representative of
8 the Russian Government in connection with the Miss
9 Universe pageant?

10 A. I have no knowledge of meetings like
11 that.

12 Q. Are you aware of any other instances in
13 which Mr. Agalarov sought to arrange any meetings
14 between Mr. Trump or his associates and Russian
15 Government officials, apart from that telephone
16 call?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Are you aware of any other instances in
19 which Mr. Peskov might have been involved in
20 trying to arrange meetings between Mr. Trump or
21 his associates and Russian Government officials?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Have you ever had any conversation with
24 Mr. Trump or his representatives about setting up
25 a meeting with Russian officials?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. Are you aware of any other instances in
3 which anyone from the Trump Organization sought to
4 arrange a meeting between Mr. Trump and Russian
5 Government officials, whether it was through Mr.
6 Agalarov, Mr. Peskov, or anyone else?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Do you know of any other instances in
9 which anyone from the Trump Organization has
10 reached out to Mr. Peskov to communicate with him
11 for any reason?

12 A. No.

13 Q. I believe you testified last time you
14 were before the committee that you do not know
15 Michael Cohen. Do I have that correct?

16 A. That is correct.

17 Q. Michael Cohen is or was a lawyer for the
18 Trump Organization. Does that help you at all?
19 Is that somebody you have ever communicated with?

20 A. No, sir. I have never communicated with
21 Michael Cohen.

22 Q. Okay.

23 MS. SAWYER: Mr. Kaveladze, just a couple of
24 quick follow-up questions.

25 BY MS. SAWYER:

1 Q. You had indicated that the request from
2 Mr. Goldstone came in person, you thought around
3 September 2013, and that Mr. Goldstone had, you
4 said, expressed an interest in Mr. Goldstone even
5 wanting to meet with Mr. Peskov to discuss the
6 potential meeting.

7 Do you know if any such meeting ever took
8 place between Mr. Goldstone and Mr. Peskov?

9 A. I have no knowledge of a meeting like
10 that.

11 Q. Do you know if there was any meeting
12 between Mr. Goldstone and any other representative
13 of the Russian Government?

14 A. I have no knowledge of the meetings like
15 that.

16 Q. And was this the -- it sounds like there
17 were more than one meeting about the Miss Universe
18 pageant. Did Mr. Goldstone attend more than once,
19 more than this one time?

20 A. I did not attend all organizational
21 meetings dedicated to Miss Universe pageant, but I
22 believe I've attended two or three. But that was
23 the only one where Mr. Goldstone was present. The
24 --

25 Q. And at the other -- go ahead.

1 A. The other meetings were, you know, we
2 were discussing some organizational aspects of the
3 pageant between ourselves.

4 Q. Okay. And at the other two or three
5 meetings that you attended, was there any
6 representative of the Trump Organization present
7 at those other meetings?

8 A. No, ma'am.

9 MR. PRIVOR: We are going to go off the
10 record at 2 o'clock.

11 [Break.]

12 MR. PRIVOR: We are going to go back on the
13 record. It is 2:01 p.m.

14 We are going to continue now with the second
15 topic, your travel to Russia in June and July of
16 2016. We have some additional follow-up questions
17 on that topic as well.

18 BY MR. PRIVOR:

19 Q. So with regard to the trip, I understand
20 from your prior testimony that you left New York
21 City on June 10th and went to Frankfurt, arriving
22 in Moscow the next day, on June 11. Was this
23 particular trip preplanned, that you were going to
24 be leaving the United States on June 10th?

25 A. Well, it was planned that I should be in

1 Moscow at that time.

2 Q. When were the arrangements made to make
3 this trip? In other words, putting it in time
4 with the June 9th meeting, had it been decided
5 ahead of time that you were going to be traveling
6 to Moscow or Russia after the June 9th meeting?
7 Or was that decision made after the June 9th
8 meeting?

9 A. I was supposed to be in Moscow at that
10 time, and the reason for that being not really a
11 business reason but more a personal reason. My
12 family member had an event, and he was in Moscow
13 at that time, and I had to be at family event.

14 Q. When you were before the committee a
15 couple months ago and testified previously, we had
16 asked you about a telephone conversation with Aras
17 Agalarov, and we had shown you a telephone bill
18 that showed the time of the call was 5:14 p.m. on
19 June 9th after the meeting. In between that
20 telephone call and your arrival in Moscow, did you
21 have any other conversations that you can recall
22 with Mr. Agalarov?

23 A. I have no recollection of that,
24 conversations.

25 Q. How about once you arrived in Moscow?

1 You, obviously, from your testimony, it sounds
2 like you met with Mr. Agalarov. Did you also
3 speak with him on the telephone when you arrived
4 in Moscow?

5 A. Did I speak with him on the telephone? I
6 might have. I mean, I don't think so. I mean, I
7 usually discuss, you know, issues with him face-
8 to-face. We don't do many telephone
9 conversations. I mean, he calls me, but I don't
10 usually call him.

11 Q. When you were speaking with our
12 colleague, Mr. Davis, a little bit ago, you said
13 that there was one additional conversation with
14 Aras Agalarov in which you had reiterated that you
15 felt it would be better if the meeting between Ms.
16 Veselnitskaya would be with lawyers rather than
17 with the personnel who met her on June 9th.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Other than that conversation with Aras,
20 do you recall any other conversations with Mr.
21 Agalarov in which you discussed the June 9th
22 meeting?

23 A. No.

24 Q. And I'm sorry, I should've put it in
25 context.

1 MR. BALBER: In that period of time.

2 MR. PRIVOR: In that period of time, while
3 you were in Russia.

4 MR. KAVELADZE: No, sir. We did not
5 discuss.

6 BY MR. PRIVOR:

7 Q. So it was just the one conversation with
8 Mr. Agalarov that you can recall?

9 A. Yes, that is correct.

10 Q. Was that particular conversation in
11 person?

12 A. The -- yeah, in person. Yeah, it was
13 part of a group of people. But, you know, we had
14 a personal conversation, I guess. But, yeah.

15 Q. Do you recall when that meeting took
16 place?

17 A. A few days after my arrival. I don't
18 recall exact date.

19 Q. Was the meeting at Mr. Agalarov's office?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Was anyone else present for that meeting?

22 A. Not for that topic. I mean, I had met --
23 we had like a private meeting, but you know how
24 there is like -- there is like a big room, and
25 there is like people getting in for different

1 issues, and I had like -- I had 2 minutes of his
2 privacy and had this quick conversation.

3 Q. And with respect to that conversation, as
4 it pertained to the June 9th meeting, was anyone
5 else participating by telephone? Or was it just
6 you and Mr. Agalarov?

7 A. Just me and Mr. Agalarov.

8 Q. Do you recall anything else from that
9 conversation, other than having reiterated your
10 belief that it would've been better to have Ms.
11 Veselnitskaya meet with lawyers?

12 A. No, I do not.

13 Q. Setting aside your conversation with Aras
14 Agalarov, did you speak with anyone else about the
15 June 9th meeting while you were in Russia?

16 A. No, I don't believe so.

17 Q. So, for instance, did you have any
18 conversations with Emin Agalarov about the June
19 9th meeting?

20 A. No, definitely not.

21 Q. Do you recall whether Mr. Agalarov had
22 any reaction to your comment about Ms.
23 Veselnitskaya should've met with lawyers?

24 A. I think he agreed with my statement.

25 Q. Do you recall whether he had any other

1 verbal response to you? Did he have any input at
2 all?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Other than that brief conversation, do
5 you recall any other communication with Aras
6 Agalarov? For instance, over email, in which you
7 discussed the June 9th meeting?

8 A. No, sir.

9 Q. And do you recall communications with
10 anyone else other than Mr. Agalarov about the June
11 9th meeting while you were in Russia? For
12 instance, an email with any other person?

13 A. I don't believe so, no.

14 Q. Did you ever discuss Donald Trump or the
15 election with anyone while you were in Russia
16 during that June-July time frame?

17 A. Did I -- could you please repeat your
18 question?

19 Q. Sure. And let me split it into two.

20 Did you ever discuss with anybody Donald
21 Trump while you were in Russia in June and July of
22 2016?

23 A. I could've discussed -- it's an electoral
24 campaign, so I could've had discussions, some
25 general discussions, but no specific discussions,

1 no.

2 Q. Do you --

3 A. That topic was widely discussed in
4 Moscow, put it this way.

5 Q. But do you recall any specific
6 discussions about Donald Trump?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Same question except the election. Do
9 you recall any specific discussions about the U.S.
10 election while you were in Russia in June and July
11 of 2016?

12 A. I mean, maybe Mr. Agalarov would ask me
13 questions, but I don't recall the specifics, you
14 know, "What are the candidates' chances? What are
15 Donald's chances?" or something like that, "What's
16 my opinion?" Stuff like that.

17 MR. BALBER: Do you have a memory -- do you
18 have a memory of those conversations with him when
19 you were in Moscow?

20 MR. KAVELADZE: No. I mean, no. No, I
21 don't have a memory of specific conversations.
22 No.

23 MR. O'DONNELL: Then don't speculate.

24 MR. KAVELADZE: Okay.

25 BY MR. PRIVOR:

1 Q. Last time we spoke, when you testified a
2 couple months ago, we had asked you about -- we
3 showed you your phone records, and we asked you
4 about some phone numbers from your phone bill.

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And at the time, you didn't recall who
7 those numbers belonged to. Now that you recall
8 that you were in Russia during that time period,
9 does that at all help refresh your recollection
10 about who you would've spoken to on the telephone?
11 And I am happy to give you the telephone numbers
12 again, if that is helpful.

13 A. Yeah, go ahead.

14 Q. The first one is [REDACTED]. It is
15 designated as a Russian mobile number. Do you
16 recognize the number at all?

17 A. I don't. [REDACTED] --

18 Q. [REDACTED].

19 A. I don't think I do.

20 MR. PRIVOR: And just for reference, for
21 your counsel, in case he cares to look, this was
22 Exhibit 16, and this shows up on page 166 of the
23 transcript, if you need to reference it later.

24 BY MR. PRIVOR:

25 Q. So you don't remember that phone number?

1 Is that right?

2 A. I don't.

3 Q. Okay. The second phone number was [REDACTED]
4 [REDACTED]. Do you recognize that phone number?

5 A. [REDACTED] -- can you repeat the number, please?

6 Q. Of course. [REDACTED].

7 A. No, I don't remember that. No. I don't
8 recognize that number.

9 Q. Okay. Back when you had -- when you
10 testified in November, I had asked about those
11 same phone numbers and asked whether you would be
12 able to identify them in your phone book or
13 electronic directory. You and your counsel had
14 agreed that you would check on those numbers.

15 Is that something you would be able to
16 check for us now or in the near future and get
17 back to us, if you --

18 A. I -- I definitely can check my phone
19 book. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Okay. We would renew that request, then,
21 with your counsel, to see if you can identify
22 those two phone numbers.

23 We also asked, when we spoke to you in
24 November, we asked why there was a gap in your
25 telephone bill from, roughly, June 10th to June

1 20th. And by gap, I mean there were no telephone
2 calls on your record, except for a few roaming
3 telephone calls on June 15th and June 16th. And
4 you had testified that you didn't know why there
5 was a gap, but the roaming, obviously, suggested
6 you were in Russia.

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Now that we have confirmed that you were,
9 in fact, in Russia during that time period, do you
10 recall who you spoke to for those roaming
11 telephone calls on June 15th and June 16th?

12 A. No, sir. What I, you know, might suggest
13 is that it was my --

14 MR. BALBER: Either you know who you spoke
15 to or you don't know who you spoke to.

16 MR. KAVELADZE: No, I do not.

17 BY MR. PRIVOR:

18 Q. Okay. There was one telephone number on
19 there that it actually showed the telephone
20 number, as opposed to just "unavailable." That
21 phone number, I would like to see if you remember.
22 It was somebody in [REDACTED], New York. Does that
23 ring a bell with you?

24 A. [REDACTED]?

25 Q. [REDACTED] New York.

1 A. No. What's --

2 Q. I'll give you the telephone number. Let
3 us know if you recognize it. [REDACTED]. Do
4 you recognize that phone number?

5 A. I do not.

6 Q. There were only, as I noted, during that
7 time period between June 10th and June 20th, I
8 believe it is five phone calls showing on June
9 15th and June 16th. Do you recall whether you
10 used your phone more often than that while you
11 were traveling in Russia?

12 A. No, I don't recall that.

13 Q. Do you use any other telephone while you
14 are traveling in Russia, other than that cell
15 phone?

16 A. Sometimes I would use local phone, yes.

17 Q. Like a local -- a second cell phone or do
18 you mean a landline in an office?

19 A. A landline in an office or sometimes
20 local cell phone, yes. They provide me --
21 sometimes they provide me with a local phone.

22 Q. And that "they provide," do you mean the
23 Agalarovs or the Crocus Group provides you another
24 mobile phone?

25 A. That is correct.

1 Q. Do you use that second mobile phone for
2 any personal business?

3 A. Not really.

4 Q. Do you recall whether you had used that
5 other mobile phone to discuss the June 9th meeting
6 with anybody while you were in Russia?

7 A. No, I don't recall it.

8 Q. Do you recall whether you used that other
9 Russian mobile phone to speak to anybody about
10 Donald Trump or the presidential election?

11 A. No, sir. I don't recall that.

12 Q. Do you know whether either Aras or Emin
13 Agalarov discussed the June 9th meeting with
14 anyone else, other than you've discussed one
15 conversation you had with Aras?

16 A. No. No, I -- I know that they discussed
17 -- Aras discussed it also with Ms. Veselnitskaya
18 after, but nothing more than that.

19 Q. Were you present for his conversation
20 with Ms. Veselnitskaya?

21 A. As you might remember, you know, I was
22 talking to him and she asked for a few minutes, to
23 hand the phone to her for a few minutes. And she
24 thanked him -- thanked Mr. Agalarov for the
25 meeting, and they had a quick conversation.

1 Q. Is there anything else you can recall
2 from that conversation?

3 A. No, sir.

4 Q. Any other conversations that you are
5 aware of between either of the Agalarovs and Ms.
6 Veselnitskaya while you were in Russia?

7 A. No, I don't recall those conversations.

8 Q. Mr. Davis had asked you already about Mr.
9 Akhmetshin, and you said you didn't have any
10 contact with him and you didn't have any contact
11 with Ms. Veselnitskaya while you were in Russia.

12 A. Correct.

13 Q. Did you have any communications with any
14 of the participants at the June 9th meeting while
15 you were in Russia?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. How about Mr. Goldstone? Did you
18 communicate with him at all?

19 A. I don't recall that time. No, I don't
20 remember.

21 Q. Did you communicate at all with Mr. Roman
22 Beniaminov while you were in Russia?

23 A. No. I --

24 Q. Did you communicate -- I'm sorry?

25 A. I told you about the conversation prior

1 to the meeting with Roman Beniaminov, but I didn't
2 have any.

3 Q. Right, I'm asking, though, while you were
4 in Russia.

5 A. No, sir.

6 Q. While you were in Russia, did you
7 communicate with anyone from the Trump
8 Organization?

9 A. No.

10 Q. Did you communicate with anyone from the
11 Trump campaign while you were in Russia?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. Did you communicate with any Russian
14 officials while you were in Russia?

15 A. No, sir.

16 Q. One sort of general question, you've
17 described your trip as being from June 10th until
18 approximately July 14th. I'm just curious why
19 "approximately"? Do you not know the date that
20 you left Russia?

21 A. I think not approximately. I think it is
22 precise. I mean, yeah, I think it was July 14th.

23 MS. SAWYER: Mr. Kaveladze, just a couple
24 quick follow-ups.

25 BY MS. SAWYER:

1 Q. My colleague had asked you about the
2 arrangements to travel. Do you recall, now that
3 you have gone back to look at your travel records,
4 when your trip to New York was scheduled? Was it
5 scheduled before your trip to Moscow or after? To
6 New York to attend the June 9th meeting.

7 A. It was, I believe --

8 MR. BALBER: I'm sorry, can I ask it
9 differently? I want to make sure I understand the
10 question.

11 MS. SAWYER: Sure.

12 MR. BALBER: Is the question -- is the
13 question, had he already planned his trip to
14 Russia before he had planned his trip to New York
15 or was it the opposite? Is that the question?

16 MR. KAVELADZE: I planned the trip,
17 definitely, because of my [REDACTED], but I'm
18 not sure about exactly when I purchased tickets
19 and stuff like that. But I definitely planned to
20 be in Moscow.

21 MS. SAWYER: And --

22 MR. BALBER: Is it --

23 MS. SAWYER: Go ahead, Scott.

24 MR. BALBER: I'm sorry. I was just going to
25 ask, is it fair to say that you had intended to be

1 in Moscow in that period of time long before you
2 knew you had to go to New York for the meeting at
3 Trump Tower?

4 MR. KAVELADZE: Definitely.

5 MR. BALBER: Is that right?

6 MR. KAVELADZE: Definitely.

7 BY MS. SAWYER:

8 Q. And if I may ask, when is family
event? What day?

10 A. Family event is June 13, but we had
11 the party on June 12th, because I believe
12 June 13 was Monday, and we wanted to have a party
13 like on that weekend. And so -- and so we decided
14 to do a party on June 12th. The reason I am
15 saying that is because I saw that Evite card.

16 Q. Okay. And you mentioned that you were,
17 during the time that you were in Russia in June
18 and July, you spent 8 days in Georgia, and you
19 characterized it as a family trip. When in that
20 month did those 8 days fall?

21 A. I don't remember. I'm sorry.

22 Q. Do you think it was at the beginning of
23 the trip or more toward the end?

24 A. I don't know. Again, I can check my
25 travel records and see and can get back to you.

1 Q. Yeah, and if you do you check your
2 records, just if you could get back to us with the
3 dates that the trip to New York was booked and the
4 date that you booked your trip to Moscow, I would
5 appreciate that.

6 A. Sure.

7 Q. And then just one quick question, you
8 spoke with my colleague about the discussion that
9 you had with Mr. Agalarov in person while you were
10 in Moscow about the June 9 meeting. And what you
11 recalled from it was that you reiterated kind of
12 that you thought that Ms. Veselnitskaya should
13 have met with lawyers rather than the folks from
14 the campaign that she did meet with. Did anything
15 come up, given that you knew before you went into
16 that meeting that there was supposed to be dirt
17 about Hillary Clinton? Did you have any mention
18 with Mr. Agalarov about that aspect of what the
19 meeting was supposed to be about?

20 A. Can you repeat that question, because I -
21 -

22 Q. Sure. When you spoke with Mr. Agalarov -
23 -

24 A. I discussed no dirt with Mr. Agalarov.

25 Q. Did anything come up about -- you had --

1 you referenced with my colleague that you had
2 spoken with Mr. Benjaminov prior to the meeting,
3 and my recollection of that from your last
4 testimony -- I don't want to go back to that, but
5 I just want to reference it -- was that he had
6 alerted you to the fact that the Russian lawyer
7 who was meeting would have information on Hillary
8 Clinton.

9 Given that that was what the expectation
10 was, did you ever speak with Mr. Agalarov when you
11 talked with him about the fact that that was
12 supposed to be part of the meeting?

13 A. Well, if you remember my testimony, the
14 only person who related that information to me was
15 Roman Benjaminov. Mr. Agalarov never suggested
16 anything related to dirt on Ms. Clinton. He, from
17 day one, he was suggesting it was about the
18 Magnitsky Act, so -- and it was about the
19 Magnitsky Act. So, no. I mean, why would I
20 discuss it with him?

21 Q. Did anything come up about the reaction
22 of the Trump campaign to the meeting when you
23 spoke with him while you were in Moscow right
24 after the meeting?

25 A. No. No. Yeah, I -- I basically had

1 those conversations right after the meeting, and
2 so I relayed the reaction of the Trump campaign.
3 So it's -- you know, the suggestion that we
4 should've met with attorneys is partially like
5 related to the reaction of the Trump campaign,
6 that we should have met his attorneys and not with
7 his people.

8 Q. Okay. Thank you.

9 A. Thank you.

10 MR. PRIVOR: Okay, just a few more
11 questions. I want to ask you about a few other
12 events that occurred while you were in Russia.

13 BY MR. PRIVOR:

14 Q. There was an international economic forum
15 in St. Petersburg on or about June 17th. Did you
16 attend that conference?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Did you discuss that conference with
19 anyone?

20 A. No.

21 Q. I think Mr. Davis had asked you about the
22 leaks or announcement of release of emails that
23 occurred starting around June 14th. DCLeaks had
24 made a release, and then Guccifer on June 15th
25 started a blog saying it was responsible for the

1 DNC hack.

2 Is that something you recall while you
3 were in Russia? Did you hear anything about it
4 while you were in Russia?

5 A. I don't remember hearing about it in
6 Russia.

7 Q. On June 17th, Mr. Trump had sent Emin a
8 thank-you note for a birthday gift. Were you
9 aware of that thank-you note?

10 A. I -- I think eventually somebody told me
11 about that, but not at that time, no.

12 Q. You never discussed it with anyone while
13 you were in Russia?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Are you familiar with the Russian
16 Ministry of Foreign Affairs?

17 A. Am I familiar with the ministry? I know
18 it exists, but nothing other than that.

19 Q. Have you ever met with anybody from the
20 Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs while you were
21 in Russia?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Did you ever discuss the Russian Ministry
24 of Foreign Affairs while you were in Russia during
25 that time period?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. Do you know Len Blavatnik?

3 A. From the media. He is an oligarch.

4 Q. Do you know him at all personally?

5 A. No.

6 Q. I'm sorry?

7 A. No. The answer is no.

8 Q. Have you ever communicated with him?

9 A. No, sir.

10 Q. How about Viktor Vekselberg? Have you
11 ever --

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. You never communicated with him?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Oleg Deripaska, have you ever
16 communicated with him?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you know Konstantin Kilimnik?

19 A. No.

20 Q. You never communicated with him?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. Never discussed him with anyone?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Are you familiar with the New Economic
25 School in Moscow?

1 A. New Economic School in Moscow? No, I'm
2 not familiar with that.

3 Q. I take it, then, you've not discussed the
4 New Economic School with anyone while you were in
5 Moscow, while you were in Russia?

6 A. No, sir.

7 Q. Do you know Carter Page?

8 A. No. From the media reports. No personal
9 knowledge.

10 Q. Never had any communications about him?

11 A. No, sir.

12 BY MS. SAWYER:

13 Q. And Mr. Page was in Moscow during the
14 time that you were there. Did you hear anything
15 about Mr. Page while you were in Moscow?

16 A. No, ma'am. I have not.

17 MR. PRIVOR: Okay, we don't have any further
18 questions.

19 Go ahead, Scott.

20 MR. KAVELADZE: You had something?

21 MR. BALBER: No, no. No, I'm sorry. I
22 didn't mean to -- nothing to say. Apologies.

23 MR. DAVIS: Okay. I don't think we have
24 anything further either, so I guess, with that in
25 mind, we will go off the record at 2:29 p.m.

1 Thank you very much.

2 [Whereupon, the proceedings were adjourned

3 at 2:29 p.m.]

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NOTE: The court reporter initially transcribed this word as "secretly" and re-confirmed it after reviewing the audio. Mr. Kaveladze and his counsel requested the word "secretly" be deleted, disputing he had said it. Committee staff did not believe the word should be deleted.

ERRATA SHEET

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

INTERVIEW OF:

DATE OF INTERVIEW:

PAGE LINE

11 15 CHANGE: Delete "Secretly"

REASON: transcription error

41 25 CHANGE: Change "Highland" to "Island"

REASON: transcription error

58 24 CHANGE: change "her" to "him"

REASON: transcription error

63 20 CHANGE: change "reenterde" to "repeat"

REASON: transcription error

67 3 CHANGE: "meehy" to "media"

REASON: transcription error

67 3 CHANGE: ADD "He is an" after "media"

REASON: ~~eternity~~ clarify answer

After raising the issue with the counsel for the witness, the counsel asked to review the audio with his client to refresh his recollection. Upon reviewing the audio, his counsel indicated that the witness believes he said "sequently" not "secretly."

The transcript remains unchanged, but the dispute is noted here.

Submitted by: (Signed)

Date: 5/3/2018

PRINT NAME:

IKE KAVELADZE

Counsel:

John O'Donnell
J O'Donnell

Alderson Court Reporting
1-800-FOR-DEPO

_____ of _____ pages