



## **Intelligence officials: Trump aides spoke with Russian officials during campaign**

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"The spotlight has finally been put on the low-life leakers!" Report says members of Trump's presidential campaign had multiple exchanges with Moscow's intelligence community. "What he did wasn't wrong", Trump said. He also touted the fruits of WikiLeaks disclosures on October 31 in Warren, Mich., on November 2 in Orlando and Pensacola, Fla., and November 6 in Sioux City, Iowa. Throughout his campaign, Trump was fixated on his poll numbers, which offers a possible rationale for the hastily called news conference. "I mean, can you imagine us wanting to have transcripts from Americans' phone calls down [at] the House Intelligence Committee - or anywhere in Congress?" Trump's national security adviser, Michael Flynn, was sacked late Monday. During those calls, the two men discussed sanctions that the Obama administration imposed on Russian Federation in December.

The most disturbing habit that President Trump and his aides have shown in their disastrous break from the gate is the pure recklessness of their behavior and words. The Democrats and liberal pundits are going haywire. "The real story here is why are there so many illegal leaks coming out of Washington? Failing @nytimes (and others) must apologize!" Now, Trump may or may not have read the Post story. Before we start, we should emphasize that our Flip-O-Meter judges whether someone has been consistent on an issue.

Carter Page removed himself as a foreign policy adviser last September, as reports emerged about a visit to Russian Federation and other potential contacts. He gave a paid speech in Moscow at the 10th anniversary celebration of Russia Today, a global cable network described by USA intelligence as "the Kremlin's principal worldwide propaganda outlet". Trump then said, "you can talk all you want about Russian Federation, which was fake news... fabricated by the Democrats to make up for their loss", he said. And I think it's really a sad thing that he was treated so badly. Reports based on leaks said "knives were out for him" and that his position was being reviewed. The talks included not just Trump campaign officials but "other associates of Mr. Trump". "The new order is going to be very much tailored to what I consider to be a very bad decision", Trump said. "You can not have a national security adviser misleading the vice president and others", said Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin.

There can also be no clear victory against so amorphous an enemy. I have long suspected this to be the case for two basic reasons. Such a thing is only acceptable, even morally, if you believe that the Trump White House represents such an unprecedented threat to everything that a higher law must govern your actions. On former foreign policy adviser Carter Page and his alleged ties to Russian Federation "I don't think I've ever spoken to him". "Bottom line, I would call this a flip-flop". Officials who spoke with the Times anonymously said they had not yet seen any evidence of the Trump campaign cooperating with the Russians on hacking or other attempts to influence the election. Johnson also raised questions about leaks in the government - particularly of information that's drawn from surveillance that swept up the communications of USA citizens. Benjamin H. Friedman, a research fellow in security studies at the libertarian Cato Institute, went even further. "He's pretending otherwise now, but it's not credible". In rhetorical battles, Trump is most effective when he can name and define his enemy, be it "Low Energy" Jeb, "Little Marco", or "Crooked Hillary".

He also slammed the media and leakers who exposed details of his calls with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto. And if there were any problems in getting his own agencies up to speed, he said, that was the fault of the Democrats in the Senate, who have objected to most of his Cabinet appointments, including Andy Puzder, Trump's initial pick for labor secretary, who withdrew Wednesday. Still, it suggests that this dichotomy - between leaks that help him and leaks that don't - has crossed his mind before.