



“I think what’s worrisome is if this stuff is substantiated — whether Trump’s judgment and ability to act independently when it comes to Russia is in any way compromised,” he said.

Weiler said these reports could affect United States foreign policy regarding Russia.

“I think that there will be a growing force in Congress, including among certain Republican senators, like John McCain and Lindsey Graham, who are really bothered by what they perceive as Russia’s interference or influence over our election processes,” he said.

Weiler also said the reports could cause conflict internally in the United States between intelligence agencies and the executive branch.

“We’re entering into a dangerous phase here where at least some of the intelligence agencies like the CIA appear, even before he’s been inaugurated, to have something of an antagonistic relationship with the guy who’s about to become president of the United States,” he said.

Regardless of the accuracy of the reports, Friedman said their content could have long-term effects.

“It’s likely that to the extent that it can be verified, it will be, and it’s going to remain an issue,” Friedman said. “I guess it’s obvious, but it’s not going anywhere. This is a cloud that’s going to hang over the Trump administration from its start, among other clouds.”