



## White House furious after Russian media posted Oval Office photos

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On Wednesday, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted a photo of Trump shaking hands with Russian diplomat Sergey Lavrov.

Trump's firing of Comey comes at arguably at the worst time possible. The meeting was very important and of interest to many, given that Comey was investigating Trump's ties with Russian Federation when he was sacked.

"When I chose to just do it [fire former FBI Director James Comey], I said to myself, I said you know, this Russian Federation thing - with Trump and Russian Federation - is a made-up story", Trump told NBC News in an interview. "The FBI has been in turmoil".

It seems that on May 3, Comey committed his unforgivable sin while testifying before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"Our official photographer and their official photographer were present, that's it", said one aide shortly after the meeting.

Saying that his work in the Oval Office lasted "for just a minute", the photojournalist said he immediately left the office and then left the White House for the Russian embassy, where Lavrov's news conference was held.

Trump's meeting with Lavrov was listed on his schedule as "Closed Press", which would mean the media would not be allowed to document its proceedings.

US intelligence agencies said they concluded with "high confidence" that Russian Federation tried to affect the outcome of the 2016 election.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: President Donald Trump brushed aside concerns over his wooing of Russian Federation on Wednesday (Thursday in Manila) and laid on a White House welcome for Moscow's top diplomat to seek help to end the war in Syria.

But it also made Mr Freeh look partisan, on the side of a Republican assault on the Democratic president.

"President Trump clearly confirmed his interest in building mutually beneficial, business-like pragmatic relations", he told journalists. But I can see no explanation for Trump's freakish attitude toward the allegations of Russian meddling other than a desire to hide something. Trump to meet Russian foreign minister Lavrov on Wednesday.

His explanation of why he fired Comey ran counter to previous administration explanations of Comey's dismissal.

A number of USA news outlets became outraged by the fact that the photos taken during the White House meeting between Lavrov and Trump had been distributed by Russian Federation.

On Thursday, Trump said he would have taken the action regardless. Supposedly, when Trump gave the order to let Comey go on Tuesday, he was convinced that Democrats would applaud him for terminating one of their designated villains from the election.

"It is no longer possible for the FBI to conduct its investigation into the Trump campaign's involvement in Russian electoral interference in any meaningfully independent way", said Mr Julian Sanchez, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute.

In his first tweet about the controversy, he taunted "Cryin' Chuck Schumer" and complained that the NY senator had gone from Comey critic to defender. It certainly wouldn't be the first time Russians had planted listening devices in USA government buildings.

Asked whether they believed the intelligence community's January assessment that Russian Federation was responsible for hacking and leaking information to influence the elections was accurate, all six spy and law enforcement bosses appearing before the panel said "yes".

Trump, in his interview, also gave further details of his account that Comey had told him on three separate occasions that he was not under investigation in the Russian Federation matter. When Comey broke with bureau tradition and spoke negatively about Trump's rival in the election, though initially he was criticized by candidate Trump, he was later praised - and effusively.

"I would primarily focus on smart TV's in the area with open Wi-Fi or Bluetooth connections", Street said. "You are not under investigation" does not mean "You will never be under investigation".

Everything was typical. After the meeting with Tillerson I was taken by a USA representative to the White House. "We had a very nice dinner".

It's called "electing Donald Trump president of the United States".

Rogers told the hearing he had not been consulted beforehand. The link Trump appeared to draw between the investigation and Comey's continued employment was damning.