



## Putin Claims Trump Seemed 'Satisfied' With His Answers on Election Interference

Bibiana Flor

July 11, 2017

Congress has been pushing to increase sanctions on Russia and make them harder for Trump to lift.

Trump also said *that* he and Putin agreed to form an "impenetrable cyber security unit" to combat election hacking.

"What he did was bring up right away the election meddling, and he did *that* for a reason", Haley [told CNN's Dana Bash], referring to Russia's interference in the 2016 campaign.

The younger Mr. Trump and not previously disclosed the meeting. "We've already begun to step up our efforts and whenever a case can be made, we will seek to put some people in jail", Sessions added. *That* is a breathtaking admission. The European Union just completed a free-trade agreement with Canada, and is moving forward with another deal with Japan. His tweet about Podesta prompted the former top White House aide, who was driving with his wife on a cross-country trip, to respond *that* the president was a "whack job".

Trump's tweet, which referenced a "Fox & Friends" tweet, followed an article in The Hill newspaper suggesting *that* some memos Comey wrote contained classified information. The ceasefire was holding hours after it took effect on Sunday, a monitor and two rebel officials said.

While saying sanctions were not discussed at the meeting with Putin, Trump indicated *that* Moscow could not expect any relief "until the Ukrainian & Syrian problems are solved". *His views are his own and do not reflect the views of any organization with which he has been associated*. But his detractors say he keeps sending the world dangerously mixed messages. But *that's* exactly what Putin did with Assad, sparking first a civil war and then an even wider war with foreign terrorist organizations participating on both sides.

The meeting was also attended by Trump snr's then campaign manager, Paul Manafort, and son-in-law Jared Kushner, who is now a senior adviser to the president. When reporters are solicitous toward Trump, when they publish friendly stories and affirm his prejudices, the president is effusive.

Russian cybercriminals - many in the pocket of the Kremlin - are costing U.S. companies and individuals tens of billions of dollars every year.

A photoshopped image of the recent G20 summit has been circulating on social media.

Trump appeared in a music video with Agalarov in 2013. In recent Pew Research Center polling, people expressed more confidence in Merkel than in Trump in 17 of the G20 countries-including the United States.

In other words, Tillerson's account is consistent with Trump having distanced himself personally from the belief *that* Russia interfered, and presented the "issue" as one *that* was causing him political difficulty in the United States.

Soon after, Trump pointed in the opposite direction, pointing to Vladimir Putin's "vehement" denial of wrongdoing, which the president apparently accepts: he is, after all, ready to "move forward in working constructively with Russia".

"While I don't think it's fair to say *that* the administration 'did nothing, ' their actions were fairly minimal prior to Nov 8", said Emma Ashford, an international security expert at the libertarian Cato Institute.

Then again, the notion had about as much chance of acceptance in the U.S. national security world as ketchup on a hot dog in Chicago. "He can't veto Russia sanctions", one told me. As ever, we have to consider the possibility *that* he wasn't thinking at all, and what he says doesn't mean anything-not even when he is reporting on his dealings with the leader of a rival nuclear power.

Trump promised a rapprochement with Moscow during his campaign but has been unable to deliver because his administration has been dogged by investigations into the allegations of Russian interference in the election and ties with his campaign.