March 11, 2024

The Honorable William J. Burns
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Director Burns:

The Committee on the Judiciary, its Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence are conducting oversight into new reports that “the United States Intelligence Community (IC), including the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), illegally mobilized foreign intelligence agencies to target Trump [campaign] advisors long before the summer of 2016.”\(^1\) These allegations contradict the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) official narrative of why the FBI opened its discredited Crossfire Hurricane investigation into the presidential campaign of Donald J. Trump.\(^2\)

The FBI’s official story is that Crossfire Hurricane began in July 2016 after an Australian diplomat claimed a Trump campaign foreign policy advisor suggested that Russia could assist the Trump campaign with damaging information about former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.\(^3\) However, as this new reporting alleges, the IC used foreign government entities to surveil the Trump campaign in an attempt to damage then-candidate Trump. Additional reporting alleges that top levels of the IC misconstrued intelligence in its January 2017 “Intelligence Community Assessment,” or ICA, to conclude that Russia favored then-candidate Trump over Secretary Clinton.\(^4\)

These allegations place the CIA, and particularly President Obama’s CIA Director John Brennan, once again at the center of a campaign to weaponize the IC against American citizens.\(^5\)

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3. Id. at 51-64.
Specifically, the reporting reveals that, while he was CIA Director, Brennan “had identified 26 Trump associates” for the “Five Eyes” intelligence-aligned nations—the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand—to target for intelligence operations. According to recent reporting, Director Brennan approved a plan to request that foreign intelligence agencies spy on individuals affiliated with the Trump campaign starting in March 2016. The foreign spies allegedly used people from around the world to surveil and target Trump campaign advisors.

To advance our oversight, please provide the following documents and information for the period January 1, 2016, to the present:

1. All documents and communications referring or relating to requests for foreign intelligence agencies to surveil individuals associated with the campaign of Donald J. Trump, including, but not limited to, communications between employees of the CIA and employees of foreign intelligence agencies;

2. All documents and communications referring to Crossfire Hurricane, the so-called Steele Dossier, and/or the binder containing highly classified information related to Russian election interference that President Trump is reported to have declassified in the final days of his presidency.

Please provide this material as soon as possible but no later than March 25, 2024. If a full and complete response to this request requires the production of classified material, please provide all unclassified information directly to the Committees and any classified information under separate cover.

The Committee on the Judiciary has jurisdiction to oversee matters related to civil liberties pursuant to House Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives. Additionally under House Rule X, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence has jurisdiction over all intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the departments and agencies of the U.S. government. H. Resolution 12 authorizes the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government to investigate “issues related to the violation of the civil liberties of citizens of the United States” and “how executive branch agencies work with, obtain information from, and provide information to . . . other government agencies to facilitate action against American citizens.”

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*takes final shot at Trump: ‘I leave his fate to our judicial system, his infamy to history, & his legacy to a trash heap,* The Hill (Nov. 24, 2020).

6 Shellenberger, supra note 1.

7 Id. In intelligence gathering, “‘bumping’ is when a reason is manufactured to meet with a target of interest in order to develop a relationship that could lead to intelligence.” Nava, supra note 1.

8 Shellenberger, supra note 1.


11 Id.

12 H. Res. 12 § 1(b)(1).
If you have any questions, please contact Judiciary Committee staff at (202) 225-6906 or Intelligence Committee staff at (202) 225-4121. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jim Jordan
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary

Michael R. Turner
Chairman
Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

cc: The Honorable Jerrold L. Nadler, Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
The Honorable Jim Himes, Ranking Member, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence