

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 31, 2018

The Honorable Daniel Coats
Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

Dear Director Coats:

According to recent statements by the Russian Embassy in Washington D.C., the chief of the Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (known as the SVR) – Sergey Naryshkin – and his delegation were in the United States last week for meetings with U.S. counterparts. While the U.S. frequently interacts with foreign governments, a U.S. meeting with the chief of the SVR a little more than a year after our Intelligence Community unanimously concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. election raises a number important questions.

As you are well aware, Mr. Naryshkin is a Specially Designated National under U.S. sanctions law, which imposes severe financial penalties and prohibits his entry into the U.S. without a waiver. Moreover, the visit of the SVR chief occurred only days before Congress was informed of the president's decision not to implement sanctions authorized the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which was passed with near unanimous, bipartisan support. CAATSA was designed to impose a price on Russian President Vladimir Putin and his cronies for well-documented Russian aggression and interference in the 2016 election. However, the administration took little to no action, even as Russia continues its cyberattacks on the U.S.

Given these circumstances, the decision to host a senior Russian intelligence official at this juncture, and the Intelligence Community's involvement in this decision, requires additional transparency for the American people. I ask that you please provide responses to the following questions by February, 9, 2018:

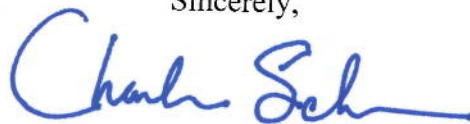
1. Why did the Administration decide to host Mr. Naryshkin and his delegation in the U.S.? What, if any, preceding meetings and communications with the Russian government informed this decision?
2. Was any waiver sought or similar action taken to permit Mr. Naryshkin entry into the U.S.? If a waiver was issued, who approved it and pursuant to what justification?
3. What, if any, other Russian officials joined Mr. Naryshkin? Were any additional officials in the delegation subject to U.S. sanctions?

4. Which Administration officials – including from the White House, the National Security Council, the Defense Department, the State Department, or the Intelligence Community – meet with Mr. Naryshkin and his delegation during his time in the U.S.?
5. What specific policy issues and topics were discussed by Mr. Naryshkin and U.S. officials?
 - a. Did the U.S. officials who met with Mr. Naryshkin raise Russia’s interference in the 2016 elections? If not, why was this not raised? If raised, what was his response?
 - b. Did the U.S. officials who met with Mr. Naryshkin raise existing and congressionally-mandated U.S. sanctions against Russia discussed? If not, why was this not raised? If raised, what was his response?
 - c. Did the U.S. officials who met with Mr. Naryshkin raise ongoing Russian cyber attacks on the U.S. and its allies, including reported efforts to discredit the Federal Bureau of Investigation and law enforcement investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. elections? If not, why was this not raised? If raised, what was his response?
 - d. Did the U.S. officials who met with Mr. Naryshkin make clear that Putin’s interference in the 2018 and 2020 elections would be a hostile act against the United States? If not, why was this not raised? If raised, what was his response?

While I understand that responses to these questions will contain both classified and unclassified information, I ask that you provide all unclassified information in an unclassified response. To the extent classified information is also responses to this request, please provide a classified addendum to the Office of Senate Security.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer

cc: Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis
Secretary of State Rex Tillerson
Director of Central Intelligence Agency Mike Pompeo
National Security Advisor Lieutenant General H.R. McMaster