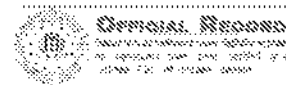


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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of entry 07/19/2017

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(U) Anatoli Samochornov, date of birth (DOB) [Redacted] telephone number [Redacted] was interviewed at his residence located at [Redacted] [Redacted] New York 10989 by Special Agents [Redacted] [Redacted] After being advised of the identity of the interviewing agents and the nature of the interview, Samochornov provided the following information:

(U) Samochornov told the interviewing agents he had some scotch before they arrived at his house. [Agent note: The agents observed a half-full glass of scotch on the table beside Samochornov.]

(U) Samochornov planned to retain legal counsel and wanted an opportunity to talk with the Special Counsel. Prior to the interviewing agents' arrival, Samochornov made an appointment to meet with an attorney, [Redacted] address [Redacted] telephone number [Redacted] [Redacted] on July 13, 2017, at 9:30am. The meeting was to be an initial consultation. Samochornov had not yet retained [Redacted] Samochornov was not sure if he should speak with an attorney before talking with the interviewing agents. Samochornov did not think he had any liability with respect to the meeting between Natalia Veselnitskaya and Donald Trump Jr. Samochornov said he would be open with the interviewing agents and indicated he would stop the interview if he was uncomfortable. Samochornov had nothing to hide, but he did not want to cause any problems for himself or [Redacted] The interviewing agents informed Samochornov that he did not have to speak with them and that he could seek legal representation prior to moving forward with the interview.

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(U) [Agent note: [Redacted] was present for the initial minutes of the interview, but left upon [Redacted] request. She was an employee of the [Redacted] [Redacted] said she did not have a security clearance. Given the relevant news stories of the day, [Redacted] advised her supervisor that [Redacted] had been involved in the meeting between Donald Trump Jr. and Natalia Veselnitskaya. Later, [Redacted] returned to the interview and requested the agents show their credentials. Prior to beginning the interview the agents identified themselves verbally and

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Investigation on 07/12/2017 at [Redacted] New York, United States (In Person)

File # [Redacted] Date drafted 07/13/2017

by [Redacted]

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Continuation of FD-302 of (U) Interview of Anatoli Samochornov . On 07/12/2017 . Page 2 of 8

provided their business cards to Samochornov, but did not display their credentials.]

(U) Samochornov informed the interviewing agents he was involved in civil litigation with Natalia Veselnitskaya that was linked in some aspect to William Browder. SA [redacted] informed Samochornov that the interviewing agents were not concerned about Samochornov's involvement in the civil litigation. Samochornov stated Browder was known to go after people who opposed him and Samochornov was worried about Browder's clout. Samochornov believed Browder was feeding information to Senator Chuck Grassley. Browder identified Samochornov as a lobbyist for HRAGIF, but Samochornov said he was not a lobbyist.

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(U) Samochornov believed Browder was the underlying issue with respect to the civil litigation Samochornov was hired to provide translation /interpretation services for. Browder played dirty and Samochornov recommended the interviewing agents look into him. Samochornov told the agents about Browder's role in influencing the United States Attorney's Office to initiate the civil litigation Veselnitskaya later became involved in. Samochornov also described Browder's role in implementing the Magnitsky Act. Samochornov believed Browder improperly influenced these events and questioned how he got away with it.

(U) [Agent note: Over the course of the interview, it became apparent the civil litigation Samochornov referred to at the beginning, and would continue to reference throughout, was United States of America v. Prevezon Holdings Ltd, et al. (hereinafter the "civil litigation").]

(U) Samochornov performed translation/interpretation services as an independent contractor. Formerly he worked with [redacted] in a partnership at [redacted] Samochornov had not worked for the Russian government or any Russian political party. Samochornov had no Russian clients. He lost business as a translator/interpreter as a result of the United States' sanctions on Russia. Prior to the sanctions being implemented, Samochornov had a lot of work with banks and government entities.

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(U) Samochornov described Veselnitskaya as a "chance client." He was introduced to her by [redacted] telephone number [redacted] email address [redacted]

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[redacted] At the time of Samochornov's introduction to Veselnitskaya in October 2015, Samochornov had known [redacted] Samochornov was hired by Veselnitskaya to help with depositions in the above-referenced civil litigation. Samochornov said Veselnitskaya also used other

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Continuation of FD-302 of (U) Interview of Anatoli Samochornov . On 07/12/2017 . Page 3 of 8

translators/interpreters. Samochornov did not know how long [redacted] had known Veselnitskaya.

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(U) Samochornov worked with Veselnitskaya in the United States in October and November 2015 and continued to work with Veselnitskaya intermittently through February 2016. This work occurred through the law firm of Baker & Hostetler. He worked with Veselnitskaya "a fair amount" in blocks of days over the above-mentioned period of time. More precise information about the dates he worked for Veselnitskaya would be documented in Samochornov's invoices. Samochornov identified [redacted] and [redacted] as attorneys linked to Baker & Hostetler. Baker & Hostetler prepared the paperwork, to include a nondisclosure agreement, defining the relationship between Samochornov and Veselnitskaya.

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(U) Between February 2016 and January 2017 there was a lull in activity related to the civil litigation. Samochornov began working with Veselnitskaya again in 2017 as the case entered settlement negotiations.

(U) Initially, Samochornov's communications with Veselnitskaya occurred through Baker & Hostetler. He did not have direct communications with her until later in their relationship. When Samochornov began to have direct communications with Veselnitskaya, it was mostly through email. Samochornov's most recent contact with Veselnitskaya was on July 5, 2017, via email. In June 2017, he sent her articles, also by email. After the civil litigation was settled on May 15, 2017, Samochornov and Veselnitskaya discussed getting together in Moscow, but the trip did not occur. [Agent note: according to a press release from the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, the civil litigation was settled on May 12, 2017.]

(U) Samochornov provided the interviewing agents with two telephone numbers and two email addresses for Veselnitskaya as follows:

- [redacted] (Veselnitskaya's Russian telephone number.)
- [redacted] (Veselnitskaya's United States-based telephone number. Samochornov did not know if this was a permanent number.)

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(U) Samochornov was paid by Baker & Hostetler. On one occasion in January 2017, Veselnitskaya directly paid Samochornov [redacted]. Samochornov later deposited the money into his personal bank account. The payment was for his help with finding a new law firm to become involved in the civil litigation. This firm, called Quinn Emanuel by Samochornov, also received invoices from Samochornov.

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Continuation of FD-302 of (U) Interview of Anatoli Samochornov . On 07/12/2017 . Page 4 of 8

(U) The meeting between Donald Trump Jr. and Veselnitskaya took place at two or three in the afternoon. Prior to arriving at Trump Tower, Samochornov was with Veselnitskaya at a meeting at a courthouse. Samochornov was not informed he would be attending a meeting with Donald Trump Jr. or anyone associated with the Trump Campaign until the day of the meeting. Samochornov did not know how Veselnitskaya set up the meeting. He believed she treated it as an important engagement.

(U) Before arriving at Trump Tower, Veselnitskaya, Samochornov, and Irakli Kaveladze had lunch at Nello located near the intersection of Madison Avenue and East 62nd Street in Manhattan. The topic of the forthcoming meeting was not discussed during lunch, but there was an understanding as to what Veselnitskaya would talk about given her involvement in the civil litigation and her advocacy against the Magnitsky Act.

(U) When they arrived at Trump Tower, the group (now including Rinat Akhmetshin) was met by Rob Goldstone. Samochornov described Goldstone as a short guy who dressed and acted like a cast member from the Sopranos television show. Goldstone escorted the group through security and brought them to the correct floor. While inside Trump Tower, Samochornov saw Ivanka Trump, but did not see Donald Trump. [Agent note: During the interview, Samochornov referred to Goldstone as both Goldstone and Goldstein.]

(U) The meeting attendees were as follows: Donald Trump Jr., Paul Manafort, Jared Kushner, Natalia Veselnitskaya, Anatoli Samochornov, Rinat Akhmetshin, and Irakli Kaveladze. Samochornov could not be certain that Goldstone attended the meeting. Once the meeting began, it lasted for approximately 20 minutes. The topic of discussion was the Magnitsky Act and related issues. Akhmetshin did most of the talking during the meeting. Veselnitskaya spoke for approximately three to four minutes. Kushner left the meeting five to seven minutes after it began. Manafort used his telephone under the table throughout the meeting. Samochornov did not take notes during the meeting because it was not his practice to do so while interpreting.

(U) Samochornov knew Akhmetshin to be involved in public relations and lobbying work. Akhmetshin was brought in to the civil litigation by Baker & Hostetler and its attorney [REDACTED] to do public relations work and research for the case.

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(U) Samochornov could not speak for other occasions, but said there was no discussion about the 2016 United States presidential election or collusion between the Russian government and the Trump Campaign at the

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meeting. There was no smoking gun according to Samochornov. There was not a discussion about "dirt" on Hillary Clinton. Samochornov did not think Hillary Clinton was mentioned by name at the meeting. Samochornov had not heard Veselnitskaya say anything about having "dirt" on Hillary Clinton. Veselnitskaya did not offer any materials during the meeting and no papers were exchanged. Additionally, there was no follow-up to the meeting that Samochornov knows about.

(U) However, during the meeting Veselnitskaya told Donald Trump Jr. and the other meeting attendees that the Ziff brothers were silent partners with William Browder and that the Ziff brothers donated illicit funds to democratic campaigns. Samochornov did not know if the donation(s) were made directly to the Clinton Campaign, the Democratic National Committee, or a political action committee. Once raised, the topic of the donation(s) was dismissed by Manafort. Veselnitskaya learned of the donation(s) through extensive research she had done in connection with her legal representation of individuals involved in the civil litigation. The information about the Ziff brothers was not developed just for the meeting with Donald Trump Jr. Samochornov told the interviewing agents that Veselnitskaya would seek any avenues to advance her cause.

(U) According to Samochornov, Veselnitskaya had misplaced hopes that the meeting attendees would be more receptive to her information. By informing Donald Trump Jr. of the Ziff brothers' donation(s), Samochornov believed Veselnitskaya was attempting to provide information that would be a benefit to both parties and assist with her advocacy against the Magnitsky Act. Samochornov said Veselnitskaya thought the information about the donation(s) could act as a "carrot."

(U) Samochornov was not particularly fond of Donald Trump Jr., but stated Donald Trump Jr.'s account of the meeting with Veselnitskaya, as portrayed in recent media reports, was accurate. Samochornov concurred with Donald Trump Jr.'s accounts of the meeting. He added, "they" were telling the truth. Samochornov told the interviewing agents that he would have contacted the FBI if he thought the meeting was nefarious.

(U) Samochornov was not with Veselnitskaya the days before or after the meeting. Veselnitskaya arrived in the United States on June 7th or 8th. Either before, but likely after the meeting with Donald Trump Jr., Veselnitskaya attended a HRAGIF-related movie screening in Washington, D. C.

(U) Samochornov described Veselnitskaya as a good client. She paid on time and was sympathetic to Samochornov's other commitments. She was outgoing and the two had a friendly relationship. Veselnitskaya had [REDACTED]

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[Redacted]

(U) Samochornov did not think Veselnitskaya was an employee of the Russian government. She was formerly a prosecutor in Moscow and that was where her connections were. Additionally, Veselnitskaya may have had connections to the Russian government through the Prosecutor General of Russia. She also had connections to the Russian government through Denis Katsyv and his father Petr Katsyv. Samochornov believed Petr Katsyv was formerly the Transportation Minister of the Moscow Region.

(U) Samochornov said he did not know exactly who Veselnitskaya was and did not know [Redacted] However, Samochornov said the following factors [Redacted]

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- Samochornov did not discern [Redacted]
- Veselnitskaya was talkative and unguarded with what she said.
- Veselnitskaya appeared to be a working lawyer who lost cases and who had typical problems and issues. There did not appear to be [Redacted]
- Veselnitskaya was involved in litigation in Russia that countered the interests of [Redacted]
- Veselnitskaya invited Samochornov to Moscow in June or July of 2016. In order to travel to Russia Samochornov, still a Russian citizen, was required to wait two months to get his Russian passport renewed.

[Redacted] Samochornov thought, [Redacted]

(U) [Redacted] and he cited this fact as one reason for maintaining his Russian citizenship. Samochornov visited Russia [Redacted]

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[Redacted] and returned to [Redacted] His most recent trip to Russia was in [Redacted] Samochornov accompanied representatives from a law firm associated with the civil litigation to Veselnitskaya's office in suburban Moscow. While there, Samochornov provided translation/interpretation services. When Samochornov arrived in Moscow he did not receive any extra scrutiny by the Russian border guards. Samochornov did not make any trips to Russia between [Redacted]

(U) [Redacted]

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Continuation of FD-302 of (U) Interview of Anatoli Samochornov . On 07/12/2017 . Page 7 of 8

[redacted]

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(U) At the end of the interview, SA [redacted] asked Samochornov if he noticed anything odd with the Russian linguists working at the United Nations or United States Department of State. Initially, Samochornov replied that he had not, but then mentioned a few individuals. Samochornov recalled that he had suspicions about [redacted] [ph] and [redacted] [redacted]. He was also uncertain about [redacted] [discussed above] because [redacted]

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[redacted] Samochornov said [redacted]

the United Nations. Samochornov had not seen anything specifically noteworthy with respect to [redacted]

[redacted] Samochornov also named [redacted] [ph] and [redacted] [ph], but did not elaborate other than to note [redacted]

[redacted] [Agent note: [redacted]]

(U) Samochornov did not think a lack of work for translators /interpreters made them vulnerable, but said perhaps it was different for those with business in Russia.

(U) Referring to Russians, Samochornov said those in power speak English well. Samochornov did not support Vladimir Putin and did what he could to oppose him. Samochornov said that he may have met [redacted]

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(U) Samochornov told the interviewing agents he was besieged by the press. He did not provide the press with comments only to state he had nondisclosure agreements with his clients. Samochornov wanted to know what he should tell the press. The agents concurred with his decision to reference his nondisclosure agreements.

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[Redacted]

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