
From: Kasanof, Alexander <kasanofa@state.gov>
To: K. Kilimnik </o=mex05/ou=exchange
administrative group
(fydiboh23spdlt)/cn=recipients/cn=kkilimnik@dmpint.com35e>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re: FT (print): Trump's 'dark prince' honed skills in Ukraine
Date: Sat Apr 23 2016 21:23:58 EDT
Attachments:

Excellent news on 5/5 - 5/6! I will plan accordingly. Where do you want to do dinner? -S

Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

Original Message

From: K. Kilimnik

Sent: Saturday, April 23, 2016 11:25 AM

To: Kasanof, Alexander

Subject: Re: FT (print): Trump's 'dark prince' honed skills in Ukraine

He is a smart guy. Have to give him credit. And because Rinat fucked him over on Ukraine and failed to pay him (and me) under the contract, Manafort got unchained. So people in the US have to thank Rinat. :))

I have made plans to come to DC on May 5th, and very much look forward to catching up and having a nice dinner with you either on the 5th or 6th.

Heard your boss is coming to town.

Will forward u our exchange with Alan about an issue that I view important.

Please let me know what you think. I do believe we should organize the meeting I am talking about.

K

> 23 апр. 2016 г., в 17:01, Kasanof, Alexander <KasanofA@state.gov> написал(а):

>

> Couldn't help think of you. :) -S

>

> Sent from my BlackBerry 10 smartphone.

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> Financial Times

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> Trump's 'dark prince' honed skills in Ukraine

>

> April 23

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> Adviser trying to rebrand the party frontrunner helped give Yanukovich a makeover

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> COURTNEY WEAVER — WASHINGTON

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> The Donald Trump who greeted supporters in the lobby of Trump Tower on Tuesday night bore little resemblance to the Republican frontrunner of yore.

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- > Atypically gracious and restrained, Mr Trump spoke coherently on jobs and the economy, referred respectfully to his Republican opponents and stuck to his prepared remarks. Gone were the lewd insults or jabs at the press. It was a political makeover like few had seen before — and it bore all the trappings of his new campaign chief, Paul Manafort.
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- > A veteran DC operative who has worked for Gerald Ford and George H W Bush, Mr Manafort, 67, was hired by Mr Trump last month to bring order to the campaign and cement Mr Trump's delegate count, a thorny issue ahead of the Republican National Convention.
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- > Yet Mr Manafort's true gift lies in political resuscitations and rebrandings, say former business associates. During a 40-year career in Washington, he has employed those skills for a cast of — sometimes unsavoury — clients that includes Angola's Jonas Savimbi, the Saudi government and the Philippines' Ferdinand Marcos.
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- > But it is his work with Ukraine's former president, Viktor Yanukovich, that stands out as a particular example of Mr Manafort's talents — and the controversy surrounding their use.
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- > Mr Yanukovich was ousted from power two years ago in a pro-European uprising. During his time in office, he used his power to jail his main political rival and amass a vast fortune.
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- > In an interview with NBC's Meet the Press this month, Mr Manafort described his primary responsibility in Ukraine as helping bring the country closer to the west. "The work I was doing in Ukraine was to help Ukraine get into Europe, and we succeeded," he said.
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- > Yet Mr Yanukovich's critics say the former president hindered Ukraine's integration with the west, running a presidential campaign — guided by Mr Manafort — that exploited ideological divisions between the western part of the country and a pro-Russia east that is now run by separatists.
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- > Daria Kaleniuk, an anti-corruption activist in Kiev, said: "Ukraine is now closer to the EU and looking to the EU not because of Manafort but because of hundreds of thousands of people who stood on [Kiev's] Maidan [square], protested for three months, and the 100 people who died there with the purpose of changing the system."
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- > Mr Yanukovich did in fact complete negotiations with the EU on a groundbreaking integration agreement, though he was often seen as playing Moscow off against Brussels. His decision to withdraw from signing the deal at the very last moment, under pressure from Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, sparked the Maidan protests.
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- > Mr Manafort and the Trump campaign declined repeated interview requests and did not respond to emailed questions. Asked by the FT at a Trump New York primary victory party whether he thought his work in Ukraine would compromise him in any way, Mr Manafort batted away the suggestion.
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- > "No, I don't. I helped bring Ukraine into Europe," he reiterated. In interviews, half a dozen former associates of Mr Manafort in Ukraine provided a more nuanced picture of his work there. It began with lobbying work for Rinat Akhmetov, the Ukrainian oligarch who was looking at business opportunities in the west. The assignment took on a political component after Mr Akhmetov asked Mr Manafort to work on the political rehabilitation of Mr Yanukovich.
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- > A pro-Russia politician, Mr Yanukovich fell from power after the 2004 Orange revolution, which saw his pro-western opponent, Viktor Yushchenko, win the presidency after surviving an assassination attempt. A 2005 diplomatic cable by the then US ambassador to Ukraine, John Herbst, published by WikiLeaks, described the hiring of Mr Manafort as an attempt to change the image of Mr Yanukovich's Party of Regions "from that of a haven for mobsters into that of a legitimate political party" by "tapping into the deep pockets of Donetsk clan godfather Rinat Akhmetov".
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- > Soon after Mr Manafort was hired, Mr Yanukovich underwent a makeover, say observers, adopting a sleek hairstyle and speaking in snappy soundbites.
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- > In 2006, Party of Regions won the parliamentary elections and Mr Yanukovich was reinstated as prime minister. In 2010, he was elected president.
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- > "He brought a political pariah back from death, back from the graveyard," said Brian Mefford, an American political consultant who has advised Mr Yushchenko.
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- > Despite his reputation as a "dark prince", Mr Manafort deserved credit "for softening the rough edges of Yanukovich and consolidating [Ukraine's] pro-Russia vote", Mr Mefford said.
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- > Since his appointment by Mr Trump, Mr Manafort has taken on a visible leadership role in the Republican frontrunner's campaign, filling in for Mr Trump on Sunday talk shows and taking over duties from campaign manager Corey Lewandowski. Mr Manafort has honed the Republican candidate's message to focus on the US electoral process being rigged; reduced Mr Trump's exposure to the media; and tried to sculpt a frontrunner who appears less bombastic and more presidential.
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- > "It's like taking a rough diamond, polishing it and putting it in the right setting," said another former business associate of Mr Manafort in Ukraine.
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- > "You can't change the guy's morality," he continued. "But you can change his reputation."
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- > Additional reporting by Roman Olearchyk in Kiev and Demetri Sevastopulo in New York.
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