

Kremlin says charges over US election tampering prove nothing

MOSCOW (Reuters) - The Kremlin said on Monday that U.S. charges against 13 Russians and several Russian companies accused of meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election campaign contained zero proof of Russian state involvement.

The comments were the Kremlin's first reaction to charges drawn up by the office of U.S. special counsel Robert Mueller which centered on a Russian businessman nicknamed 'Putin's cook' by the Russian media who U.S. officials say has extensive ties to the country's military and political establishment.

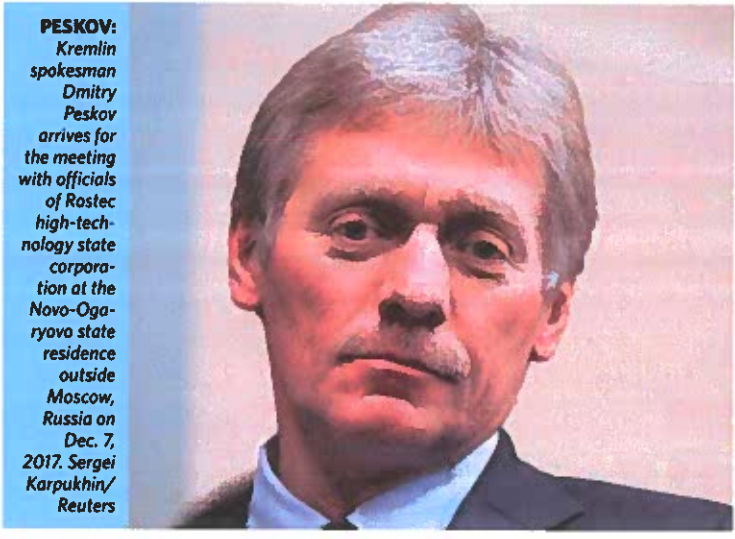
The full indictment, released on Friday, said that a Russian propaganda arm funded by the businessman, Evgeny Prigozhin, oversaw a criminal and espionage conspiracy to tamper in the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign to support Donald Trump and disparage Hillary Clinton.

The charges are awkward for the Kremlin, which is keen to try to build a relationship with Trump in the hope that could eventually lead to U.S. sanctions imposed over its role in Ukraine being lifted.

The election-meddling allegations have soured U.S.-Russia ties further however, triggering new sanctions as well as pressure for more restrictions. Friday's indictment and news that Mueller's investigation is not yet finished mean the issue is likely to dog the troubled relationship for a long time.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Monday that the U.S. indictment centered purely on individuals and presented no tangible proof that the Kremlin or Russian government agencies were involved.

"They (the Americans) are talking about Russian citizens, but we have heard in announcements from Washington accusations about the involvement of the Russian state, the Kremlin and the Russian government," Peskov



PESKOV: Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov arrives for the meeting with officials of Rostec high-tech state corporation at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence outside Moscow, Russia on Dec. 7, 2017. Sergei Karpukhin/Reuters

told reporters on a conference call.

"There are no indications that the Russian state could have been involved in this and nor can there be any. Russia did not meddle, does not have the habit of meddling in the internal affairs of other countries, and is not doing so now."

'Putin's cook'

The U.S. indictment of Prigozhin, nicknamed 'Putin's cook' because of his catering business that has organized banquets for the Russian leader and other senior political figures, is uncomfortable for the Kremlin.

Prigozhin, 56, has boasted of meeting Putin, and of the Russian leader being impressed with his business acumen. The Kremlin did not refer to Prigozhin by name in its Monday comments.

The U.S. Treasury had sanctioned Prigozhin previously, in 2016, for providing material support to senior Russian government officials, saying he has extensive business dealings with the Russian Defence Ministry.

Friday's indictment accused him of funding the St. Petersburg-based Internet Research Agency, known for

its trolling on social media.

Companies which he directly or indirectly owns or controls are listed in an official corporate database as having won lucrative state contracts for the Russian presidential administration, parliament, and the defense ministry.

His biggest business appears to be supplying food to state-run schools and universities. One of the firms he owns and manages won contracts in that sector worth 459,467,464,056 rubles (\$8.15 billion) between 2011-2017, the same database shows.

Prigozhin did not respond to a request for comment sent via his companies on Monday. On Friday, the RIA news agency cited him as saying he was unfazed by the indictment.

"The Americans are very emotional people, they see what they want to see. I have great respect for them. If they want to see the devil, let them," RIA quoted him as saying.

The Kremlin has repeatedly denied it tried to influence the 2016 election, casting such allegations as part of an anti-Russian campaign in the U.S. which it says is primarily designed to hurt Trump politically.

Bombing kills 94 in eastern Ghouta

BEIRUT (Reuters) - A surge in attacks by the Syrian government and its allies killed 94 people in the rebel pocket of eastern Ghouta in the space of 24 hours, a war monitoring group said on Monday.

Air strikes, rocket fire and shelling on the besieged suburbs of Damascus also wounded another 325 people, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

There was no comment from the Syrian military. The Damascus government says it only targets militants.

Factions in Ghouta fired mortars at districts of Damascus, killing a child and wounding eight others, Syrian state media said. Troops and allied forces struck militant targets there in response, the state news agency SANA said.

The United Nations says nearly 400,000 people live in eastern Ghouta, a pocket of satellite towns and farms under government siege since 2013.

Panos Moutmtzis, UN regional coordinator for the Syria crisis, said an "extreme escalation in hostilities" had killed at least 40 civilians and injured more than 150 on Monday.

"The humanitarian situation of civilians in East Ghouta is spiraling out of control," he said in a statement. "Many residents have little choice but to take shelter in basements and underground bunkers with their children."

The British-based Observatory said the latest escalation started on Sunday, and the dead included 18 children.

The local civil defence group said warplanes and artillery had pounded Saqba, Jisreen and other towns. The rescue service, which operates in rebel territory, said strikes killed 20 people and wounded dozens in the town of Hammouriyeh alone on Monday.

GUAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA), a public corporation, will be holding its Regular Board of Directors meeting on **Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.** in the GEDA conference room located in Suite 511, 5th Floor, International Trade Center (ITC) Building, 590 South Marine Corps Drive, Tamuning, Guam.

Persons requiring special accommodations should contact GEDA's ADA coordinator, Mrs. Gloria Molo, at 647 4332 or gmolo@investguam.com.

/s/ Jay Rojas
Administrator

This ad was paid for with GEDA's General Fund

590 S. Marine Corps Dr. Suite 511 ITC Building Tamuning, GUAM 96913 | T 671.447.4332 F 671.649.4146 www.investguam.com

R
RETIREMENT FUND

424 Route 8 • Maite, Guam 96910
Tel.: 671.475.8900/01 • Fax: 671.475.8922

PUBLIC NOTICE

For: Regular Board Meeting
Date: Friday, February 23, 2018
Time: 12:00 noon
Place: GGRF Conference Room

Agenda will be made available prior to the meeting. For individuals requiring special accommodations, please contact 475-8900/01.

/s/ Paula M. Blas, Director

This ad is paid with retirement funds by GGRF

GUAM BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY

Regular Session Meeting,
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 9:00 AM
at Terlaje Professional Building, 194
Hernan Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 209
Health Professional Licensing Office Board
Conference Room, Hagatna, Guam.

For more information please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATES	Keep posted and get more data and details online. Log on to see real time market data with our stock market tool at postguam.com/stock_market .						
On Feb. 23, \$1 was worth:	51.858 PHPP	106.96 JPY	1,079.25 KRWW	29.258 TWD NTS	6.3419 CNY	1.2782 AUD A\$	0.8128 EUR €

Delta, United cut marketing ties to NRA

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Delta Air Lines and United Airlines on Saturday became the latest major corporations to sever marketing ties with the National Rifle Association as the fallout from last week's massacre at a Florida high school took its toll on the gun advocacy group.

The exodus of corporate names, ranging from a major insurer to car rental brands and a household moving company, began after the NRA launched a counteroffensive against a student-led campaign for tighter U.S. gun laws.

The NRA responded by saying its members were being punished, but would not be intimidated, by what it called "a shameful display of political and civic cowardice" from some corporations.

In tweets on Saturday, Delta and United said they were no longer offering NRA members discounted rates and they would ask the NRA to remove their information from its website.

The issue of gun control, and the NRA's role in opposing it, became the focus of renewed national debate after a former student killed 17 people on



SEVERING TIES: A United Airlines plane takes off from Zurich airport on Jan. 9, 2018. The airline announced it was no longer offering National Rifle Association members discounted rates. Reuters file photo

Feb. 14 at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in the Fort Lauderdale suburb of Parkland, using an AR-15 assault rifle he had purchased legally.

NRA spokespeople have lashed out at gun control advocates, arguing that Democratic elites are politicizing the deadly rampage in Florida to erode gun owners' rights.

In a statement on Saturday, the NRA said its more than 5 million law-abiding members had nothing to do with the failures of school security, the

mental health system, or both local and federal law enforcement that it said had caused the tragedy.

"Despite that, some corporations have decided to punish NRA membership in a shameful display of political and civic cowardice," the statement said. "In time, these brands will be replaced by others who recognize that patriotism and determined commitment to Constitutional freedoms are characteristics of a marketplace they very much want to serve."

Domino's is world's biggest pizza chain

(Detroit Free Press) — Domino's Pizza claimed the title of largest pizza company in the world this week, passing Pizza Hut. The company, in its fourth-quarter earnings report, said its self-proclaimed No. 1 ranking is based on global retail sales.

Ann Arbor, Michigan-based Domino's edged out Pizza Hut of Plano, Texas, which had been the largest pizza chain, with \$12.2 billion in global sales for 2017. Pizza Hut - which is part of Louisville, Ky.-based Yum Brands as are Taco Bell and KFC - had sales of \$12.03 billion.

In the past few years, the brand has touted digital innovation, such as apps to track orders and testing driverless pizza delivery. Meanwhile, Pizza Hut, analysts said, has been losing younger customers.

Domino's reported the company reported a \$277.9 million profit for its 2017 fiscal year.

In fiscal 2017, the company said, it opened 1,045 stores, of which 216 were in the U.S. and 829 were international stores.

Domino's started small in 1960 with one store in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Back then, it was called Dominick's. Brothers Tom and James Monaghan bought it for \$500 and renamed it. There are now more than 14,400 Domino's stores around the world.

J. Patrick Doyle, who has led Domino's as president and CEO for eight years, announced this year that he is stepping down in June. He will be replaced by Richard Allison, president of Domino's International. At the time, he said he wanted Domino's to be the top pizza company in the world.



Paradise Premium Fitness marks anniversary

TUMON: The dance floor is filled with new students and the launch of the Polynesian Fit Class held at the Paradise Premium Fitness location in Tumon. This location is celebrating its one-year anniversary since opening.
David Castro/The Guam Daily Post

Guam Memorial Hospital Authority
Aturidat Espetat Mimuriat Guahan
850 Governor Carlos G. Camacho Road
Tamuning, Guam 96913

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2018
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: 1st Floor, Daniel L. Webb Conference Room

You may contact Toni Tenorio at 647-2218, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or other services.

/s/ Peter John D. Camacho, M.P.H.
Hospital Administrator/CEO

This advertisement was paid for with government funds

GUAM BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY

Regular Session Meeting,
Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 9:00 AM
at Terlaje Professional Building, 194
Hernan Cortez Avenue, 2nd Floor, Suite 209
Health Professional Licensing Office Board
Conference Room, Hagatna, Guam.

For more information please contact the Board office at 735-7405 thru 12. Persons with disabilities needing special accommodations may call Jimmy Sian at 735-7172 or the telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) at 649-1801. Executive meeting may be called if necessary.

Get results
in our

CLASSIFIEDS

THE GUAM DAILY POST

Call (671) 649-1924
Fax: (671) 648-2007
Email: advertise@postguam.com

