

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1309

July 10, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to request information on the disturbing press reports asserting that our Nation's Intelligence Community (IC) may have assessed that Unit 29155 of the Russian military intelligence service (GRU) – a unit previously tied in public reporting to other violent activities including the poisoning and attempted assassination of Sergei Skripal – has reportedly been offering bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing U.S. servicemembers deployed to Afghanistan. Further, public reporting indicates that your Administration may have been informed of this alleged intelligence as early as February 2020 but took no action to punish Russia in response.

Beyond the numerous public reports alleging that you authorized no action based on the alleged intelligence, your administration does not dispute that you have indeed not directed any new actions to send Russia a message that such provocations will not go unpunished. According to reports, you did not even send a diplomatic request demanding that Russia stop offering bounty payments for killing U.S. troops following a March 2020 interagency meeting where a menu of policy responses to Russian aggression was proposed.

In fact, you appeared to offer aid and sympathy to Russia by writing on Twitter on June 29, 2020: “Intel just reported to me that they did not find this info credible, and therefore did not report it to me or @VP. Possibly another fabricated Russia Hoax, maybe by the Fake News @nytimesbooks, wanting to make Republicans look bad!!!”

There can be no higher national security priority than the protection of our Armed Forces abroad, and the people's representatives in Congress need to know what is going on here. Accordingly, we request the following no later than Friday, July 17, 2020:

1. An immediate opportunity for Members of Congress to review any relevant President's Daily Brief (PDB) including, but not limited to, the PDBs from February 2020 that public reports allege addressed this matter;
2. That you direct members of your administration – including the Secretary of Defense, Secretary of State, Director of National Intelligence, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Commander of U.S. Forces-Afghanistan and the Resolute Support Mission – to immediately make themselves available to testify on these alarming public reports and transparently detail what steps, if any, were taken to address alleged intelligence indicating that the Russian GRU was offering bounties for killing U.S. servicemembers; and

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3. That you provide to Congress all documentation related to National Security Council (NSC) meetings, including but not limited to meeting notes, memoranda, slides, policy papers, talking points and as well as direct NSC staff to make themselves available for interviews on this matter with relevant Congressional committees.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

/S/
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/S/
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/S/
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/S/
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

/S/
Tina Smith
United States Senator

/S/
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/S/
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/S/
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

/S/
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/S/
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator