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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Electronic Communication

Title: (U) Opening EC

Date: 07/25/2017

From: COUNTERINTELLIGENCE
D5-REIT

Contact: [Redacted]

Approved By: [Redacted]
STRZOK PETER P II

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Drafted By: [Redacted]

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Case ID #: [Redacted] (U) ROGER J. STONE, JR.;
FOREIGN AGENTS REGISTRATION ACT;
SENSITIVE INVESTIGATIVE MATTER

Synopsis: (U) To open a Full Investigation into ROGER J. STONE JR.

~~Reason: 1.4(b)
Derived From: FBI NSISC-
20090615
Declassify On: 20421231~~

Full Investigation Initiated: 07/25/2017

Details:


(U) In accordance with DIOG Section 7.5, FBI-SM is opening the following Full Investigation because there is an articulable factual basis which reasonably indicates that an activity constituting a federal crime or threat to the national security has or may have occurred, is or may be occurring, or will or may occur and the investigation may obtain information relating to the activity or involvement of the captioned subject.

~~(U) (S//NF)~~ By way of background, on July 31, 2016, FBI-HQ opened CROSSFIRE HURRICANE to investigate the Russian Government's efforts to

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interfere in the 2016 presidential election, to include investigating the nature of any links between individuals associated with the Donald J. Trump Presidential Campaign and the Russian Government, and whether there was any coordination between the Campaign and Russia's efforts.

(U) On May 17, 2017, Deputy Attorney General of the United States, Rod J. Rosenstein, serving in the capacity of Acting Attorney General of the United States for matters dealing with Russian interference in the 2016 US Presidential Election, appointed Robert S. Mueller III as Special Counsel for the United States Department of Justice. Consistent with Order Number 3915-2017, the Special Counsel's duly authorized remit includes the investigation of the Russian government's efforts to interfere in the 2016 US Presidential Election; any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald J. Trump; any matters that arose or may arise from the investigation; and any other matters within the scope of 28 C.F.R. § 600.4(a).

BACKGROUND

(U) Specifically, the FBI is investigating Roger J. Stone Jr. in connection with his activities related to the unauthorized access of computer data belonging to the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the unauthorized transmittal and disclosure of the data to persons not entitled to receive it. Specifically, and as discussed below, Stone is a self-employed political strategist/consultant and has been involved in U.S. politics since 1964. Stone worked on then presidential candidate Donald Trump's campaign until he was fired in August 2015. Although Stone had no official relationship with the Trump campaign thereafter, Stone maintained his support for Trump and continued to make media appearances in favor of Trump's presidential campaign. As part of his advocacy in favor of Trump, Stone has made a number of public references to Wikileaks and its release of DNC-related emails. Stone also stated that he was in touch via an intermediary with Julian Assange, the founder of Wikileaks. Stone has also stated that he was in contact via Twitter with a user named "Guccifer 2.0," an entity

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which has publicly taken credit for the hacking of the Democratic National Convention (DNC) computers and subsequent exfiltration and release of data.

CYBER INTRUSION

(U) According to the Intelligence Community Assessment (ICA), *Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent US Elections* (ICA 2017-01D, dated 6 January 2017), "The General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate (GRU) probably began cyber operations aimed at the U.S. election by March 2016. [The FBI/CIA/NSA] assess that the GRU operations resulted in the compromise of the personal e-mail accounts of Democratic Party officials and political figures. By May, the GRU had exfiltrated large volumes of data from the DNC."

(U) The FBI/CIA/NSA further "assess with high confidence that the GRU used the Guccifer 2.0 persona, DCLeaks.com, and Wikileaks to release U.S. victim data obtained in cyber operations publicly and in exclusives to media outlets. Guccifer 2.0, who claimed to be an independent Romanian hacker, made multiple contradictory statements and false claims about his likely Russian identity throughout the election. Press reporting suggests more than one person claiming to be Guccifer 2.0 interacted with journalists."

WIKILEAKS

(U) On August 8, 2016, Stone addressed the Southwest Broward Republican Organization. During his speech, he was asked about a statement by Wikileaks founder Julian Assange to Russia Today (RT) two days earlier about an upcoming "October Surprise" aimed at the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign. Specifically, Stone was asked: "With regard to the October surprise, what would be your forecast on that given what Julian Assange has intimated he's going to do?" Stone responded: "Well, it could be a number of things. I actually have communicated with Assange. I believe the next tranche of his documents pertain to the Clinton Foundation but there's no telling what the October surprise may be." A few days later, Stone clarified that while

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he was not personally in touch with Assange, he had a close friend who served as an intermediary.

(U) On August 12, 2016, Guccifer 2.0 publicly tweeted, "@RogerJStoneJr thanks that u believe in the real #Guccifer2." On August 17, 2016, Guccifer 2.0 publicly tweeted, "@RogerJStoneJr paying you back."

(U) In a C-SPAN interview on August 21, 2016, Stone reiterated that because of the work of a "'mutual acquaintance' of both his and [Assange], the public [could] expect to see much more from the exiled whistleblower in the form of strategically-dumped Clinton email batches." He added: "Well, first of all, I think Julian Assange is a hero... I think he's taking on the deep state, both Republican and Democrat. I believe that he is in possession of all of those emails that Huma Abedin and Cheryl Mills, the Clinton aides, believe they deleted. That and a lot more. These are like the Watergate tapes." On the same day via Twitter, using @RogerJStoneJr, Stone directed a tweet at John Podesta, Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign manager, stating: "Trust me, it will soon be the Podesta's time in the barrel. #CrookedHillary."

(U) Stone's highlighting of [REDACTED] on C-SPAN and Twitter came just days after the resignation of Paul Manafort, Trump's campaign chairman and Stone's longtime friend and associate. Contemporary press reports at the time indicated that Manafort had been involved in using Washington D.C.-based lobbying firms to influence U.S. policy toward the Ukraine, including Podesta's brother's lobbying company, the Podesta Group. At the same time, contemporary press reports also indicated the FBI and U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ) were investigating Manafort for potential violations of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), and Breitbart News also stated that FBI and USDOJ were launching a related probe into the Podesta Group.

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(U) On September 16, 2016, Stone said in a radio interview with Boston Herald Radio that he expected Wikileaks to "drop a payload of

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new documents on a weekly basis fairly soon. And that of course will answer the question of exactly what was erased on that email server." On October 1, 2016, Stone Tweeted, "Wednesday @ HillaryClinton is done. #Wikileaks."

(U) On October 2, 2016, [Redacted] tweeted regarding an announcement Julian Assange's had scheduled for the next day from the balcony of the Ecuadoran Embassy in London. Stone commented on [Redacted] Tweet using his own Twitter account and further stated concerning the anticipated impact of the announcement on the Clinton campaign: "Wednesday @HillaryClinton is done. #Wikileaks." On the day of the Assange announcement - which was part of Wikileaks' 10-year anniversary celebration -- Stone told Infowars that his intermediary described this release as the "mother load." On October 4, 2016, Stone tweeted: "Payload coming. #Lockthemup."

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(U) Beginning on October 7, 2016, Wikileaks began a sustained release of John Podesta's hacked emails, which continued throughout the week of October 10-14, 2016. Following the release of Podesta emails on October 12, 2016, Podesta - referring back to Stone's August 21, 2016 C-SPAN and Twitter references - argued publicly that "[it is] a reasonable assumption to-or at least a reasonable conclusion- that [Stone] had advanced warning [of the release of his emails] and the Trump campaign had advanced warning about what Assange was going to do. I think there's at least a reasonable belief that [Assange] may have passed this information on to [Stone]." Commenting to the Miami Herald, Stone responded to Podesta's claim, as did Wikileaks. In particular, Stone stated "I have never met or spoken with Assange, we have a mutual friend who's traveled to London several times, and everything I know is through that channel of communications. I'm not implying I have any influence with him or that I have advanced knowledge of the specifics of what he is going to do. I do believe he has all of the e-mails that [Redacted] [Redacted] thought were deleted. I hear that through my emissary."

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GUCCIFER 2.0

(U) On March 10, 2017, Stone spoke with The Washington Times and acknowledged he had been in contact with Guccifer 2.0, an entity who publicly claimed credit for hacking the Democratic National Committee's (DNC) servers and Podesta's emails. The Democratic National Committee headquarters is located at 430 South Capitol Street SE, Washington, D.C., 20003. Stone publicly stated that he had been in contact with Guccifer 2.0 regarding the DNC hack, and that he had used Twitter direct message (DM) to do so. Stone provided a copy of the DM to The Washington Times. The Washington Times provided the following overview of the DM exchange between Stone and Guccifer 2.0:

- (U) Stone DM'ed Guccifer and stated he was "delighted" to see the user's Twitter handle reinstated after having been suspended (August 14, 2016).
- (U) Stone sent a DM asking Guccifer to retweet an article he had written regarding the 'rigg[ing]' of the 2016 presidential elections (August 16, 2016);
- (U) Guccifer replied to Stone stating: "wow. thank u for writing back, and thank u for an article about me!!! did you find anything interesting in the docs I posted";
- (U) Guccifer sent a DM to Stone stating "i'm pleased to say u r great man. please tell me if I can help u anyhow. it would be a great pleasure to me." (August 17, 2016).

~~(U) (S//NF)~~ Accordingly, FBI-SM assesses the actions of the captioned subject as discussed above are relevant to the CROSSFIRE HURRICANE investigation, as well as the investigative authorities appointed to the Special Counsel.

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