

WORLD NEWS

Putin knew Hillary Clinton had physical, ‘psycho-emotional’ problems — but kept it quiet during 2016 campaign: Gabbard

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WASHINGTON — Russian intelligence obtained damaging information about former Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton's health amid her 2016 presidential campaign** — including evidence that she had “psycho-emotional problems” that were being treated with severe sedatives — but **Vladimir Putin** chose not to release it before that year's election because he thought the Democrat would win.

The astounding revelations were contained in a Sept. 18, 2020, House Intelligence Committee report that reviewed Russia's influence on the 2016 contest and was declassified and made public Wednesday by Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard.

Russia's foreign intelligence service, the SVR, “possessed DNC communications that Clinton was suffering from ‘intensified psycho-emotional problems, including uncontrolled fits of anger, aggression. and cheerfulness,’” stated the report, which the committee based on 20 interviews with intelligence officers and FBI agents, as well as a review of source material for the 2017 Obama-ordered report on Russian election meddling.



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A 2020 House Intelligence Committee report detailing Russia's knowledge of damaging information about Hillary Clinton's health amid the 2016 presidential election was released Wednesday.

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“Clinton was placed on a daily regimen of ‘heavy tranquilizers’ and while afraid of losing, she remained ‘obsessed with a thirst for power.’”

By September 2016, some of those communications showed then-President Barack Obama and Democratic party bosses found the state of Clinton’s health “extraordinarily alarming” and fretted that it could have a “serious negative impact” on her ability to beat Trump that November.

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Clinton, now 77, was apparently suffering from “Type 2 diabetes, Ischemic heart disease, deep vein thrombosis, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease” at the time.



Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump at the final presidential debate.

Getty Images

A full picture of the former first lady's condition was guarded by Clinton advisers with the "strictest secrecy."

The SVR also "possessed a campaign email discussing a plan approved by Secretary Clinton to link Putin and Russian hackers to candidate Trump in order to 'distract the [American] public' from the Clinton email server scandal."

Tulsi Gabbard's Russiagate claims

Tulsi Gabbard's claims of election interference focus on the controversial 2017 Intelligence Community Assessment, which President Barack Obama ordered his intel chiefs to compile.

The report fueled the Russiagate investigations against President Trump. Gabbard alleges it amounted to a political hit job, claiming Obama officials knowingly used shaky intel and then lied about it.

Gabbard's new claims are based on a 2020 House Intelligence Committee report, which she has publicly released. Its findings differ in some key ways from both the Obama report and a previously released Senate Intelligence Committee report.

Democrats, however, point to the Senate report, which was backed by then-Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Fla.) — now Trump's secretary of state. That supports some of the findings of the Obama report.

Here are the biggest points — and what the dueling intel reports say:

The Steele dossier

The House report contradicts the claims of Obama officials that they never relied on the discredited Steele dossier — which was compiled by Hillary Clinton's campaign — as part of the Russiagate investigation.

In a 2017 House hearing, Obama CIA **Director John Brennan** denied that his agency used the Steele dossier for intelligence assessments.

However, the full Steele dossier was still included as an attachment to the Obama intel report, the newly public House report found.

Additionally, according to the House report, Brennan, FBI Director James Comey and Deputy Director Andrew McCabe pushed to use the Steele dossier for the Obama intel report.

Senior intel officials also confronted Brennan about the legitimacy of the Steele dossier, the House report said, but he shrugged it off. Brennan's response was reportedly, "Yes, but doesn't it ring true?"

The Senate investigation found that the Steele dossier was not used as part of the Obama intel report.

Obama's involvement

Gabbard claimed Wednesday that Obama ordered the creation of the 2017 intel report and suggested it "was subject to unusual directives directly from the president and senior political appointees." She added: "Obama directed an intelligence community assessment to be created, to further this contrived false narrative that ultimately led to a year-long coup to try to undermine President Trump's presidency."

The 2020 Senate intel report confirmed that Obama ordered the report to be drafted, but did not comment on the political motivations.

Obama said that "the bizarre allegations are ridiculous and a weak attempt at distraction."

Did Putin want Trump to win?

The Obama report said that "Russia's goals were to undermine public faith in the US democratic process, denigrate Secretary Clinton, and harm her electability" and that Putin had a "clear preference for President-elect Trump."

But the House report contradicted this, saying that Putin's "principal motivations in these operations were to undermine faith in the US democratic process." The Russian strongman also seemed to expect Clinton to win, and held back on "some compromising material for post-election use against the expected Clinton administration."

The Senate report said lawmakers were given “specific intelligence reporting to support the assessment that Putin and the Russian Government demonstrated a **preference for candidate Trump**.”

Did Russia alter the 2016 election?

To buttress her claims that the Obama intel report was political interference, she highlighted the findings of multiple intelligence agencies that Russia “had neither the intent nor capability to impact the outcome of the US election.”

On this, all three reports are in agreement.

The report even found that the Russians concealed details about Clinton shaking down religious organizations for campaign donations by pledging more favorable treatment by a future Democratic State Department.

“[D]ocuments leaked during the election were far less damaging to Secretary Clinton than those Putin chose not to leak,” the report determined.

The compromising information was obtained via Putin-ordered hacking operations that targeted the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee. Some of the DNC emails were **published by Wikileaks that fall**, as were messages from the account of John Podesta, Clinton’s campaign chairman.



Former CIA Director John Brennan “mischaracterized intelligence,” Gabbard alleges.

REUTERS

“The report goes into great detail about the information that Russia and Putin had on Hillary Clinton, which included possible criminal acts,” Gabbard told reporters Wednesday during a White House briefing.

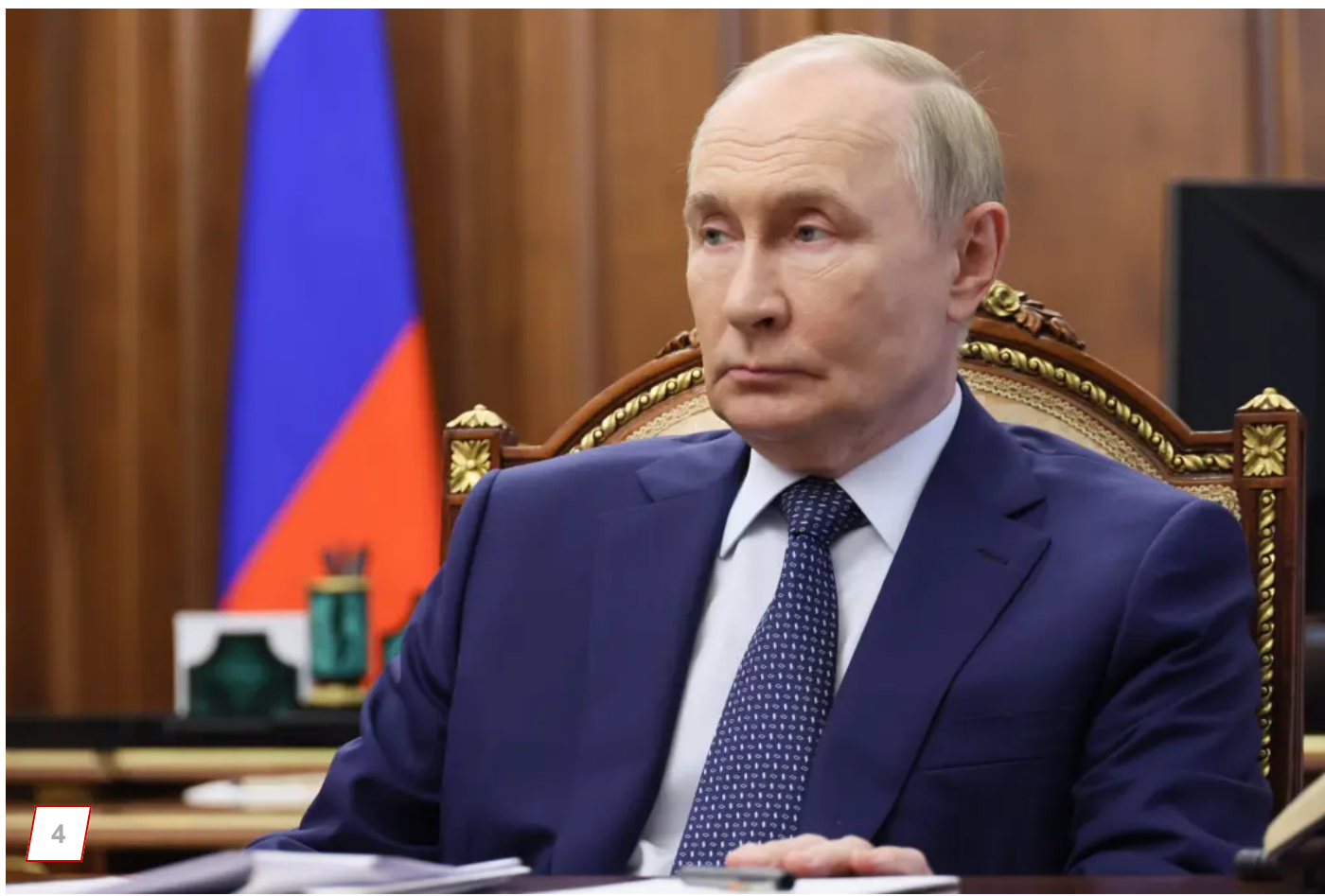
In the 44-page document, buried intelligence points to Putin not having a preference for who would win the 2016 election — despite then-CIA Director John Brennan pushing for the inclusion of since-debunked details from the Steele dossier suggesting Russia’s leader favored Trump because he may have been able to blackmail him.

“Brennan and the Intelligence Community mischaracterized intelligence and relied on dubious,

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Putin chose not to release this information as he believed Hillary would win the 2016 election.

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The report was initiated by former House Intelligence Committee chairman Devin Nunes (R-Calif.) and handed over to the CIA, ODNI and White House by current chair Rick Crawford (R-Ark.) in March.

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“The Russia hoax will go down as one of the most troublesome event[s] in U.S. history,” Crawford said in a statement. “A President of the United States was falsely accused, and a nation had to endure lies fabricated by rogue personnel within their own Intelligence Community.

“To this day, our country is more polarized than ever before, and the Russia hoax played a role in that. There are still Americans who passionately believe the fabricated narrative. That is why releasing this document to the public has been so important.”

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Crawford added that he and Nunes had to endure “untold levels of obstruction by the CIA” to ultimately release the information to the public.

Reps for Clinton did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

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There is no doubt that Russia wanted to cause problems and weaken the US by having one side or the other question the results and he succeeded with the help of Brennan and others. As to Clinton's health, mental or otherwise at the time, who cares. What is more important is to make sure intelligence...

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