

## Republican Perspective

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by Ed Manning

### THE DEEP STATE STRIKES BACK

*"It is up to the government to keep the government's secrets." Robert Novak, Journalist*

Andrew McCarthy is the former Federal prosecutor that led the investigation against the blind Sheik Rahman and others for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Tower. He currently writes a legal blog as well as articles for the National Review.

Mr. McCarthy asks why the FBI was investigating President Trump's former National Security Advisor, retired General Mike Flynn? In order for the FBI to launch an investigation there must be good faith suspicion that (a) a federal crime has been committed, (b) there is a threat to America's national security, or (c) there is an opportunity to collect foreign intelligence relevant to a priority established by the Executive branch.

The Washington Post first reported General Flynn's telephone call with Russia's ambassador on January 12th. It said it got its information from "a senior U.S. government official." Conjecture has it that this information came from the FBI's national security branch. Most of their work is done in secret and never intended to become public information.

We know that the Democrats are apoplectic over Mr. Trump's win and believe his victory was because Russia "hacked the election." There is no doubt that Russia hacked the Democratic National Committee's emails but there is no evidence that Russians tampered ballots.

The FBI was monitoring the phone calls of the Russian ambassador. This is logical since he is a foreign agent. What is illogical is that the FBI's practice is to keep the identities confidential. Mr. McCarthy asks why was General Flynn singled out for identification and for investigation? The Foreign Intelligence Security Act (FISA) created a special Federal court to grant applications from usually the National Security Agency and the FBI - an expedited system of approving individualized warrants for foreign surveillance of specified individuals. Intercepts of FISA approved surveillance are classified and disclosing them to the media is a crime.

We now learn that in June 2016, the Obama Justice Department's application was denied by a FISA court to conduct a national security investigation against Trump insiders on suspicion that they were acting as agents of a foreign power. Trump himself was named on the application. Not to be deterred, the Obama Justice Department again submitted a second application in October 2016. The FISA court granted this investigation since it apparently did not name Trump as a target.

The Washington Free Beacon reports Flynn's resignation was the culmination of a secret, months-long campaign by former Obama administration confidantes to handicap President Donald Trump's national security apparatus and preserve the nuclear deal with Iran. This accusation came from multiple sources in and out of the White House who described a behind-the-scenes effort by these officials to plant a series of damaging stories about Flynn in the national media.

The former Obama administration insiders were afraid that General Flynn would make public secret agreements tied to the Iranian nuclear deal. These secret agreements would lay bare the claim that the nuclear deal was in the best interests of the U.S. Flynn was one of Obama's strongest critics after he was forced out of Obama's Defense Intelligence Agency.

Both the New York Times and Washington Post reported that the transcript of General Flynn's phone call with the Russian ambassador could be read different ways. Bloomberg reported that one White House official with knowledge of the conversations said that the Russian ambassador raised the sanctions to General Flynn and that he responded that the Trump team would be taking office in a few weeks and would review Russia policy and sanctions. Bloomberg went on to say that's neither illegal nor improper.

Mr. McCarthy writes: "For now, the so-called deep state — the intelligence operatives and highly placed officials who run the United States government because they have the power to ruin their opposition — would apparently prefer that we not hear the tape. Many of them are Obama functionaries who are content to shape opinion by leaking their edited version of events to media allies."

Representative Devin Nunes, the Republican chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, said that this will not end. "First it's Flynn, next it will be Kellyanne Conway, then it will be Steve Bannon, then it will be Reince Priebus," he said.

Make no mistake that for Progressives and the radical Left, General Flynn is only the appetizer. Trump is the entree. The President should order the release of the General Flynn tape. The longer President Trump allows former Obama administration officials to enjoy federal employment, he can expect leaks, "fake news" and sabotage.