

## Letter to the Editor

Written by Gallupsun Staff  
Friday, 20 July 2018 04:04

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Editor,

Friday the thirteenth was a day to be reckoned with by 12 Russian *Glavnoye razvedyvatel'noye upravleniye* (GRU) officers of the foreign [military intelligence](#) agency of the [General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation](#), three days before the meeting between U.S. president Donald Trump and Russian president Vladimir Putin, a former Komitet gosudarstvennoy bezopasnosti (KGB) master spy.

The 12 Russian intelligence officers and three corporations were indicted by Special Counsel Robert Mueller for crimes related to hacking and publicly releasing Democrats' emails, as part of an effort to interfere with the 2016 presidential campaign in which Hillary Clinton was handed a defeat in her bid for the presidency in the face of garnering almost 2.9 million more votes than Trump with 65,844,954 (48.2%) to his 62,979,879 (46.1%), according to revised and certified final election results from all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

To date, 32 individuals and the three companies have now either been indicted or have pleaded guilty as part of Mueller's probe of possible election meddling. The Russian fronts— "Guccifer 2.0," and the "DCLeaks website" — are alleged to have been created and controlled by GRU officers. Candidates from the Democratic party are also alleged to become targets of hacking by Russian political operatives in the upcoming mid-term elections in November with more surveillance and interference expected in spite of the Trump/Putin meeting.

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Another concern that will not likely be on the Trump/Putin table will be the forcible seizure of the Ukrainian territory of Crimea by Russia and the subsequent human rights abuses and the Russian military presence in Syria.

At a recent North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting in Brussels, Trump called NATO, the European Union and the American media, "The Enemy of the People", even after the U.S. Senate voted (97 to 2) on July 11<sup>th</sup> to fully support NATO, while at the same time Trump legitimizes American historical enemies who have not ever advocated for Democratic values that we hold dear. The undermining of this alliance is Putin's dream come true and Russia does not have to speak one word while Trump condemns the Mueller probe of his collusion with Russia in the 2016 election.

NATO was created to counter the terror of Nazism and to prevent another European war and has been called "The House we built in Europe" by America; Trump, it appears, is intent on destroying a \$19 Trillion investment that is very important to the peace and prosperity of nations world-wide. The Trump withdrawal from the Paris Peace Accord, his sole sabotage of the recent G-7 Summit in Canada and his constant insults toward our allies is a part of his incoherent strategy as much as his meeting with Vladimir Putin, a lucky day for the Republican party in these matters of national security.