

UNCLASSIFIED – HPSCI MINORITY

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: HPSCI Minority Staff
DATE: Wednesday, November 1, 2017
SUBJECT: HPSCI Minority Exhibits During Open Hearing

***** The exhibits laid out in this document are EMBARGOED for delivery during the open hearing. They cannot be posted, used in broadcast, or described until the ads and exhibits are either entered into the record or they are shown by one of the HPSCI Minority Members. By accepting this document, you are agreeing to these terms and will respect the embargo. Exhibits A and B will be put into the record during Schiff's question time, and are embargoed until that point. *****

As part of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's open hearing with social media companies on November 1, 2017, the HPSCI Minority plans to enter into the record as exhibits a representative sampling of advertisements and other content that Facebook (including Instagram) and Twitter have tied to Russian actors and turned over to the Committee. HPSCI Minority will also submit as an exhibit all of the user account handles that Twitter has identified as being tied to Russia's "Internet Research Agency."

While HPSCI is continuing to work with the social media companies to scrub personally identifiable information (PII) in the goal of releasing all advertisements and content identified by the companies and turned over the Committee, during today's hearing, HPSCI Minority members will make a representative sampling available to the public and researchers, in an effort to further public awareness of and facilitate research on the information so far uncovered by the companies.

The January 2017 unclassified Intelligence Community Assessment (ICA) anticipated what the social media companies have only recently begun to uncover.

The ICA assessed that "*Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the US presidential election. Russia's goals were to undermine public faith in the US democratic process, denigrate Secretary Clinton, and harm her electability and potential presidency.*" The ICA further assessed that "*Putin and the Russian Government developed a clear preference for President-elect Trump.*" Putin and the Russian government, the ICA explained, "*aspired to help President-elect Trump's election chances when possible by discrediting Secretary Clinton and publicly contrasting her unfavorably to him.*"

The tools to carry out this covert operation were multifaceted: "*Moscow's influence campaign followed a Russian messaging strategy that blends covert intelligence operations—such as cyber activity—with overt efforts by Russian Government agencies, state-funded media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social media users or "trolls."*"

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Facebook, Twitter, and Google’s initial findings, based on their forensic examinations to date, bolster the ICA’s assessments and significantly enrich our understanding of how and to what extent Russia exploited these platforms in service of this political objective.

According to information turned over to the Committee by Facebook, Twitter and Google derived from their initial investigations into the Russian use of their platforms during the election, the reach was wide. Since each company’s forensic examinations are ongoing and have yet to cut across platforms, their initial findings may well be just the tip of the iceberg:

Facebook (*June 2015-August 2017*)

Advertisements Purchased By Russian Internet Research Agency (IRA): **3,393**

American Users Who Saw a Russian IRA Advertisement: **11.4 million**

Russian IRA Associated Facebook Accounts: **470**

Pages Built By Russian IRA: **≈120**

Content Hosted on Russian IRA Pages: **80,000+**

American Users Who Likely Saw Content from a Russian IRA Page: **126 million**

Twitter (*September 1 – November 15, 2016*)

Russian-Linked Bot Accounts Tweeting About Election: **36,746**

Tweets by Russian Bots During the Period: **1.4 million**

Views of Russian Bot Tweets During the Period: **288 million**

Russian IRA Human-Coordinated Twitter Handles Identified: **2,752**

Tweets by Russian IRA Accounts during the Period: **≈131,000**

YouTube (Google)

Videos uploaded by Russia-Linked Accounts: **1,108**

Views of Russia-Linked Videos: **≈309,000**

Views of Russia Today (RT) Channels: **5 billion+**

The Minority of HPSCI are entering the following exhibits containing advertisements and other content from Facebook, Twitter and Instagram into the record to better inform the American people through a representative sampling. It is our hope to make all the ads turned over to us public as part of our ongoing investigation.

Included in this packet are advertisements related to:

- Black Lives Matter
- Race Issues
- Illegal Immigration
- Islam, Sharia Law
- Hillary Clinton
- Bernie Sanders
- LGBT Issues

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- RT's use of Twitter
- Christianity
- State Pride
- Protests

Specific pages highlighted in the advertising released by the HPSCI Minority are Heart of Texas, Blacktivist, Williams&Kalvin, american_made, Black Matters, Secured Borders, LGBT United, Being Patriotic, Stop All Invaders (Stop A.I.), and others.

Additionally, HPSCI Minority are making public Twitter accounts that have been identified by the company to be connected to the Internet Research Agency that impersonate U.S. news entities, political parties, and groups focused on social and political issues. HPSCI Minority are also making public a number of ads run by RT on Twitter.

In addition to the individual exhibits used by Members during the questions to the witnesses, Mr. Schiff will enter into the record Exhibit A (containing Facebook ads HPSCI Minority may reference during the hearing) and Exhibit B (containing Twitter handles that may be referenced during the hearing).