

The New York Times

Kushner Failed to Provide Russia Documents, Senate Panel Found



Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, at the White House this month. Doug Mills/The New York Times

By Michael S. Schmidt (<http://www.nytimes.com/by/michael-s-schmidt>) Nov. 16, 2017

WASHINGTON — The Senate Judiciary Committee has uncovered evidence that Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, was forwarded a document about a “Russian backdoor overture” that Mr. Kushner failed to hand over to the panel's investigators, according to a letter that the committee released on Thursday.

The Senate letter did not say what type of back channel communication the Russians were trying to set up. But it noted that “other parties have produced documents concerning the matter.”

Mr. Kushner also failed to provide investigators with a September 2016 email he was sent about WikiLeaks, nor did he hand over other communications with a Russian-born businessman that were forwarded him, according to the letter. The

businessman, Sergei Millian, a former head of the Russian-American Chamber of Commerce, has long claimed to have ties to Mr. Trump and his associates — ties that Mr. Trump’s advisers have said are overstated.

WikiLeaks has been identified by American intelligence agencies as acting as a conduit for information that Russian intelligence operatives had stolen from Democrats during the 2016 presidential campaign. Earlier this week, it was revealed that Donald Trump Jr., the president’s oldest son, had repeated communications with the anti-secrecy group on Twitter.

The Senate panel said that Mr. Kushner has also not produced phone records that investigators believe exist, although the letter gave no specifics about the records. The letter was signed by Senators Charles E. Grassley, Republican of Iowa and Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, the two senior members of the Judiciary Committee.

“We appreciate your voluntary cooperation with the committee’s investigation, but the production appears to have been incomplete,” said the letter, which was sent to Mr. Kushner’s lawyer, Abbe Lowell.

“It appears that your search may have overlooked several documents,” it stated.

In a statement on Thursday, Mr. Lowell said that Mr. Kushner had responded to all of the committee’s requests.

“We provided the Judiciary Committee with all relevant documents that had to do with Mr. Kushner’s calls, contacts or meetings with Russians during the campaign and transition, which was the request,” Mr. Lowell said. “We also informed the committee we will be open to responding to any additional requests and that we will continue to work with White House Counsel for any responsive documents from after the inauguration.”

Over the summer, Mr. Grassley and Ms. Feinstein said they intended to conduct a bipartisan inquiry into how the Justice Department and F.B.I. handled the investigations into Mr. Trump’s connections to Russia, as well as into the firing of James B. Comey, the former F.B.I. director.

After sending initial requests for information to the president’s associates and conducting interviews — including a closed-door interview with the Donald Trump Jr. (<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/07/us/politics/trump-russia->

“You declined to produce documents requested from the committee from your SF-86, on the basis that the documents are confidential and have been submitted to the F.B.I. for its review,” the letter stated. “However, if Mr. Kushner or his counsel retained copies of the forms, you should produce them.”

A version of this article appears in print on November 17, 2017, on Page A15 of the New York edition with the headline: Senate Panel Asks Kushner To Turn Over Documents. Order Reprints (<http://www.nytreprints.com/>) | Today's Paper (<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/todaypaper/index.html>) | Subscribe (<https://www.nytimes.com/subscriptions/Multiproduct/lp8HYKU.html?campaignId=48JQY>)

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