

'Who gave them this and why?' Trump blasts leaks of secret report on 'Russian hacking'

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Donald Trump criticized leaks to several media outlets detailing contents of a classified report on alleged Russian hacking of the presidential election. The leaks came before Trump's own briefing on those details by the intelligence community.

The 50-page report was delivered to US President Barack Obama on Thursday, and is to be delivered to Presidentelect Donald Trump on Friday by top intelligence officials, including Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and CIA Director John Brennan, the Washington Post <u>reports</u>, one of several outlets that were given priority over the president-elect in learning the details of the document.

<u>CNN</u> and <u>NBC News</u> also reported on the classified report, sparking outrage from Trump.

"How did NBC get 'an exclusive look into the top secret report he (Obama) was presented?' Who gave them this report and why? Politics!" Trump said in a tweet. He later demanded a congressional investigation of the leak.

@realDonaldTrump How did NBC get "an exclusive look into the top secret report he (Obama) was presented?"

Who gave them this report and why? Politics!

@realDonaldTrump I am asking the chairs of the House and Senate committees to investigate top secret intelligence shared with NBC prior to me seeing it.

According to the reports, US spies cited as evidence of Russian interference intercepted communications between Russian officials who called Trump's victory a geopolitical success for Russia. The report also said that US intelligence identified the 'go-betweens' who allegedly handed over stolen Democratic Party emails to WikiLeaks. The US media did not name those individuals or explain how they were linked to the Russian government. Read more 'What is going on?' Trump wonders why FBI never requested access to the DNC's 'hacked servers'



Many Russian officials made no secret of their preference for a Trump presidency after his surprise win in November. The Russian parliament even stood and applauded at the news. The president-elect is perceived by many as capable of restarting relations with Russia with a clean slate, while his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton was blamed for policies which in part have led to numerous conflicts between Russia and the US.

Both Russia and WikiLeaks deny allegations that the website had received sensitive emails from the Russian



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government. A WikiLeaks insider <u>claimed</u> that the DNC emails were not stolen, but rather leaked by a Democratic Party member who was disgruntled with the leadership's bid to undermine the candidacy of Bernie Sanders in favor of Clinton.

Earlier, the FBI and DHS released a joint <u>13-page report</u> on the alleged Russian interference with the US election. Dubbed 'Grizzly Steppe' by the American intelligence community, the operation was found to have involved, among other things, <u>outdated Ukrainian malware</u> and IP addresses that any cybercriminal could use in a hacking operation.

On Thursday, Clapper <u>broadened</u> the scope of what he described as a Russian effort to undermine US democracy to include RT's reporting on the election campaign, unspecified 'fake news,' and communication through social media.