

Spygate Truth

Episode #8 Lying to the FISA Court

Note to Readers

- The visual information is on the left side of the page.
- The text of the narrator's script is in Blue on the right half of the page.
- The interview text is in Red on the right half of the page.
- The name & title of the speaker is in Red on the left side of the page.

Video

Audio

John Spiropoulos In Studio

In previous episodes we learned that Igor Danchenko, the main source for the Steele dossier, told the FBI none of it was true. Was the FISA Court informed that Danchenko just blew a hole in the government's case? No. And that's the focus of this report.

Video/Graphics

The Steele dossier was the basis for the FISA Warrants that allowed the FBI to spy on Team Trump.

Video/Graphics

But just days after President Trump was sworn into office, the FBI learned the dossier was bogus.

Video/Graphics

It happened at the FBI's Washington Field Office. During 3 days of interviews

Video/Graphics

Igor Danchenko, the main source for the dossier, shredded its credibility.

Video/Graphics

But that's not what FBI and Justice Department lawyers told the FISA Court.

Video/Graphics

Instead they said Danchenko had been "truthful and cooperative."

Video/Graphics

Because the court wasn't told the real truth,

it issued 2 more FISA warrants. One in April 2017, then again in June 2017.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

LG Two more warrants were obtained by the Department of Justice and the FBI after being told in January by the Russian guy it's all a bunch of bull. But it gets worse. Here's how they describe the interview to the court. "The FBI found that the Russian based Sub-source to be truthful and cooperative." Nothing about, and "Oh, by the way, he said everything in there was a bunch of bull.

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

LG Instead of telling the court the truth, what they're required to do, They lie to the court.

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The government's lawyers didn't tell the truth to the FISA Court. But did they know the truth? Who told them to say that Danchenko backed up the Steele dossier? The answer is in the Inspector General's report.

Video/Graphics

FBI and Justice Department lawyers were never briefed about what Danchenko actually said.

FBI lawyers said they had only a "general understanding from the [Crossfire Hurricane] team.

Video/Graphics

That Danchenko "essentially echoed," "was consistent with," or "corroborated" the dossier. Of course none of that was true.

Video/Graphics

Inspector General Horowitz told Senate hearings that FBI agents repeatedly withheld

key information from government lawyers, a fatal flaw in the investigation.

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The FBI repeatedly ignored information that weakened its case against Carter Page. That's the finding of the Inspector General for the Department of Justice.

Michael Horowitz
Inspector General
Department of Justice

MH There has to be a fundamental understanding that decisions about evidence that is undercutting, inconsistent with the theory of the case has to go the lawyer, the lawyer who's handling it for the department. It has to move up the chain in the Justice Department because they have to make the judgement calls. They're the gatekeepers. They're the ones who are there to understand, "Is there enough for this FISA? Or isn't there? And if there is, we've got to make sure this application fairly represents to the court all the evidence and all the information. That is what didn't happen here.

Video/Graphics

So, who hid the truth about Danchenko?

Video/Graphics

Let's start with who interviewed him at the FBI's Washington Field Office.

Video/Graphics

Case Agent 1, Stephen Somma asked him the questions.

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Supervisory Intel Agent Brian Auten wrote the memo summarizing the interview.

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Somma and Auten knew the real story. For

whatever reason they decided to bury it for 3 years. The truth wasn't discovered until the Inspector General's investigators analyzed the written summary of the interview.

Video/Graphics

The IGs report found fault with Somma's handling of Danchenko and a lot more.

Video/Graphics

Page 377 singles him out for some of the sharpest criticism of the entire investigation.

Video/Graphics

It states: "Case Agent 1 [Somma] was primarily responsible for some of the most significant errors and omissions in the FISA applications."

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Ironically, in the middle of all this, Case agent Somma was actually promoted to a supervisory position. The Inspector General did refer him to the FBI's internal affairs unit for further investigation and possible disciplinary action. What happened next, if anything, is not in the public record. This is John Spiropoulos reporting.