Harm to Ongoing Matter

Two individuals headed the IRA’s management: its general director, Mikhail Bystrov, and its executive director, Mikhail Burchik. Harm to Ongoing Matter

As early as the spring of 2014, the IRA began to hide its funding and activities. Harm to Ongoing Matter

The IRA’s U.S. operations are part of a larger set of interlocking operations known as “Project Lakhta.” Harm to Ongoing Matter

B. Funding and Oversight from Concord and Prigozhin

Until at least February 2018, Yevgeniy Viktorovich Prigozhin and two Concord companies funded the IRA. Prigozhin is a wealthy Russian businessman who served as the head of Concord. Harm to Ongoing Matter

See, e.g., SM-2230634, serials 9, 113 & 180. Harm to Ongoing Matter

See SM-2230634, serials 131 & 204. Harm to Ongoing Matter

Harm to Ongoing Matter
Harm to Ongoing Matter

Prigozhin was sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department in December 2016.\textsuperscript{19}

Harm to Ongoing Matter

\textsuperscript{19} U.S. Treasury Department, “Treasury Sanctions Individuals and Entities in Connection with Russia’s Occupation of Crimea and the Conflict in Ukraine” (Dec. 20, 2016).

Harm to Ongoing Matter

\textsuperscript{20} Harm to Ongoing Matter

Numerous media sources have reported on Prigozhin’s ties to Putin, and the two have appeared together in public photographs.\textsuperscript{22}

Harm to Ongoing Matter


Harm to Ongoing Matter

\textsuperscript{23} Harm to Ongoing Matter

Harm to Ongoing Matter

\textsuperscript{24} Harm to Ongoing Matter

Harm to Ongoing Matter

\textsuperscript{25} Harm to Ongoing Matter

\textsuperscript{26} see also SM-2230634, serial 113HOM
Harm to Ongoing Matter

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Harm to Ongoing Matter

25 Harm to Ongoing Matter
27 Harm to Ongoing Matter

28 The term “troll” refers to internet users—in this context, paid operatives—who post inflammatory or otherwise disruptive content on social media or other websites.
IRA employees were aware that Prigozhin was involved in the IRA’s U.S. operations.

Harm to Ongoing Matter

In May 2016, IRA employees, claiming to be U.S. social activists and administrators of Facebook groups, recruited U.S. persons to hold signs (including one in front of the White House) that read “Happy 55th Birthday Dear Boss,” as an homage to Prigozhin (whose 55th birthday was on June 1, 2016).\textsuperscript{31}

Harm to Ongoing Matter

C. The IRA Targets U.S. Elections

1. The IRA Ramps Up U.S. Operations As Early As 2014

The IRA’s U.S. operations sought to influence public opinion through online media and forums. By the spring of 2014, the IRA began to consolidate U.S. operations within a single general department, known internally as the “Translator” (Переводчик) department.\textsuperscript{32} IRA subdivided the Translator Department into different responsibilities, ranging from operations on different social media platforms to analytics to

\textsuperscript{29} Investigative Technique

\textsuperscript{30} See SM 2230634, serials 131 & 204.

\textsuperscript{31} See SM-2230634, serial 156.

\textsuperscript{32} Internet Research Agency Indictment ¶ 12(b); see also 5/26/16 Facebook Messages, ID 1479936895656747 (United Muslims of America) & Personal Privacy

\textsuperscript{32} Harm to Ongoing Matter

see also SM-2230634, serial 189. Harm to Ongoing Matter