(THREAD) Here’s what you need to know about Attorney General Sessions committing perjury to hide his meetings w/ Russian spy Sergey Kislyak:

1) Most nations’ ambassadors are not also top spies and top spy-recruiters. Kislyak is; much of DC knows it. Senators particularly know it.

2) The Senators most likely to know who in DC is a spy and which nations threaten US security are Senators on the Armed Services Committee.

3) Not only was AG Sessions on the Senate Armed Services Committee, he was the head of candidate Trump’s national security advising corps.

4) Not only was AG Sessions the head of Trump’s national security team, he was also his most high-profile surrogate beginning in early 2016.

5) It is common for Senators to meet with ambassadors; it is highly _uncommon_ for any Senator to meet with Russian spy Sergey Kislyak.

6) Only 1 Armed Services Committee Senator--Sessions--met w/ Kislyak at_all_ in 2016. Why? Kislyak = known spy; Russia = geopolitical enemy. (Edited per SA instructions)

7) Sessions' "individual" (cf. WaPo) meeting w/ Kislyak (maybe two) at Trump's nominating convention in 2016 was therefore extraordinary.

8) The Sessions-Kislyak meeting was extraordinary because Sessions was a top Trump surrogate & Senator, Kislyak a known spy for our enemies.

9) Sessions admits he knew Kislyak wanted to meet with him because he was a Trump surrogate and because the Ukraine was an explosive topic. (Edited per SA instructions)
10) As a top Trump surrogate & Trump foreign-policy adviser, Sessions knew the Russians wanted Trump to change the GOP platform on Ukraine.

11) Sessions knew the Trump team might well be changing the GOP platform on Ukraine during the same 48-hr period Kislyak sought an audience.

12) In fact the Trump team did change the GOP platform to make it less pro-Ukraine and more pro-Russia--then lied to the press about it. (Edited per SA instructions)

13) Sessions met Kislyak a second time, at the height of the election, in his office. No other ASC Senator met with him even once in 2016.

14) Sessions admits that during this second conversation the election was discussed, and Ukraine, and sanctions on Russia.

15) When a Cabinet appointee testifies before Congress, they do so under oath and after preparing for weeks for any possible question.

16) Sessions knew he’d be asked about Russia at his Congressional hearing last month, & he’d prepared responses to these queries in advance.

17) One reason Sessions knew he’d be asked about Russia by Congress is that the questions submitted to him in advance asked about Russia.

18) One pre-hearing question asked Sessions if he’d had contact with any Russians whatsoever about the election. Sessions said no. (Edited per SA instructions)

19) We now know Sessions lied in response to Sen. Leahy's written question. He did in fact discuss the election w/ Kislyak in September.

20) A political surrogate never takes off his surrogate hat. There is no "now I'm a Senator, now I'm a surrogate" game in U.S. politics.

21) At the hearing, Sessions lied two more times: first, in saying he knew of no Trump team contacts with any Russian on any topic.

22) Sessions' second lie before Congress (third, including written interrogatories) was the most bizarre because he clearly _chose_ to lie.

23) Though he hadn’t been asked about it, Sessions _chose_ to say he hadn’t had any contact with any Russians on any topic. He chose to lie. (Edited per SA instructions)

24) He chose to lie despite being an attorney, under oath, well-prepared for the hearing, knowing the topic was coming, and not needing to.
25) Sessions’ lie came in the context of nearly every other top adviser for Trump on foreign policy also lying on this very same topic.

26) Sessions exhibited consciousness of guilt after the fact in two ways: first, by recusing himself from further investigations on Russia.

27) Sessions also exhibited consciousness of guilt inasmuch as his explanations for lying changed dramatically in just 24 hours.

28) To date, Sessions' attempts to cover up his perjury include saying he misunderstood the question, saying he was answering a different question, saying his answer was accurate, saying he'd forgotten his two extraordinary Kislyak meetings, saying he remembered them but decided not to disclose them, saying he took off his Trump surrogate hat when he met with a known Russian spy in his office & then again during the very nominating convention at which he was a Trump surrogate, claimed they discussed election-relevant topics but only a bit & other insane self-justifications that, given the circumstances the statements were made under, establish an intent to commit perjury.

33) The commission of perjury before Congress by the nation's top law enforcement official on a topic involving the most explosive geopolitical scandal in modern American history would itself be the biggest scandal of the postwar era in the US were the entire Trump Administration not engaging in the most systemic, persistent, wide-ranging coverup about something involving a geopolitical foe the US has ever seen.

Bonus) The preceding 35 observations were all made mindful that I am an attorney and have seen many poor people go to prison for perjury.

Edits) Tweet #6, put “1” after “only”; #9, “he” after “because”; #18, remove “from”; #23, add “it” after “about”; #33, should be “the most.”

Edits #2) Ha! Of course I meant "less pro-Ukraine and more pro-Russia"! Trump's ongoing quid pro quo with Russia wouldn't work, otherwise!

Please retweet & share the above thread w/ friends, journos, & high-profile Twitter accounts--everyone needs to be talking about this topic.
**Original tweets, w/out edits:**

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