BREAKING at THE HUFFINGTON POST: Trump Lied, Personally Met with Russian Ambassador and Spy Kislyak During Campaign:

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/donald-trump-kislyak-russia_us_58bf087ee4b0e6e6cc56870

The National Interest event was an invite-only affair at which Trump spoke to Kislyak and a few others about Russia. That _was_ the meeting.

So Trump coordinated with CNI to invite a tiny group of people, including Kislyak as a VIP, to a speech at which he discussed Russia policy.

Anyone who thinks this _wasn't_ an attempt by Trump to _directly_ communicate a Russian appeasement policy to Kislyak is being _very_ naive.

And anyone who thinks it _at all_ forgettable by Trump that he invited a geopolitical enemy's ambassador to a speech on that country--no.

Moreover, even if it'd been innocuous, POTUS and staff were asked _repeatedly_ about Russian contacts and _deliberately_ didn't disclose it.

One reason Trump deliberately hid his appeasement speech to/meeting with Kislyak in D.C. is that it _preceded_ the "quo"--the Russian hack.

In this view, all the _follow-up meetings_ Trump staff had with Kislyak--and lied about--were confirmations that Trump would uphold his end.

Ask yourself: why would Kislyak be one of the _only people_ Trump met personally before the speech? Why put a Russian spy in the front row?
The idea that a future U.S. President would give a geopolitical enemy's spy VIP treatment before an appeasement speech, then hide it--wow.

Don't be deceived: U.S. officials consider it a _big deal_ when they meet with Russia. They don't forget the meetings. They don't hide them.

This--along with those with Stone, Page, Phares, Gordon, Sessions, Manafort, Kushner, Flynn--is another Russian contact Trump tried to hide.

Remember: _no one_ on the Senate Armed Services Committee except Sessions met with Kislyak in 2016. Trump's team couldn't get enough of him.

The picture emerging is of a campaign doing anything possible, direct and indirect, to encourage cyber-attacks many in DC feared might come.

The moment POTUS became a key _eyewitness_ in the Russian investigation--which, tonight, he did--a Special Prosecutor became 100% necessary.

So yes, this equates to a key meeting, with a Russian spy, at which POTUS was present, at which policy was discussed, which POTUS then hid.

It also _must_, as this is a criminal investigation, be placed within a broader Trump-team M.O./evidence of Trump's consciousness of guilt.

The issue isn't (yet) what a jury would think, only whether the facts _demand_ a public/criminal rather than secret/partisan investigation.

During a public investigation there'd be queries big & small. Had POTUS met Kislyak before? Why did he greet him so "warmly" it was notable?

So in summary, this (see the thread this tweet's attached to) should be the news of the day, the week, and the month so far. TRUMP. KISLYAK.

Somehow, in some way, this is all about money or Trump's "brand." That's all he cares about. He has _no reason_ to defend Russia, otherwise.

Coda: Here's the invite-only speech, with Kislyak in the front row, about appeasing Russia that Trump gave in April.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XW8RqLN3Qao](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XW8RqLN3Qao)
Remember: this was one of his first Teleprompter speeches. They knew it was key. They wouldn't forget it. They sat Kislyak in the front row.

Trump, just feet from Kislyak, railed against Obama for a near-eternity. Kislyak and Putin must have loved it. That's why Kislyak was there.

Trump, just feet from Kislyak, in April, attacked Obama, the US, NATO countries, China, North Korea, Iran, ISIS. Criticism for Russia? None.

(1 of 3) What's amazing about that is he mentions the Cold War repeatedly but doesn't criticize Russia. In fact, he says "We must work..."

(2 of 3) "with ANY NATION IN THE REGION threatened by radical Islam." (That's a nod to working alongside Russia, for those who missed it.)

(3 of 3) He then praises Russia's military and promotes "friendship" with Russia. He's so adversarial for the whole speech, otherwise. Huh.

Trump at the Mayflower #1: "seek common ground" w/ Russia; regard Russia w/ "open eyes"; "not bound to be adversaries"; "shared interests."

Trump at the Mayflower #2: Demands "easing of tensions" & "improved relations" with Russia. Kislyak--a Trump invitee--sits in the front row.

Trump at the Mayflower #3: "cycle of hostility with Russia must end, ideally soon," promises to make deal w/ Putin that's "good for Russia."

Trump at the Mayflower #4: Until you watch Trump's comments--all directed to his front-row invitee, Kislyak--you can't see what's happening.

Trump at the Mayflower #5: "We're always happy when old enemies become friends"--but he clearly means Russia. Not Iran, DPRK, or even China.

The question: why was Russian ambassador & spy Kislyak one of only _four ambassadors_ invited to a major speech about global foreign policy?

Again--my last note on this thread, I promise--please read the whole thread attached to the pinned tweet before asking why all this matters.