

EXHIBIT E



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Transcript of Petr Aven

Date: December 9, 2020

Case: Fridman, et al. -v- Bean LLC a/k/a Fusion GPS, et al.

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Transcript of Petr Aven
Conducted on December 9, 2020

1 (1 to 4)

1	3
1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	1 A P P E A R A N C E S (continued):
2 FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	2 ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS:
3 -----x	3 JOSHUA A. LEVY, ESQUIRE
4 MIKHAIL FRIDMAN, PETR AVEN, and :	4 RACHEL CLATTENBURG, ESQUIRE
5 GERMAN KHAN, :	5 LEVY FIRESTONE MUSE, LLP
6 Plaintiffs :	6 1401 K Street, NW, Suite 600
7 vs : Case No.	7 Washington, DC 20005
8 BEAN LLC a/k/a FUSION GPS, and : 1:17-cv-2041-RJL	8 202-845-3215
9 GLENN SIMPSON, :	9 jal@levyfirestone.com
10 Defendants :	10 rmc@levyfirestone.com
11 -----x	11
12	12 A L S O P R E S E N T:
13 Oral deposition of	13 SAUL GAN, A/V Technician
14 PETR AVEN	14 VICTOR PROKOFIEV, Interpreter
15	15 A. STEPHEN GILLESPIE, ESQ.,
16 VIA VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE	16 General Counsel, LetterOne
17 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020	17 ANDREW SHARP, Levy Firestone Muse, LLP
18 8:08 a.m. EASTERN TIME	18
19	19
20 Job No.: 337594	20
21 Pages: 1 - 290	21
22 Reported by: Lisa V. Feissner, RDR, CRR, CLR	22
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5 MEREDITH B. SPELMAN, ESQUIRE	5
6 CARTER LEDYARD & MILBURN LLP	6 E X H I B I T S
7 2 Wall Street	7 (Attached to transcript)
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4 41 Russia Direct article entitled, An upstart 153	4 52 Excerpt of Putin's People, How The KGB Took 241
5 that plays up its ties to the establishment	5 Back Russia And Then Took On The West
6 dated Jun 14, 2013	6 by Catherine Belton
7 42 Council on Foreign Relations, Russia and the 157	7 53 Excerpt of Boris Berezovsky, 248
8 West: A Historical Perspective	8 The Art Of The Impossible
9 dated October 25, 2017	9 54 Excerpt of Godfather Of The Kremlin, The 260
10 43 The Russian Presidential Elections, Hearing 158	10 Decline of Russia in the Age of Gangster
11 Before the Subcommittee on European Affairs	11 Capitalism, by Paul Klebnikov
12 of the Committee on Foreign Relations,	12 55 The Guardian article entitled, Putin urged 274
13 United States Senate, One Hundred Sixth Congress,	13 to apply the Pinochet stick,
14 Second Session, dated April 12, 2000	14 dated 30 Mar 2000
15 44 Excerpt of Aven v. Orbis (Day 2) 170	15
16 dated March 17, 2020, pages 61-80	16
17 45 McLarty website bio on Richard Burt 181	17
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1 E X H I B I T S (continued)	1 P R O C E E D I N G S
2 (Attached to transcript)	2 (The Interpreter was duly sworn by the court
3 AVEN DEPOSITION EXHIBIT PAGE	3 reporter to translate the proceedings herein from
4 46 U.S. Department of Justice, Report On The 187	4 English into Russian and from Russian into English to
5 Investigation Into Russian Interference In The	5 the best of his ability.)
6 2016 Presidential Election, Volume I of II,	6 (Unless indicated otherwise, all questions and
7 Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III	7 answers are through the Interpreter.)
8 dated March 2019	8 PETR AVEN,
9 47 Transcript of Videotaped Deposition of 216	9 having been first duly sworn by the court reporter, was
10 Pyotr Aven dated June 4, 2002	10 examined and testified through the Interpreter as
11 PDDC00008584 - PDDC00008696	11 follows:
12 48 Excerpt of Putin's Kleptocracy, 221	12 EXAMINATION
13 Who Owns Russia?, by Karen Dawisha	13 BY MR. LEVY:
14 49 Excerpt of Aven v. Orbis (Day 2) dated 224	14 Q Good afternoon, Mr. Aven. My name is Joshua
15 March 17, 2020, pages (attached out of order):	15 Levy. I represent the defendants in this case, Glenn
16 25-28, 45-60, and 33-36	16 Simpson and Bean LLC. I will be asking you questions
17 50 Excerpt of First Person, An Astonishingly 228	17 today. If at any time you need to take a break, please
18 Frank Self-Portrait by Russia's	18 let me know.
19 President Vladimir Putin	19 A Thank you.
20 51 Lithuania Tribune article entitled, Putin's 235	20 Q For the record, we are holding this deposition
21 Russia. The dangerous illusion of independent	21 remotely because of the pandemic, and we are all in
22 and western oligarchs, dated June 19, 2015	22 separate rooms.

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4 (13 to 16)

13	<p>1 Mr. Aven, is anyone else in the room with you?</p> <p>2 A Yes. With me in the room are Victor</p> <p>3 Prokofiev, our interpreter, and Stephen Gillespie from</p> <p>4 LetterOne.</p> <p>5 Q If anyone else comes into the room at any</p> <p>6 time, please let me know.</p> <p>7 A I will.</p> <p>8 Q Other than the documents that we provided to</p> <p>9 your counsel last -- yesterday, are you looking at</p> <p>10 anything other than that and the computer screen in</p> <p>11 front of you?</p> <p>12 A No.</p> <p>13 Q Today I'd like you to answer all questions by</p> <p>14 yourself. Do not look to anyone or anything else for</p> <p>15 help in answering questions.</p> <p>16 A Agreed.</p> <p>17 Q While we are on the record, do not communicate</p> <p>18 with any counsel besides --</p> <p>19 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>20 Q While we are on the record today, do not</p> <p>21 communicate with anyone else besides me. This includes</p> <p>22 not checking e-mail, text messages, or any other forms</p>	15	<p>1 Q Turn to document number 3, please.</p> <p>2 MR. LEVY: This will be Exhibit 3.</p> <p>3 (Exhibit Aven-3 marked for identification and</p> <p>4 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>5 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>6 Q Does your lawsuit refer to this document as</p> <p>7 Company Intelligence Report 112 or CIR 112?</p> <p>8 A Yes, that's the one.</p> <p>9 Q Turn to document number 101.</p> <p>10 MR. LEVY: This will be Exhibit Number 4.</p> <p>11 (Exhibit Aven-4 marked for identification and</p> <p>12 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>13 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>14 Q This document is a subpoena served on Eric</p> <p>15 Lichtblau. If you turn to page 3 in the PDF of the</p> <p>16 document and go to paragraph number 29, please.</p> <p>17 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, Mr. Levy, which</p> <p>18 bundle are you referring to? Because we do not seem to</p> <p>19 have 101. Unless it's volume 3.</p> <p>20 MR. LEVY: It's volume 3. I don't know how</p> <p>21 your counsel organized the documents that we sent to</p> <p>22 you.</p>
14	<p>1 of communication.</p> <p>2 A Good. Agreed.</p> <p>3 Q Please turn to document 1.</p> <p>4 MR. LEVY: We'll include this as Exhibit 1.</p> <p>5 (Exhibit Aven-1 marked for identification and</p> <p>6 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>7 THE WITNESS: Is this the first bundle and tab</p> <p>8 number one?</p> <p>9 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>10 Q Correct. Did you receive this notice?</p> <p>11 A I think so, yeah.</p> <p>12 Q Are you here today pursuant to this notice?</p> <p>13 A I think so, yes.</p> <p>14 Q Turn to document number 2.</p> <p>15 MR. LEVY: We're going to enter this as</p> <p>16 Exhibit 2.</p> <p>17 (Exhibit Aven-2 marked for identification and</p> <p>18 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>19 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>20 Q This is the Amended Complaint. Did you file</p> <p>21 this lawsuit, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>22 A Yes.</p>	16	<p>1 THE INTERPRETER: Okay, 101.</p> <p>2 A Yes. Bear with me. I just need to read it.</p> <p>3 Yes, I've read it.</p> <p>4 Q For purposes of today's deposition, when I ask</p> <p>5 about Alfa, I'm going to be referring to all of the</p> <p>6 companies listed here in paragraph 29 and their</p> <p>7 predecessors, unless I ask you a question about a</p> <p>8 specific entity such as Alfa-Bank or LetterOne.</p> <p>9 Does that make sense?</p> <p>10 A It makes perfect sense.</p> <p>11 Q In this lawsuit, are you alleging that</p> <p>12 statements in CIR 112, Exhibit 3, defamed you?</p> <p>13 A Definitely, yes.</p> <p>14 Q Turn to document number 5, please.</p> <p>15 MR. LEVY: This will be Exhibit Number 5.</p> <p>16 (Exhibit Aven-5 marked for identification and</p> <p>17 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>18 THE WITNESS: First volume again?</p> <p>19 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>20 Q Yes. These are Plaintiffs' Supplemental</p> <p>21 Responses to Defendants' First Set of Interrogatories.</p> <p>22 If you could turn to page 2. You'll see that these are</p>

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5 (17 to 20)

17	<p>1 your responses to interrogatory number 2.</p> <p>2 A Bear with me. I need to read this, if I may.</p> <p>3 Yes, I've read it.</p> <p>4 Q Please turn to the second to the last page of</p> <p>5 this document bearing your signature or what appears to</p> <p>6 be your signature.</p> <p>7 A This is my signature.</p> <p>8 Q Does that mean you reviewed the response to</p> <p>9 interrogatory number 2 here and swore to its accuracy</p> <p>10 under penalty of perjury?</p> <p>11 A I believe that whatever I affixed my signature</p> <p>12 under is true.</p> <p>13 Q So then there are three statements in CIR 112</p> <p>14 that you are alleging defamed you?</p> <p>15 A There may be more. There may be more. We are</p> <p>16 mainly focusing on the three statements. However, all</p> <p>17 the statements contained therein we believe are of a</p> <p>18 defamatory nature.</p> <p>19 Q In your response to interrogatory number 2,</p> <p>20 you only list three statements. Was this not a complete</p> <p>21 answer?</p> <p>22 A It was our lawyer's advice, and we are</p>	19
18	<p>1 focusing on three statements only.</p> <p>2 Q Is the first statement --</p> <p>3 A Having said that, this does not annul the fact</p> <p>4 that all the statements contained in that document are</p> <p>5 of a defamatory nature. It's just a question of the</p> <p>6 extent to which they are defamatory.</p> <p>7 Q In this lawsuit, are you only seeking recovery</p> <p>8 for the defamation to you from these three statements?</p> <p>9 A Yes, and I'm happy to list those. The first</p> <p>10 one is the so-called exchange of favors with Mr. Putin.</p> <p>11 The second one is bribes. And the third one is the</p> <p>12 alleged interference in the presidential campaign.</p> <p>13 Q So that's not exactly what your responses to</p> <p>14 interrogatories say. And let me just clarify this for</p> <p>15 the record.</p> <p>16 The first statement you appear to allege</p> <p>17 defamed you on page 2 is, quote, Russia/U.S.</p> <p>18 Presidential Election: Kremlin-Alfa Group Cooperation.</p> <p>19 Are you alleging that that statement defamed</p> <p>20 you?</p> <p>21 A That's exactly the third point that I was</p> <p>22 referring to, and that was our cooperation in the -- in</p>	20
19	<p>1 what is described as illegal interference in the</p> <p>2 presidential campaign. That's exactly what I was</p> <p>3 referring to.</p> <p>4 Q So you're alleging that this statement that I</p> <p>5 read to you defamed you? Yes or no?</p> <p>6 A Yes.</p> <p>7 Q Yes or no, did the statement, Significant</p> <p>8 favors continued to be done in both directions,</p> <p>9 primarily political ones for Putin and business/legal</p> <p>10 ones for Alfa, defame you?</p> <p>11 A Correct.</p> <p>12 Q Number 3, yes or no, did the statement as</p> <p>13 follows defame you? Quote, During the 1990s, Govorun</p> <p>14 had been head of government relations at Alfa Group, and</p> <p>15 in reality the driver and bag carrier used by Fridman</p> <p>16 and Aven to deliver large amounts of illicit cash to the</p> <p>17 Russian president, at that time deputy mayor of St.</p> <p>18 Petersburg. Given that and the continuing sensitivity</p> <p>19 of the Putin-Alfa relationship, and need for plausible</p> <p>20 deniability, much of the contact between them was now</p> <p>21 indirect and entrusted to the relatively low profile</p> <p>22 Govorun.</p>	21

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6 (21 to 24)

21	<p>1 A I need to read this, if I may.</p> <p>2 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>3 A Is this interrogatory number 3, sir?</p> <p>4 Q Yes.</p> <p>5 A Yes, this is accurate, and I affixed my</p> <p>6 signature hereunder.</p> <p>7 Q Can you turn to page 14, please. And look at</p> <p>8 the third paragraph. In this paragraph, you state that,</p> <p>9 On January 10, 2017, BuzzFeed, which had received a copy</p> <p>10 of CIR 112, published the contents of CIR 112 on the</p> <p>11 Internet, along with an article entitled, These Reports</p> <p>12 Allege Trump Has Deep Ties to Russia. Upon information</p> <p>13 and belief, BuzzFeed received the Dossier from</p> <p>14 defendants or somebody who obtained it from defendants.</p> <p>15 A Yes.</p> <p>16 Q Is the January 10, 2017 BuzzFeed publication</p> <p>17 the first time you learned about CIR 112?</p> <p>18 A I do not recall exactly, but what I do</p> <p>19 remember is that it was in January 2017. That's when it</p> <p>20 came to my attention that that was the case.</p> <p>21 Q Okay. Turn to page 13, please. The first</p> <p>22 paragraph in your response to interrogatory 3 states</p>	23	<p>1 A I do not remember very well. I do not have a</p> <p>2 very good recollection of this information or of this</p> <p>3 entire story. Therefore, I'm not sure I can answer that</p> <p>4 one. What I do recall exactly is that this whole</p> <p>5 episode came to my attention in early 2017.</p> <p>6 Q The second paragraph in your answer to</p> <p>7 interrogatory number 3, do you see that, sir? It</p> <p>8 begins, In October 2016. Do you see that?</p> <p>9 A Again, I do not recall exactly where that</p> <p>10 information came to me.</p> <p>11 Q Paragraph number 3, how did you learn the</p> <p>12 information in paragraph number 3?</p> <p>13 MR. LEWIS: Same objection to all of these</p> <p>14 questions; that is, the witness is directed not to</p> <p>15 answer the question to the extent that any of this</p> <p>16 information was learned, you know, by him from counsel,</p> <p>17 was communicated by counsel. So we're interpreting all</p> <p>18 of these questions to ask him apart from what he learned</p> <p>19 from counsel, what he knows about the -- to answer your</p> <p>20 questions.</p> <p>21 A I do not recall where that information came to</p> <p>22 me from.</p>
22	<p>1 that, In September and October of 2016, defendants</p> <p>2 published and arranged for Christopher Steele to publish</p> <p>3 the contents of CIR 112 to members of the print and</p> <p>4 online media, including the New York Times, the</p> <p>5 Washington Post, CNN, and Yahoo! News.</p> <p>6 A Yes. That's what it says.</p> <p>7 Q How did you learn of that information?</p> <p>8 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>9 Oh, I'm sorry. Please translate the question,</p> <p>10 and then I will articulate my objection.</p> <p>11 THE INTERPRETER: (Rendering interpretation.)</p> <p>12 MR. LEWIS: Objection to the extent that</p> <p>13 the -- on privilege grounds to the extent that the</p> <p>14 answer would call for the witness to describe what he</p> <p>15 learned from counsel.</p> <p>16 Q Please answer the question.</p> <p>17 THE WITNESS: Can I answer?</p> <p>18 MR. LEWIS: The witness -- I'm directing the</p> <p>19 witness not to describe what he learned from counsel.</p> <p>20 So I think that the question is proper only to the</p> <p>21 extent that it is modified to exclude what he learned</p> <p>22 about this from sources other than counsel.</p>	24	<p>1 Q Please turn to page 14 and go to the top</p> <p>2 paragraph, which is the fourth paragraph of your</p> <p>3 response.</p> <p>4 How did you learn of the information in this</p> <p>5 paragraph, if not from counsel?</p> <p>6 A As I mentioned in reference to the previous</p> <p>7 paragraphs, I do not recall exactly where that</p> <p>8 information came from.</p> <p>9 Q Other than filing lawsuits, Mr. Aven, did you</p> <p>10 make any efforts to correct what you viewed as false</p> <p>11 information in CIR 112, Exhibit 3?</p> <p>12 A So far as I can recall, we had been issuing</p> <p>13 proceedings against Mr. Steele in London. And apart</p> <p>14 from that, the answer is no.</p> <p>15 Q Okay. Can you turn to page 103. I'm sorry,</p> <p>16 not page 103, document 103.</p> <p>17 MR. LEVY: This is Exhibit 7.</p> <p>18 (Exhibit Aven-7 marked for identification and</p> <p>19 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>20 THE WITNESS: So I understand this is a</p> <p>21 transcript of our hearings against Mr. Steele.</p> <p>22 BY MR. LEVY:</p>

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7 (25 to 28)

25	<p>1 Q This is your testimony in Aven v. Orbis, the</p> <p>2 trial that took place in the UK earlier this year. And</p> <p>3 if you go to the last page of the document, you'll see</p> <p>4 page 14 in the minuscrit, line 5.</p> <p>5 A There are four pages on this page, sir, right?</p> <p>6 And the one you're interested in is number 14, correct?</p> <p>7 Q Correct.</p> <p>8 A Line 5, you said, sir?</p> <p>9 Q Yes. I'm just going to read it to you so that</p> <p>10 you don't have to read it yourself. The lawyer in the</p> <p>11 case asks you:</p> <p>12 Question: This is one of your documents that</p> <p>13 you have disclosed in this case. It's an e-mail just</p> <p>14 after the -- at the time of the BuzzFeed publication</p> <p>15 from somebody called Stuart Bruseth, who is director of</p> <p>16 communications at LetterOne; yes?</p> <p>17 Answer: Yeah.</p> <p>18 A Yes.</p> <p>19 Q What is the e-mail to Stuart Bruseth that you</p> <p>20 disclosed at the UK trial?</p> <p>21 A I do not recall that.</p> <p>22 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p>	27
26	<p>1 A I do not recall that.</p> <p>2 Q In 2017, did you have ways to tell the public</p> <p>3 that CIR 112 was, in your view, false?</p> <p>4 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form. "Ways" is</p> <p>5 vague.</p> <p>6 A I do not believe that we had other ways to do</p> <p>7 that that would be comparable with the ways that the</p> <p>8 other party has used.</p> <p>9 Q Did you have the ability to put out a press</p> <p>10 release?</p> <p>11 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form. "Ability"?</p> <p>12 A Theoretically, yes. It's open to anyone to</p> <p>13 issue a press release.</p> <p>14 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>15 A It's open to anyone. Anyone can issue a press</p> <p>16 release.</p> <p>17 Q Do you, Alfa, or LetterOne have public</p> <p>18 relations vendors that you, Alfa, or LetterOne pay for?</p> <p>19 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form, compound. It</p> <p>20 asked about him, Alfa, and LetterOne. Is the question</p> <p>21 whether any of those three, you know --</p> <p>22 MR. LEVY: Any or all.</p>	28

1 **A I personally do not have a press service or**

2 **press department.**

3 Q What about Alfa or LetterOne?

4 **A Yes. They do. But the memorandum was not**

5 **about Alfa; it was personally about us.**

6 Q Did you reach out to Vladimir Putin or any

7 other Russian government official to clarify the record

8 on CIR 112?

9 **A Never.**

10 Q Has Vladimir Putin ever publicly stated that

11 CIR 112 is false?

12 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form. What -- the

13 question assumes that the witness is aware of everything

14 that Vladimir Putin has publicly stated. So if you

15 reframe it to focus on his awareness, I'd appreciate

16 that.

17 Q Do you know if Vladimir Putin has ever

18 publicly stated that CIR 112 is false?

19 **A I've never heard anything about that.**

20 Q Do you know if any other Russian government

21 official has ever publicly stated that CIR 112 is false?

22 **A I've never heard about that.**

1 Q After CIR 112 went online, did Vladimir Putin

2 continue to meet with you?

3 **A Yes.**

4 Q Turn to document number 6, please. These are

5 the second supplemental responses of the plaintiffs to

6 defendants' interrogatories.

7 MR. LEVY: We'll mark this Exhibit 8.

8 (Exhibit Aven-8 marked for identification and

9 attached to the transcript.)

10 BY MR. LEVY:

11 Q Can you turn to page 11, please. In response

12 to interrogatory number 20, you said you are seeking,

13 quote, presumed damages and general damages for harm to

14 your reputation and for emotional harm in amounts to be

15 proven at trial, but more than \$75,000, together with

16 interest and the costs and disbursements of this action,

17 plus reasonable attorneys' fees.

18 Is that it?

19 **A I signed this.**

20 Q Are you not claiming that you lost any money

21 because of the alleged defamatory statements?

22 **A We did incur indirect loss of a monetary**

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8 (29 to 32)

<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>1 nature, but it says what it says here.</p> <p>2 Q So you're not seeking recovery for that</p> <p>3 financial loss; is that correct?</p> <p>4 A For me, this is much more an emotional and</p> <p>5 distress-related story rather than financial.</p> <p>6 Q And again, just yes or no, are you claiming --</p> <p>7 strike that.</p> <p>8 Yes or no, are you seeking recovery for</p> <p>9 financial loss in this case?</p> <p>10 A No.</p> <p>11 Q Yes or no, are you claiming that you lost any</p> <p>12 business clients in this case?</p> <p>13 A We have lost clients, but this is not the</p> <p>14 subject matter of the suit that we have brought.</p> <p>15 Q So you're not claiming or seeking recovery for</p> <p>16 any loss of business clients, correct?</p> <p>17 MR. LEWIS: Objection, asked and answered.</p> <p>18 He's just told you that's correct.</p> <p>19 A I gave you my answer.</p> <p>20 Q And yes or no, are you seeking recovery for</p> <p>21 any lost investments in this lawsuit?</p> <p>22 A No.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>1 highly publicized case was Anders Aslund of the Atlantic</p> <p>2 Council who had been my friend for 30 years who then</p> <p>3 stopped any dealings with me.</p> <p>4 Q Is there any other relationship for which</p> <p>5 you're seeking recovery in this lawsuit?</p> <p>6 A My relations with a large number of people,</p> <p>7 including in particular in the United States, have</p> <p>8 suffered.</p> <p>9 Q Can you name any of those relationships?</p> <p>10 A No. These are personal relationships.</p> <p>11 Therefore, I will not be listing the names.</p> <p>12 Q How did Mr. Aslund communicate to you that he</p> <p>13 was discontinuing his relationship with you because of</p> <p>14 CIR 112?</p> <p>15 A In one of our telephone conversations, he</p> <p>16 mentioned that in view of the information that had been</p> <p>17 made public, he was discontinuing our relationship. And</p> <p>18 then he also published a couple of articles where he</p> <p>19 lists our names as the so-called oligarchs.</p> <p>20 Q When did the initial phone call take place</p> <p>21 that you just referenced?</p> <p>22 A I don't recall. It was definitely after the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>1 Q If you look at the last sentence of your</p> <p>2 response to interrogatory 20 at page 12, it appears you</p> <p>3 are breaking that harm that you're seeking or alleging</p> <p>4 down into three categories: damage to your reputation,</p> <p>5 the effect of the statements on your personal</p> <p>6 relationships, and emotional stress.</p> <p>7 Is that correct?</p> <p>8 A Yes.</p> <p>9 Q Did the alleged defamation cause you any other</p> <p>10 category of harm than what you've stated here?</p> <p>11 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form. I think the</p> <p>12 question is whether he's alleging any other category of</p> <p>13 harm in this lawsuit.</p> <p>14 A No, not in this lawsuit.</p> <p>15 Q If you look at page 11 of the same document</p> <p>16 and go to the second to last line, you stated that the</p> <p>17 alleged defamatory information, quote, affected how</p> <p>18 people viewed, regarded, or treated you, end of quote.</p> <p>19 I just want names, but please list those</p> <p>20 people for me.</p> <p>21 A I would not like to name any names, as there</p> <p>22 are quite a few of those. The last well-known and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">32</p> <p>1 publication.</p> <p>2 Q What year?</p> <p>3 A Most likely I would say in 2017 or 2018.</p> <p>4 Q You don't know if it was 2017 or 2018?</p> <p>5 A I don't recall.</p> <p>6 Q Did Mr. --</p> <p>7 A The publications that I'm referring to were</p> <p>8 issued quite recently.</p> <p>9 Q Did Mr. Aslund send you an e-mail or a letter</p> <p>10 or any kind of writing telling you that he was going to</p> <p>11 change his relationship with you because of CIR 112?</p> <p>12 A I don't think so.</p> <p>13 MR. DUNN: Josh, could you just wait 30</p> <p>14 seconds before your next question? I believe</p> <p>15 Mr. Levy -- I'm sorry, Mr. Lewis has been bounced out of</p> <p>16 the --</p> <p>17 MR. LEVY: Why don't we take a five-minute</p> <p>18 break, just so we're not losing on-the-record time.</p> <p>19 MR. DUNN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very</p> <p>20 much.</p> <p>21 (Recess from 8:54 a.m. until 9:04 a.m.)</p> <p>22 MR. LEVY: We can go back on the record now?</p>

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9 (33 to 36)

33	<p>1 MR. LEWIS: Yes.</p> <p>2 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>3 Q Mr. Aven, when Mr. Aslund called you in 2017</p> <p>4 or 2018, did he specifically state that CIR 112 was the</p> <p>5 reason as to why he was going to change his relationship</p> <p>6 with you, and not anything else such as the article in</p> <p>7 Slate from October 2016 about the Alfa server and the</p> <p>8 Trump server?</p> <p>9 A He was referring by and large, in general, to</p> <p>10 the information that surrounded us.</p> <p>11 Q Did he get specific?</p> <p>12 A Not to the best of my recollection.</p> <p>13 Q Did he mention CIR 112?</p> <p>14 A I don't recall.</p> <p>15 Q Can you turn to Exhibit 8 -- this is document</p> <p>16 6 -- to page 12. Same document we were in. And if you</p> <p>17 go to the bottom of the page, you'll see footnote 1.</p> <p>18 There you have named two people with knowledge about</p> <p>19 harm to you. Those two people are Ed Rogers and Richard</p> <p>20 Burt.</p> <p>21 In this response, why didn't you name Aslund?</p> <p>22 A Up until most recently, I did not want to name</p>	35	<p>1 damage your reputation?</p> <p>2 A As I previously mentioned, quite a number of</p> <p>3 people discontinued their relations with me, and also, I</p> <p>4 received like a million telephone calls from people</p> <p>5 asking me about the details of the story.</p> <p>6 Q And did you tell them that the details were</p> <p>7 incorrect?</p> <p>8 A I told them that it was total drivel, it was</p> <p>9 slanderous. And many of them understood that that was</p> <p>10 the case, and they were quite empathetic. They showed</p> <p>11 sympathy to us. Then there were others who did not</p> <p>12 realize that.</p> <p>13 Q Is there anyone other than Mr. Aslund who fell</p> <p>14 into that latter category?</p> <p>15 A Definitely, yes.</p> <p>16 Q Can you name them?</p> <p>17 A I also answered that question previously.</p> <p>18 It's a personal relationship and one that I would not</p> <p>19 like to refer to.</p> <p>20 Q Did any of these publications cause you</p> <p>21 emotional stress?</p> <p>22 A Definitely, yes. The BuzzFeed publication</p>
34	<p>1 any names at all, except that Mr. Aslund published a few</p> <p>2 articles where he made reference to myself and to</p> <p>3 Alfa-Bank, and that's why I decided to refer to that.</p> <p>4 But before that -- and there was a publication that was</p> <p>5 made somewhere in the United States with respect to an</p> <p>6 attempt on his part to gain money from us.</p> <p>7 Q So if you look at the next page of this</p> <p>8 document, where you've signed it, it says October 14,</p> <p>9 2020.</p> <p>10 A Yes.</p> <p>11 Q Are you saying that as of October 14, 2020,</p> <p>12 you didn't have knowledge of harm to your relationship</p> <p>13 with Mr. Aslund?</p> <p>14 A I did not realize that as clearly as it became</p> <p>15 clear to me most recently after those publications were</p> <p>16 out.</p> <p>17 Q Did those publications come out after October</p> <p>18 14, 2020?</p> <p>19 A The last one was two weeks ago.</p> <p>20 Q You did not supplement this response, did you?</p> <p>21 A No, I did not.</p> <p>22 Q How did the alleged defamatory information</p>	36	<p>1 became the most high profile and the most well-known of</p> <p>2 all, and it definitely caused me distress and suffering.</p> <p>3 Q Did you seek medical attention for your</p> <p>4 emotional stress?</p> <p>5 A My wife is a physician. She's an M.D.</p> <p>6 Q Did she prescribe any medicine for you?</p> <p>7 A I definitely had problems with hypertension.</p> <p>8 Q And did she -- what was the treatment?</p> <p>9 A I keep taking about five types of medication</p> <p>10 until this day today, per day.</p> <p>11 Q Did you begin taking that medication before</p> <p>12 January 2017?</p> <p>13 A Over the past two years, I increased the</p> <p>14 doses.</p> <p>15 Q When did you originally get that prescription</p> <p>16 for that treatment?</p> <p>17 A Originally, I got that treatment prescribed</p> <p>18 about ten years ago, but over the past two years, the</p> <p>19 situation has become way worse. Two to three years, it</p> <p>20 has become way worse.</p> <p>21 Q Ere you diagnosed with hypertension ten years</p> <p>22 ago?</p>

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10 (37 to 40)

<p style="text-align: right;">37</p> <p>1 A The trend was there. Some problems of a</p> <p>2 medical nature I already had ten years ago.</p> <p>3 Q After January 2017, did you seek medical</p> <p>4 attention for hypertension from someone who wasn't your</p> <p>5 wife?</p> <p>6 A Yes.</p> <p>7 Q Do you have medical bills that you paid?</p> <p>8 A Definitely.</p> <p>9 Q Are there medical records from those doctor</p> <p>10 visits?</p> <p>11 A Definitely, yes.</p> <p>12 Q You've not produced those documents in this</p> <p>13 case. Is there a reason for that?</p> <p>14 A I'm sitting on a pile of documents. I'm more</p> <p>15 than happy to make them available should the need arise.</p> <p>16 And that involves several countries, including the UK,</p> <p>17 the United States, and Russia.</p> <p>18 Q Are you seeking recovery for your medical</p> <p>19 bills in this case?</p> <p>20 A I'm not.</p> <p>21 Q Did you suffer depression after CIR 112 was</p> <p>22 published?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">39</p> <p>1 A No.</p> <p>2 Q You live in the UK right now, correct?</p> <p>3 A No. I would say 50/50, or maybe even I spend</p> <p>4 more time in Russia than here.</p> <p>5 Q So how many houses do you have in the UK, sir?</p> <p>6 A One.</p> <p>7 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection. Harassing,</p> <p>8 relevance, number of houses he has in the UK, I -- it's</p> <p>9 obtrusive for no conceivable reason related to the case.</p> <p>10 Q Have you had any loss of confidence as a</p> <p>11 result of the publication of CIR 112?</p> <p>12 A Definitely not.</p> <p>13 Q Have you been unable to go to work because of</p> <p>14 the publication of CIR 112?</p> <p>15 A No, of course not.</p> <p>16 Q Have you had trouble with your personal</p> <p>17 intimate relationships because of CIR 112?</p> <p>18 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection, obtrusive.</p> <p>19 No such claim has been made.</p> <p>20 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>21 A The answer is "no." No problem on the</p> <p>22 intimate relations front.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">38</p> <p>1 A Hypertension is one of the ways that</p> <p>2 depression expresses itself.</p> <p>3 Q Were you depressed?</p> <p>4 A Well, if my blood pressure went up, that was</p> <p>5 definitely the effect of mood swings.</p> <p>6 Q Are there medical records that reflect the</p> <p>7 diagnosis of hypertension being caused by your learning</p> <p>8 of the BuzzFeed publication?</p> <p>9 A No, of course not.</p> <p>10 Q Did you experience loss of sleep after the</p> <p>11 BuzzFeed article came online?</p> <p>12 A Yes. I no longer slept as well as I used to.</p> <p>13 Q And how long did that loss of sleep occur?</p> <p>14 A This whole story involving the slanderous</p> <p>15 allegations is still with me. It keeps haunting me. So</p> <p>16 it's an ongoing effect that I'm experiencing.</p> <p>17 Q Have you seen a psychologist to address this</p> <p>18 emotional stress you're claiming?</p> <p>19 A No. We don't have that practice in Russia.</p> <p>20 That's not really par for the course in Russia to do</p> <p>21 that.</p> <p>22 Q So you haven't seen a psychologist?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">40</p> <p>1 Q Did you stop attending social events because</p> <p>2 of CIR 112?</p> <p>3 A No.</p> <p>4 Q What does Richard Burt know about harm to you</p> <p>5 personally as a result of any of these publications</p> <p>6 you're alleging?</p> <p>7 A I would not discuss that with him. He knows</p> <p>8 about the publication, but it's a question, I believe,</p> <p>9 which is better asked of Rick Burt.</p> <p>10 Q You listed him as a witness as someone with</p> <p>11 knowledge of the harm to you. What is your knowledge of</p> <p>12 what he would testify about your harm?</p> <p>13 A I don't know. He definitely knows about the</p> <p>14 publication. He knows about us. Now what he knows</p> <p>15 about our internal sufferings, I'm not in a position to</p> <p>16 tell you.</p> <p>17 Q What does Ed Rogers know about harm to you as</p> <p>18 a result of the alleged defamation, to your knowledge?</p> <p>19 A The same that I've just said about Rick Burt</p> <p>20 goes for Ed Rogers.</p> <p>21 Q What's the name of the doctor who prescribed</p> <p>22 medicine for your hypertension?</p>

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11 (41 to 44)

41	<p>1 A I definitely can.</p> <p>2 Q What's the name of the doctor?</p> <p>3 MR. LEWIS: Objection. We won't do this on</p> <p>4 this deposition. If you want to make a request, you'll</p> <p>5 direct it to me, and we'll deal with it off of this</p> <p>6 deposition.</p> <p>7 Q Are you claiming -- you're claiming relief for</p> <p>8 the hypertension you say you experienced, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>9 A I've already said that I'm not.</p> <p>10 Q You're not? Okay.</p> <p>11 Let's go to the first statement that you say</p> <p>12 defamed you.</p> <p>13 Before we do, I just want to be very clear.</p> <p>14 Did you suffer any other harm from the alleged</p> <p>15 defamation that you have not told me about today?</p> <p>16 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form.</p> <p>17 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>18 MR. LEVY: I will rephrase the question.</p> <p>19 Q Mr. Aven, are you claiming harm from any of</p> <p>20 these statements -- strike that.</p> <p>21 Are you seeking recovery for any harm you've</p> <p>22 not discussed today?</p>	43	<p>1 interrogatories.</p> <p>2 A Yes, I can see it now. So are you referring</p> <p>3 to paragraph 2 then? Interrogatory 2?</p> <p>4 Q Interrogatory 2, the first paragraph, there's</p> <p>5 the sentence, Russia/U.S. Presidential Election:</p> <p>6 Kremlin-Alfa Group Cooperation.</p> <p>7 A Yes, I can see it now. Thank you.</p> <p>8 Q How does that statement defame you personally?</p> <p>9 A It says here that the entity that I'm</p> <p>10 connected with interfered in the U.S. presidential</p> <p>11 election. This is a very serious allegation.</p> <p>12 Q How does this statement concern you if it</p> <p>13 doesn't mention you at all?</p> <p>14 A It's in the public domain. It's public</p> <p>15 knowledge that I'm one of the founders and one of the</p> <p>16 owners of Alfa. And also, further on in that document,</p> <p>17 you can see my name mentioned multiple times.</p> <p>18 Therefore, logically, one can draw the conclusion that</p> <p>19 this is the same.</p> <p>20 Q So you're saying that the inclusion of Alfa in</p> <p>21 this statement refers to you?</p> <p>22 A Yes. In an indirect -- not expressly; in an</p>
42	<p>1 A All our claims are contained in the documents</p> <p>2 before us, in the lawsuit that we brought.</p> <p>3 Q Meaning the document number 6, Exhibit 8, the</p> <p>4 second supplemental responses?</p> <p>5 A I'm referring to the -- interrogatory number</p> <p>6 20: Reputation, emotion, and the rest of it.</p> <p>7 Q And in addition to that, what you've told me</p> <p>8 today at this deposition, correct?</p> <p>9 MR. LEWIS: Objection to -- objection to --</p> <p>10 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>11 A We are not demanding -- we're not seeking any</p> <p>12 recovery apart from what is set out in the document.</p> <p>13 Q Turn now back to the first defamatory</p> <p>14 statement, Russia/U.S. -- strike that.</p> <p>15 Turn back to the first alleged defamatory</p> <p>16 statement. Quote, Russia/U.S. Presidential Election:</p> <p>17 Kremlin-Alfa Group Cooperation.</p> <p>18 THE INTERPRETER: Which document is that, sir?</p> <p>19 Mr. Aven is asking which document you're referring him</p> <p>20 to, sir.</p> <p>21 Q Sure. That's in the document 5. This is</p> <p>22 Exhibit 5 as well, the first supplemental responses to</p>	44	<p>1 indirect way.</p> <p>2 Q Did you produce any of your Alfa-Bank e-mails</p> <p>3 in the UK lawsuit that you filed?</p> <p>4 A I don't think so.</p> <p>5 Q Did you produce any (inaudible)?</p> <p>6 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>7 A I really don't recall.</p> <p>8 Q Did you produce any of your LetterOne e-mails</p> <p>9 in your UK lawsuit?</p> <p>10 A I definitely did not do that.</p> <p>11 Q Did you use any of your Alfa documents to</p> <p>12 support your claims in your UK lawsuit against Orbis?</p> <p>13 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form.</p> <p>14 Please, after the interpreter finishes</p> <p>15 interpreting the question, pause so that I can</p> <p>16 articulate my objection before Mr. Aven answers it.</p> <p>17 THE INTERPRETER: Thank you.</p> <p>18 (Rendering interpretation.)</p> <p>19 MR. LEWIS: My objection is to the phrase</p> <p>20 "your Alfa documents." Alfa documents aren't his.</p> <p>21 Q Did you use -- I'll rephrase the question.</p> <p>22 Did you use any Alfa documents to support your</p>

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12 (45 to 48)

45	<p>1 claims in the UK lawsuit that you filed against Orbis, 2 including e-mails from your e-mail account at Alfa? 3 A I did not disclose any e-mails. 4 Q Did you use Govorun's employment records at 5 Alfa to support your claims in the UK lawsuit? 6 (Reporter interruption.) 7 A No one asked me about that. But I did ask for 8 information to be made available to me with respect to 9 the time that he spent with us. 10 Q Turn to -- 11 A Because personally, I have never met him. 12 Q Turn to document number 104. 13 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 9. 14 MR. LEWIS: I'm sorry, which document number? 15 MR. LEVY: 104. 16 (Exhibit Aven-9 marked for identification and 17 attached to the transcript.) 18 BY MR. LEVY: 19 Q This is more of the transcript from Aven 20 versus (inaudible) UK trial from March 16, 2020. 21 A Is this the one that contains pages from 33 22 through to 36, sir?</p>	47	<p>1 Q It says Mr. Khan owns 20.96 percent; is that 2 correct? 3 A Yes, correct. 4 Q By the way, what's the correct pronunciation 5 of his first name? 6 A Like in Russian, you mean? 7 Q Sure. 8 A German. 9 THE INTERPRETER: There has to be an H after 10 G, sir, for you not to pronounce the "German." So it's 11 "German" or "German" in Russian. 12 MR. LEVY: Thank you. 13 Q And Mr. Aven, in English, is your name spelled 14 P-E-T-R, or are there other spellings of it? 15 A You can find a thousand different documents 16 where the spelling will be different. In my Russian 17 domestic passport, the name is spelled P-E-T-R. 18 Q But it can also be found as P-Y-O-T-R? 19 A Correct. 20 Q And sticking with this document, Exhibit 10, 21 it also says that you own 12.4 percent of Alfa-Banking 22 Group; is that correct?</p>
46	<p>1 Q Yes. And if you go to page 35, you'll see 2 that Mr. Tomlinson, one of the attorneys in the case, 3 says, Mr. Govorun didn't start working for Alfa-Bank 4 until 1997. Again, there can be no doubt about that. 5 Your Lordship has his personnel file. 6 Did -- end of quote. 7 Do you know who produced that personnel file 8 in your UK litigation against Orbis? 9 A I don't know. 10 Q Turn to document 77. 11 MR. LEVY: We'll mark this Exhibit 10. 12 (Exhibit Aven-10 marked for identification and 13 attached to the transcript.) 14 BY MR. LEVY: 15 Q This is a document from the Alfa-Banking 16 Group's website. It says Alfa-Banking Group has seven 17 beneficial owners, and you are one of them; is that 18 correct? 19 A That is correct. 20 Q It says Mr. Fridman owns 32.86 percent; is 21 that correct? 22 A Yes.</p>	48	<p>1 A Correct. 2 Q So is it true that you, Mr. Fridman, and 3 Mr. Khan collectively own over 66 percent of the 4 Alfa-Banking Group? 5 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form, "collectively." 6 Is the question whether you add the numbers on this 7 document together for the three of them, you get the 8 number that you're asking about? 9 Q Do the three of you combined own over 66 10 percent of Alfa-Banking Group? 11 A Well, if you look at the math here, that's 12 what it says here. 13 Q You're familiar with the October 2016 Slate 14 article about the Alfa server communicating with the 15 Trump server, correct? 16 A Yes, I'm familiar with that. 17 Q And you're familiar with the October 2018 New 18 Yorker article about the Alfa server communicating with 19 the Trump server in 2016? 20 A Yes. 21 Q Did you seek to make a correction or release a 22 statement to The New Yorker?</p>

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13 (49 to 52)

49	<p>1 A That was the bank. That was Alfa-Bank that</p> <p>2 was doing this. I did not.</p> <p>3 Q Alfa-Bank released a statement to The New</p> <p>4 Yorker?</p> <p>5 A I do not recall. But I wouldn't rule that</p> <p>6 out. It is possible.</p> <p>7 Q Are you sure it wasn't the Slate or The New</p> <p>8 Yorker articles that caused Mr. Aslund to see you</p> <p>9 differently?</p> <p>10 A I'm sure because the server allegations were</p> <p>11 of a purely technical nature, and in terms of the</p> <p>12 magnitude of the effect that they had, they were</p> <p>13 incomparable with the statements that we're looking at.</p> <p>14 Q Is that your analysis, or is that what</p> <p>15 Mr. Aslund said to you?</p> <p>16 A It is my analysis. I also spoke with</p> <p>17 Mr. Aslund in 2016, and the problem did not arise at</p> <p>18 that time. Even though it happened after the -- so far</p> <p>19 as I can recall, it happened after the server story.</p> <p>20 Q When in 2016 did you speak with Mr. Aslund?</p> <p>21 A I do not recall exactly, but it was definitely</p> <p>22 after the server story. A long time after the server</p>	51	<p>1 Q Mr. Aven, I'm asking you what you discussed</p> <p>2 with Mr. Aslund in 2016 on the phone.</p> <p>3 A I do not recollect. At that time we had</p> <p>4 normal dealings between us and normal discussions.</p> <p>5 Q But you don't recall why he called you or you</p> <p>6 called him in 2016?</p> <p>7 A Whatever we discussed had some bearing on the</p> <p>8 Russian economy by and large, always.</p> <p>9 Q Did you call him, or did he call you?</p> <p>10 MR. LEWIS: Objection, form. When?</p> <p>11 Q In 2016.</p> <p>12 A I don't recall.</p> <p>13 MR. LEWIS: Is the premise of the question</p> <p>14 that they had one conversation in 2016?</p> <p>15 Q Mr. Aven --</p> <p>16 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>17 A I really don't recall. There's no way I can</p> <p>18 recollect this sitting here today.</p> <p>19 Q Between the time that Slate published its</p> <p>20 article in October 2016 and January 2017, how many phone</p> <p>21 conversations did you have with Mr. Aslund?</p> <p>22 A I do not recollect.</p>
50	<p>1 story appeared.</p> <p>2 Q What did you discuss?</p> <p>3 A I have already -- I have already referred to</p> <p>4 what he said to me, and he said that the noise -- the</p> <p>5 background noise that surrounds this interferes with his</p> <p>6 relationship with me.</p> <p>7 Q That's what he said in 2016 on the phone with</p> <p>8 you?</p> <p>9 MR. LEWIS: Objection, mischaracterizes the</p> <p>10 witness's --</p> <p>11 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>12 MR. LEWIS: Sorry, go ahead.</p> <p>13 A (Speaking Russian.)</p> <p>14 MR. LEWIS: Well, wait, stop, stop. So we</p> <p>15 need to have a an approach here, after the interpreter</p> <p>16 answers [sic] the question, stop for a moment so that if</p> <p>17 I have an objection, I can articulate it before Mr. Aven</p> <p>18 begins to answer the question.</p> <p>19 So my objection here is that the question</p> <p>20 mischaracterizes the witness's previous testimony by</p> <p>21 describing a particular conversation with Mr. Aslund</p> <p>22 having taken place in 2016.</p>	52	<p>1 Q Do you recall calling him in that time period?</p> <p>2 A Of course, not. It was three years ago. Who</p> <p>3 possibly can recall that?</p> <p>4 Q Do you recall him calling you in that time</p> <p>5 period?</p> <p>6 A There is no way one can remember exactly who</p> <p>7 got on the phone to whom four years ago.</p> <p>8 Q Did he call your cell phone?</p> <p>9 A I don't recall that either.</p> <p>10 Q Do you know if you used your cell phone to</p> <p>11 call him?</p> <p>12 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, say it again,</p> <p>13 sir?</p> <p>14 Q Did you use your cell phone to call him in</p> <p>15 that period?</p> <p>16 A We spoke sometimes two to three times per</p> <p>17 year. There's no way I can recall exactly what I did</p> <p>18 when.</p> <p>19 Q Turn if you would to the -- back to document</p> <p>20 5, Exhibit 5. You see the statement, Significant favors</p> <p>21 continued to be done in both directions, primarily</p> <p>22 political ones for Putin and business/legal ones for</p>

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14 (53 to 56)

53	<p>1 Alfa.</p> <p>2 How does this statement defame you?</p> <p>3 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, sir. Where is that</p> <p>4 in the document, please?</p> <p>5 MR. LEVY: Page 2.</p> <p>6 A We did not render any favors or reciprocal</p> <p>7 favors to each other, let alone political ones.</p> <p>8 Q In this lawsuit, you're not challenging that</p> <p>9 this statement, as it applied to events before 2016,</p> <p>10 defamed you; is that correct?</p> <p>11 A This statement in general is of a slanderous</p> <p>12 and totally unjustified nature. However, in this</p> <p>13 particular instance, we are referring to the time period</p> <p>14 that we list here.</p> <p>15 Q And is that 2016?</p> <p>16 A Yes, that's what it says here.</p> <p>17 Q Can you turn to document number 10.</p> <p>18 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 11.</p> <p>19 (Exhibit Aven-11 marked for identification and</p> <p>20 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>21 (The witness and interpreter conferred in</p> <p>22 Russian.)</p>	55	<p>1 Is that the one?</p> <p>2 MR. LEVY: Yes. If you look at the last</p> <p>3 sentence of that paragraph beginning, To the extent.</p> <p>4 THE INTERPRETER: Okay, got it. Thank you.</p> <p>5 Q It says, To the extent a response is required,</p> <p>6 plaintiff denies that the statement, if modified</p> <p>7 temporally to be limited to allegations about conduct</p> <p>8 preceding January 1, 2016, is challenged in this</p> <p>9 defamation action.</p> <p>10 Are you --</p> <p>11 A I'm not sure I understand what it says here.</p> <p>12 So what's your question, sir?</p> <p>13 Q This is your response. Are you conceding that</p> <p>14 this statement as applied to events before January 1,</p> <p>15 2016 is true? And by "this statement," I'm talking</p> <p>16 about the statement in CIR 112 that begins, Significant</p> <p>17 favors.</p> <p>18 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, sir. You broke up at</p> <p>19 the very beginning of the sentence. Could you repeat,</p> <p>20 please?</p> <p>21 MR. LEVY: Sure.</p> <p>22 Q This response to RFA number 21 is in reference</p>
54	<p>1 THE INTERPRETER: Is it General Objections,</p> <p>2 sir?</p> <p>3 MR. LEVY: These are the responses to requests</p> <p>4 for admissions.</p> <p>5 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>6 Q If you could turn to page 9 of that document.</p> <p>7 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, sir. I have -- under</p> <p>8 10 I have General Objections, and you said page 9 of</p> <p>9 this document?</p> <p>10 MR. LEVY: Yes.</p> <p>11 Q In response to request for admission number</p> <p>12 21, you say, quote, To the extent a response is</p> <p>13 required, (inaudible) denies that the statement is</p> <p>14 modified temporarily -- I'm sorry --</p> <p>15 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, sir. Mr. Aven -- and</p> <p>16 the interpreter, by the way -- are both confused. Which</p> <p>17 paragraph are you referring to?</p> <p>18 MR. LEVY: The top paragraph at the top of</p> <p>19 page 10.</p> <p>20 THE INTERPRETER: At the top of page 10,</p> <p>21 response to request 21, Plaintiff objects to the phrase</p> <p>22 "claiming."</p>	56	<p>1 to the statement in CIR 112, Significant favors</p> <p>2 continued to be done in both directions, primarily</p> <p>3 political ones for Putin and business/legal ones for</p> <p>4 Alfa.</p> <p>5 Through this response to RFA number 21, are</p> <p>6 you conceding that this statement beginning "significant</p> <p>7 favors" as applied to events before January 1, 2016 is</p> <p>8 true?</p> <p>9 A Well, to begin with, any reference to any</p> <p>10 alleged exchange of favors between ourselves and Putin</p> <p>11 at any point in time whatsoever is contrary to truth.</p> <p>12 But in this particular lawsuit, we are referring to a</p> <p>13 specific time frame.</p> <p>14 Q If you go back to document number 5, please,</p> <p>15 which is also Exhibit 5. And turn to page 3.</p> <p>16 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>17 Q Mr. Aven, do you see the excerpted statement</p> <p>18 from CIR 112 about Mr. Govorun?</p> <p>19 A Yes.</p> <p>20 Q How do those two --</p> <p>21 A Yes. Let me just read it, sir.</p> <p>22 (The witness and interpreter conferred in</p>

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15 (57 to 60)

57	<p>1 Russian.)</p> <p>2 THE INTERPRETER: Mr. Aven is asking me to</p> <p>3 translate it, if I may, if that's okay.</p> <p>4 (Rendering interpretation.)</p> <p>5 A So what's the question, sir?</p> <p>6 Q How do these statements defame you?</p> <p>7 A It says here, in so many words, that I'm a</p> <p>8 criminal because I'm paying the money. What else could</p> <p>9 you construe this as?</p> <p>10 Q Did Mr. Govorun work at Alfa?</p> <p>11 A Yes.</p> <p>12 Q How do you know that?</p> <p>13 A When I read this statement, I made an inquiry</p> <p>14 with our HR department.</p> <p>15 Q And what did you learn from the HR department?</p> <p>16 A That he had been head of a department in the</p> <p>17 bank.</p> <p>18 Q Did the HR department send you any</p> <p>19 documentation showing his employment?</p> <p>20 A No. I got that information orally. They told</p> <p>21 me what his position had been and where he had worked.</p> <p>22 But, of course, they do have supporting documentation</p>	59	<p>1 fine. But if you mean something different by it, then</p> <p>2 you should clarify it.</p> <p>3 Q Please answer the question.</p> <p>4 A I have never been subject of any criminal</p> <p>5 investigation at all throughout my life.</p> <p>6 Q Are you familiar with the Department of</p> <p>7 Justice's investigation in the United States of</p> <p>8 VimpelCom for bribery in Uzbekistan?</p> <p>9 A I heard about that.</p> <p>10 Q And is it the case that Altimio owns a</p> <p>11 percentage of VimpelCom?</p> <p>12 A It used to hold an equity stake in that</p> <p>13 company at that time.</p> <p>14 Q In 2016?</p> <p>15 A I don't recall.</p> <p>16 Q Did the U.S. Justice Department ever ask to</p> <p>17 speak with you for its investigation into VimpelCom?</p> <p>18 A I have nothing to do with VimpelCom apart from</p> <p>19 the fact that Altimio used to hold a stake in VimpelCom.</p> <p>20 Therefore obviously no one asked me.</p> <p>21 Q What's your -- what was your relationship with</p> <p>22 Altimio in 2016?</p>
58	<p>1 for that.</p> <p>2 Q Do you recall who at the HR department you</p> <p>3 contacted?</p> <p>4 A It would have been lead number one in the</p> <p>5 department. Having said that, I do not recall that</p> <p>6 exactly.</p> <p>7 Q Did you need anyone's permission to call that</p> <p>8 person?</p> <p>9 A I do not need any permission if I need to</p> <p>10 obtain that information for my purposes as -- as in my</p> <p>11 capacity as chairman of the bank.</p> <p>12 Q Have any of the (inaudible)?</p> <p>13 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>14 Q Have any of your companies been accused of</p> <p>15 breaking the law?</p> <p>16 A I do not recall any such instances.</p> <p>17 Q Have you ever been accused of breaking the</p> <p>18 law?</p> <p>19 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form. My objection</p> <p>20 to the use of the word "accused" is, it seems to imply a</p> <p>21 charge by a charging authority, a criminal charge. If</p> <p>22 that's what you mean by it, then I think the question is</p>	60	<p>1 A I was one of the shareholders.</p> <p>2 Q What percentage did you own?</p> <p>3 A Less than my stake in the bank, definitely.</p> <p>4 Q More than 5 percent?</p> <p>5 A If my memory serves me right, it was about 7</p> <p>6 percent.</p> <p>7 Q Have you ever been arrested?</p> <p>8 A Never.</p> <p>9 Q Have you ever been interviewed by any criminal</p> <p>10 investigators?</p> <p>11 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection. Has he</p> <p>12 ever been interviewed by any criminal investigators? I</p> <p>13 think your question assumes that you and he have the</p> <p>14 same understanding of who is a criminal investigator.</p> <p>15 Q Answer the question, please.</p> <p>16 A I was once answering questions in the course</p> <p>17 of an examination within the framework of a criminal</p> <p>18 case that dealt with allegations of bribery in the</p> <p>19 ministry which I was the head of.</p> <p>20 Q When was that?</p> <p>21 A In 1992.</p> <p>22 Q Is that the commission that relied on the</p>

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16 (61 to 64)

61	<p>1 Kroll report?</p> <p>2 THE INTERPRETER: The commission that?</p> <p>3 MR. LEVY: Relied on the Kroll report,</p> <p>4 K-R-O-L-L.</p> <p>5 A No, no, it had nothing to do with that.</p> <p>6 Q Was it the Sal'ye commission?</p> <p>7 A No, there was no criminal case there.</p> <p>8 Q What was the criminal case that you're</p> <p>9 describing?</p> <p>10 A There were some allegations with respect to</p> <p>11 bribery being paid; someone was caught red-handed, and</p> <p>12 questions were asked of me.</p> <p>13 I do not even recall those people. I do not</p> <p>14 know their names. I was just explaining what those</p> <p>15 people were doing within the ministry.</p> <p>16 Q Was this a Russian government investigation?</p> <p>17 A Yes, by the Russian police.</p> <p>18 Q Do you know if there was a memorandum written</p> <p>19 of your testimony in that investigation?</p> <p>20 A I am not aware of any, and no one ever asked</p> <p>21 me any further questions after that.</p> <p>22 Q Was there ever a written report of that</p>	63	<p>1 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection. The</p> <p>2 question calls for the witness to divulge information</p> <p>3 potentially subject to the Grand Jury privilege. He</p> <p>4 should not answer.</p> <p>5 A I'm not answering.</p> <p>6 MR. LEVY: Just for the record, Federal Rule</p> <p>7 of Criminal Procedure 6(e)(2)(A) provides that, quote,</p> <p>8 No obligation of secrecy may be imposed on any person</p> <p>9 except in accordance with Rule 6(e)(2)(B), end of quote.</p> <p>10 And Rule 6(e)(2)(B) does not list Grand Jury</p> <p>11 witnesses or their counsel. They are not subject to</p> <p>12 Rule 6(e) secrecy.</p> <p>13 MR. LEWIS: So Mr. Levy, we're not going to</p> <p>14 have a oral argument over issues here today that are</p> <p>15 already presented to the District Court. So you've</p> <p>16 taken your position on these issues; we've taken ours.</p> <p>17 We don't have a ruling yet.</p> <p>18 So not only do the questions call for the</p> <p>19 witness to divulge privileged information, but they also</p> <p>20 call for a number of arguments that have been made and</p> <p>21 are pending before the Court.</p> <p>22 MR. LEVY: We're stating our disagreement for</p>
62	<p>1 investigation that you're aware of?</p> <p>2 A I know nothing about that. And mind you, that</p> <p>3 was 30 years ago.</p> <p>4 Q Have you been interviewed by any other</p> <p>5 criminal investigator?</p> <p>6 A I don't think so.</p> <p>7 Q Did the U.S. Special Counsel, Robert Mueller,</p> <p>8 and his team interview you?</p> <p>9 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Before the witness</p> <p>10 answers -- objection. Calls for the witness to divulge</p> <p>11 information which is subject to the Grand Jury</p> <p>12 privilege.</p> <p>13 A I did answer questions to the Mueller</p> <p>14 commission.</p> <p>15 Q When did that take place?</p> <p>16 A It would have been in 2018, I think, or maybe</p> <p>17 '19. Or maybe 2018, perhaps.</p> <p>18 Q Did you provide any documents to the Office of</p> <p>19 the Special Counsel?</p> <p>20 A No.</p> <p>21 Q Did you provide a proffer from your attorney</p> <p>22 to the Office of the Special Counsel in writing?</p>	64	<p>1 the record. And I would also note that our disagreement</p> <p>2 is over documents, not testimony in a deposition.</p> <p>3 Q Did your counsel provide an affidavit to the</p> <p>4 Office of Special Counsel, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>5 MR. LEWIS: Same objection.</p> <p>6 A I'm following the advice by my counsel, and</p> <p>7 I'm not answering.</p> <p>8 Q Do you know what the Special Counsel was</p> <p>9 investigating?</p> <p>10 A I think I do. An alleged conspiracy between</p> <p>11 the Russian and the U.S. governments.</p> <p>12 Q Has any other law enforcement agency asked you</p> <p>13 for information about a criminal investigation anywhere</p> <p>14 in the world?</p> <p>15 A I don't think so.</p> <p>16 Q Sir, are you a billionaire?</p> <p>17 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, say it again?</p> <p>18 Q Are you a billionaire?</p> <p>19 A That's what people believe is the case.</p> <p>20 Q Is that the case?</p> <p>21 A I think so.</p> <p>22 Q Do you agree that you're portrayed as a</p>

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17 (65 to 68)

65	<p>1 billionaire in the Western press?</p> <p>2 A Is your question with respect to whether I</p> <p>3 agree that I'm a billionaire, with the fact that I'm a</p> <p>4 billionaire, or with the fact that this is how I'm</p> <p>5 portrayed in the media?</p> <p>6 Q Does the Western press portray you as a</p> <p>7 billionaire?</p> <p>8 A It does.</p> <p>9 Q Have you ever challenged that</p> <p>10 characterization?</p> <p>11 A No.</p> <p>12 Q Have you allowed the press to write stories</p> <p>13 about your wealth, your art collections, your mansions?</p> <p>14 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection to the use</p> <p>15 of the word "allowed" in that question. I don't know</p> <p>16 what that means.</p> <p>17 A No one referred to my wealth, and I have</p> <p>18 absolutely no problem with people picturing my art</p> <p>19 collection because this is Russian art, and I stand by</p> <p>20 it, and I take pride in this.</p> <p>21 Q Do you have the largest private collection of</p> <p>22 Russian art in the world?</p>	67	<p>1 Q Can you turn to document 27.</p> <p>2 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 12.</p> <p>3 (Exhibit Aven-12 marked for identification and</p> <p>4 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>5 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>6 Q This document is a document from Forbes</p> <p>7 magazine. It states at the top, Number 375, Pyotr Aven.</p> <p>8 And then the second page, it says that your net worth as</p> <p>9 of March 2016 was \$4.6 billion. Is that roughly</p> <p>10 correct?</p> <p>11 A Roughly, yes.</p> <p>12 Q And the next page, it says that in March of</p> <p>13 2017, your net worth remained \$4.6 billion.</p> <p>14 A Correct.</p> <p>15 Q And on the page after that, it says that in</p> <p>16 March 2018, your net worth was \$5.1 billion; is that</p> <p>17 correct?</p> <p>18 A That is correct.</p> <p>19 (In English.) Correct.</p> <p>20 Q Counsel for record in this lawsuit</p> <p>21 representing you is the law firm of Carter Ledyard; is</p> <p>22 that right?</p>
66	<p>1 A Yes.</p> <p>2 Q Does it include works by Kandinsky and</p> <p>3 Chagall?</p> <p>4 A Yes.</p> <p>5 Q You purchased all of those works of art</p> <p>6 yourself, correct?</p> <p>7 A Yes.</p> <p>8 Q You've been to Washington, D.C. several times,</p> <p>9 sir, correct?</p> <p>10 A 25, maybe 30 times.</p> <p>11 Q Have you seen the Henry Moore sculpture</p> <p>12 outside the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington?</p> <p>13 A Yes.</p> <p>14 Q You have a Henry Moore sculpture on your front</p> <p>15 lawn; isn't that correct?</p> <p>16 A Yes.</p> <p>17 Q Isn't it true that your net worth has</p> <p>18 increased substantially since the publication of</p> <p>19 CIR 112?</p> <p>20 A No, that's not true.</p> <p>21 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>22 A It's at about the same level as it used to be.</p>	68	<p>1 A Yes.</p> <p>2 Q I'm not asking any questions about legal</p> <p>3 advice you received, but are there any other law firms</p> <p>4 or lawyers advising you on this lawsuit?</p> <p>5 A I only deal with Alan.</p> <p>6 Q Mr. Gillespie isn't advising you on this</p> <p>7 lawsuit?</p> <p>8 A No. For all practical purposes, no.</p> <p>9 Q He's in the room today with you, sir, correct?</p> <p>10 A Yes, but he represents the company.</p> <p>11 Q Are there lawyers from other law firms</p> <p>12 advising you on this lawsuit?</p> <p>13 A De facto, I only work with Alan.</p> <p>14 Q What are your e-mail addresses? Can you list</p> <p>15 them for me, please?</p> <p>16 A Paven@alfabank.ru. That's the only one.</p> <p>17 Q That's the only one?</p> <p>18 A There is the other one, but that one I only</p> <p>19 use for my pursuits related to the movie industry and</p> <p>20 things like that. And that's paven@gmail.com.</p> <p>21 Q Do you have an e-mail address at LetterOne?</p> <p>22 A Yes, but I've never used it.</p>

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18 (69 to 72)

69	<p>1 Q What is it?</p> <p>2 A I don't recall.</p> <p>3 Q Is the Alfa-Bank e-mail address your primary</p> <p>4 e-mail address?</p> <p>5 A Yes.</p> <p>6 Q Did you produce any of those e-mails for this</p> <p>7 litigation?</p> <p>8 A No.</p> <p>9 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>10 MR. LEVY: I'll rephrase it.</p> <p>11 Q Did you produce any e-mail from that account</p> <p>12 in this litigation?</p> <p>13 A I don't think so.</p> <p>14 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>15 Before the witness answers, as we all know,</p> <p>16 the production of entity documents is the subject of a</p> <p>17 dispute that's pending before the Court. The record is</p> <p>18 clear that the plaintiffs have not produced documents</p> <p>19 that belong to the company, including company e-mails.</p> <p>20 You've objected to that. You've raised the issue, and</p> <p>21 it's before the Court.</p> <p>22 I don't think we're going to have a further</p>	71	<p>1 co-plaintiffs to obtain the Alfa documents for this</p> <p>2 litigation?</p> <p>3 MR. LEWIS: Objection. My objection is, it's</p> <p>4 not clear whether the efforts you're asking him about</p> <p>5 include the efforts made by his counsel.</p> <p>6 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>7 MR. LEVY: Alan, you can't testify for your</p> <p>8 client. I've allowed a lot of speaking objections, but</p> <p>9 there's a limit to this.</p> <p>10 MR. LEWIS: Well, Josh, but when you say, did</p> <p>11 you make any efforts, you can interpret that as whether</p> <p>12 he personally made any efforts or whether he made them</p> <p>13 through counsel.</p> <p>14 MR. LEVY: That's for him --</p> <p>15 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>16 MR. LEWIS: And if you want to learn from him</p> <p>17 what he knows about efforts, you should be clearer.</p> <p>18 That's my objection.</p> <p>19 MR. LEVY: That's for him to say.</p> <p>20 A I'm not aware of any discussion with respect</p> <p>21 to any documents at all. So there was no discussion.</p> <p>22 Q If you, Mr. Fridman, and Mr. Khan sought to</p>
70	<p>1 discussion in this deposition about those issues that</p> <p>2 we've (inaudible) --</p> <p>3 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>4 Q Mr. Aven, did you instruct Alfa not to make</p> <p>5 your Alfa-Bank e-mails available to you for this</p> <p>6 litigation?</p> <p>7 THE INTERPRETER: Sir, Mr. Aven -- before you</p> <p>8 asked the question, Mr. Aven was wondering whether it</p> <p>9 would be possible to have a comfort break for five</p> <p>10 minutes.</p> <p>11 MR. LEVY: That's fine. We can break now.</p> <p>12 (Recess from 10:14 a.m. until 10:23 a.m.)</p> <p>13 MR. LEVY: Back on the record.</p> <p>14 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>15 Q Mr. Aven, did you instruct Alfa not to make</p> <p>16 your Alfa-Bank e-mails available to you for this</p> <p>17 litigation?</p> <p>18 A No, I did not. No one asked me.</p> <p>19 Q Did you make any effort to obtain these</p> <p>20 documents from Alfa (inaudible) lawsuit?</p> <p>21 A No.</p> <p>22 Q Did you make any collective effort with your</p>	72	<p>1 oppose a decision at Alfa, did you have the authority,</p> <p>2 with your --</p> <p>3 THE INTERPRETER: Sir, sorry, can you repeat</p> <p>4 that? It keeps breaking up.</p> <p>5 MR. LEVY: Yeah, I'm waiting for the noise to</p> <p>6 die down in the boardroom.</p> <p>7 Q Given the fact that you, Mr. Fridman, and</p> <p>8 Mr. Khan collectively own over 66 percent of Alfa, do</p> <p>9 you have the authority to oppose a decision at Alfa as a</p> <p>10 threesome, a troika?</p> <p>11 A Of course not.</p> <p>12 Q Are you the chairman of the board of directors</p> <p>13 of ABH Holdings?</p> <p>14 A Yes.</p> <p>15 Q Richard Burt sits on the board of LetterOne,</p> <p>16 does he not?</p> <p>17 A Yes.</p> <p>18 Q Did you ask Richard Burt to obtain access to</p> <p>19 your LetterOne documents for this lawsuit?</p> <p>20 A Never.</p> <p>21 Q Andrei Kosogov is on the board of Alfa-Bank</p> <p>22 and LetterOne, correct?</p>

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19 (73 to 76)

73	<p>1 A Yes.</p> <p>2 Q Did you ask him to obtain access to your</p> <p>3 documents at Alfa-Bank or LetterOne for this lawsuit?</p> <p>4 A No, and I did not ask anyone else either.</p> <p>5 Q Including Alexey Kuzmichev?</p> <p>6 A Correct.</p> <p>7 Q Ryan Junck at Skadden is your personal lawyer,</p> <p>8 correct?</p> <p>9 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>10 A He mainly works --</p> <p>11 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>12 MR. LEWIS: So when I say "objection," and the</p> <p>13 interpreter then interprets, then I will articulate my</p> <p>14 objection before Mr. Aven answers the question.</p> <p>15 So my objection to your asking about whether</p> <p>16 Mr. Junck is his personal lawyer is potentially</p> <p>17 misleading because you don't make it clear with the</p> <p>18 question whether you're asking whether Mr. Junck is his</p> <p>19 personal lawyer in connection with this case or some</p> <p>20 other legal matter.</p> <p>21 You've already established, through your</p> <p>22 previous questions, that he only speaks to me and my</p>	75	<p>1 Q Have you written Mr. Junck or anyone at</p> <p>2 Skadden to ask them for your documents at Alfa so that</p> <p>3 you could produce them in this case?</p> <p>4 A No.</p> <p>5 MR. LEWIS: Objection. The witness has</p> <p>6 counsel, as has already been made clear to you in</p> <p>7 multiple ways and in multiple forums. It was handled</p> <p>8 through counsel. But he shouldn't be discussing what he</p> <p>9 knows from counsel. But you know that that request was</p> <p>10 made by me for him to the company's counsel. I don't</p> <p>11 think we need to belabor that.</p> <p>12 Q Do you typically carry a smartphone with you?</p> <p>13 A Yes.</p> <p>14 Q Do you have it with you today?</p> <p>15 A Yes.</p> <p>16 Q Does it belong to you?</p> <p>17 A I think it may belong to Alfa-Bank, but I'm</p> <p>18 not sure.</p> <p>19 Q Are you able to use it without asking</p> <p>20 permission from Alfa or LetterOne?</p> <p>21 A Yes.</p> <p>22 Q Do you receive e-mails and text messages on</p>
74	<p>1 firm to represent him in this case.</p> <p>2 Q Mr. Aven, did Ryan Junck at Skadden represent</p> <p>3 you before the Special Counsel?</p> <p>4 A Skadden did work for us, and Ryan was part of</p> <p>5 the team.</p> <p>6 Q Did Ryan Junck present a proffer to the</p> <p>7 Special Counsel on your behalf?</p> <p>8 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>9 Now the interpreter will interpret the</p> <p>10 question, and then I will articulate the objection</p> <p>11 before Mr. Aven answers.</p> <p>12 THE INTERPRETER: (Rendering interpretation.)</p> <p>13 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection, directing</p> <p>14 the witness not to answer on the ground of Grand Jury</p> <p>15 secrecy.</p> <p>16 A I already refused to answer those questions</p> <p>17 which you have already asked, and I will not be</p> <p>18 answering this one either.</p> <p>19 Q You know that Ryan Junck and Skadden also</p> <p>20 represent Alfa and Richard Burt in this lawsuit?</p> <p>21 A I know about Alfa-Bank, but I know nothing</p> <p>22 about Richard Burt.</p>	76	<p>1 your phone?</p> <p>2 A Of course.</p> <p>3 Q What apps on the phone do you use to</p> <p>4 communicate?</p> <p>5 A I use WhatsApp, and that's it.</p> <p>6 Q Do you use Signal or Slack?</p> <p>7 A No.</p> <p>8 Q Anything else?</p> <p>9 A I have Telegram installed on the smartphone,</p> <p>10 but I don't use it.</p> <p>11 Q What efforts did you make to get access to the</p> <p>12 information on your smartphone for use in this</p> <p>13 litigation?</p> <p>14 MR. LEWIS: Objection. My objection is the</p> <p>15 same one that I just articulated, which is, as you</p> <p>16 already know, that all of that was handled through</p> <p>17 counsel.</p> <p>18 Q Do you have an assistant who sends e-mail on</p> <p>19 your behalf?</p> <p>20 COURT REPORTER: Counsel, I'm sorry. I just</p> <p>21 want to point out that we did not get an answer on the</p> <p>22 record to the last question.</p>

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20 (77 to 80)

77	<p>1 MR. LEVY: That's okay.</p> <p>2 Q Do you have an assistant who sends e-mail on</p> <p>3 your behalf?</p> <p>4 A Yes.</p> <p>5 Q What is that person's name?</p> <p>6 A The name is Olga Dubova.</p> <p>7 Q Do you have any other personal assistants who</p> <p>8 send e-mail on your behalf?</p> <p>9 A Yes. Victoria Shatalava [ph]. But very, very</p> <p>10 rarely.</p> <p>11 Q And when did you -- strike that.</p> <p>12 When did Ms. Dubova begin e-mailing on your</p> <p>13 behalf?</p> <p>14 A I would say since 1991, ever since e-mails</p> <p>15 came into existence.</p> <p>16 Q And who employs Ms. Dubova?</p> <p>17 A Alfa-Bank.</p> <p>18 Q Are you able to ask Ms. Dubova to send an</p> <p>19 e-mail on your behalf without asking permission from</p> <p>20 anyone else?</p> <p>21 A Yes.</p> <p>22 Q Does she schedule personal travel for you?</p>	79	<p>1 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form, "preserve."</p> <p>2 Are you asking whether he destroyed any documents?</p> <p>3 MR. LEVY: No. I'm asking --</p> <p>4 MR. LEWIS: That's the opposite of</p> <p>5 preservation.</p> <p>6 Q Did you take steps to preserve documents for</p> <p>7 this litigation?</p> <p>8 A No. All Alfa-Bank mailing system is preserved</p> <p>9 by Alfa-Bank, always.</p> <p>10 Q Did you take steps to preserve your personal</p> <p>11 documents that are not at Alfa-Bank or LetterOne?</p> <p>12 A For all practical purposes, no. It disappears</p> <p>13 whenever it has to disappear.</p> <p>14 Q Did you destroy documents before or after you</p> <p>15 filed this lawsuit?</p> <p>16 A No, never. Definitely not.</p> <p>17 Q When you received a request for documents from</p> <p>18 the defendants in this case, did you take steps to</p> <p>19 preserve documents?</p> <p>20 A By definition, all the documents that are with</p> <p>21 them, the Alfa-Bank electronic mailing system, are</p> <p>22 preserved within that system indefinitely.</p>
78	<p>1 A Yes.</p> <p>2 Q Does she schedule personal meetings for you?</p> <p>3 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form. Use of the</p> <p>4 word "personal" is confusing.</p> <p>5 Are you asking the witness whether she</p> <p>6 schedules meetings that are purely personal as in</p> <p>7 unrelated to -- for any business purpose?</p> <p>8 MR. LEVY: Yes.</p> <p>9 MR. LEWIS: Or just sort of personally, does</p> <p>10 she schedule meetings?</p> <p>11 Q Does she schedule nonbusiness meetings for</p> <p>12 you?</p> <p>13 A No.</p> <p>14 Q Can ABH Holdings make decisions for Alfa-Bank?</p> <p>15 A No.</p> <p>16 Q Did you receive a request to preserve</p> <p>17 documents from your counsel in this matter?</p> <p>18 A I don't recall that.</p> <p>19 Q Did you preserve documents for this litigation</p> <p>20 (inaudible)?</p> <p>21 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>22 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, sir --</p>	80	<p>1 Q In preparing for your deposition today, what</p> <p>2 e-mails did you review?</p> <p>3 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>4 Before the witness answers, please.</p> <p>5 Objection. The question potentially calls for</p> <p>6 the witness to divulge privileged communications because</p> <p>7 your question can encompass documents that he reviewed</p> <p>8 with counsel. If you're asking whether he reviewed any</p> <p>9 documents unconnected with preparation by counsel,</p> <p>10 that's a proper question. But just be clear about that.</p> <p>11 Q Please answer the question.</p> <p>12 A I will follow the advice of my counsel, and I</p> <p>13 will not respond.</p> <p>14 Q What documents are you using to show falsity</p> <p>15 in this case?</p> <p>16 A I did not prepare any documents specifically</p> <p>17 at all.</p> <p>18 Q Can you turn to document 9, which we will call</p> <p>19 Exhibit 13.</p> <p>20 (Exhibit Aven-13 marked for identification and</p> <p>21 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>22 THE INTERPRETER: So it's number 9, which will</p>

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21 (81 to 84)

81	<p>1 be called Exhibit 13, sir, right?</p> <p>2 MR. LEVY: Correct. These are Plaintiffs'</p> <p>3 Revised Initial Disclosures.</p> <p>4 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>5 Q And I'd like you to turn to page 11. You'll</p> <p>6 see the last sentence of the middle paragraph in that</p> <p>7 page, and it says --</p> <p>8 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>9 THE INTERPRETER: Say that again, sir. There</p> <p>10 was some overspeaking here.</p> <p>11 Q On page 11, the middle paragraph, last</p> <p>12 sentence -- I'll read it to you. It says, Plaintiffs</p> <p>13 have limited documents that will be used to support</p> <p>14 their claims, which are generally located and are being</p> <p>15 preserved in London, England by representatives for</p> <p>16 plaintiffs. These materials relate primarily to the</p> <p>17 falsity of the defamatory allegations.</p> <p>18 Do you see that?</p> <p>19 A I've read it, yes.</p> <p>20 Q What documents are referenced here?</p> <p>21 A I was not dealing with documents at all.</p> <p>22 Therefore I don't know. That was something that was</p>	83	<p>1 Q This is from the Valdai Club website. And if</p> <p>2 you turn to page 3 --</p> <p>3 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, which page was that,</p> <p>4 sir?</p> <p>5 MR. LEVY: 3.</p> <p>6 Q On October 19, 2017, at a meeting of the</p> <p>7 Valdai discussion club, Russian President, Vladimir</p> <p>8 Putin, made a speech and said the following, which is</p> <p>9 quoted on this page.</p> <p>10 (Inaudible) Putin, quote, I looked at Petr</p> <p>11 Aven and remembered our oligarchs. In closing, I will</p> <p>12 tell you a wonderful story. An oligarch has gone</p> <p>13 bankrupt. Not Aven. He's doing fine. We will talk</p> <p>14 about the development of Alfa Group yet. But such</p> <p>15 things happen.</p> <p>16 Was Vladimir Putin incorrect?</p> <p>17 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form. Incorrect</p> <p>18 about what?</p> <p>19 Q Answer the question, please.</p> <p>20 A Mr. Putin is being facetious and deeply ironic</p> <p>21 when he uses the term "oligarch." If there were any</p> <p>22 oligarchs around at all, he would not be saying so.</p>
82	<p>1 handled by our lawyers, and the document is signed by</p> <p>2 our lawyers.</p> <p>3 Q So inasmuch as you did not produce them, you</p> <p>4 don't know why you've not produced these documents?</p> <p>5 A I believe that to the extent that these are</p> <p>6 Alfa-Bank documents, they may contain commercial secrets</p> <p>7 or client information, and they were not disclosed on</p> <p>8 that basis. And of course, there's a clear distinction</p> <p>9 that needs to be drawn between myself, my colleagues on</p> <p>10 the one hand, and Alfa-Bank on the other.</p> <p>11 Q Are you planning on using documents that you</p> <p>12 believe are confidential to support your claims in this</p> <p>13 lawsuit?</p> <p>14 A No. Not thus far.</p> <p>15 Q Are you a Russian oligarch?</p> <p>16 A Definitely not.</p> <p>17 Q Can you turn to document 28, please.</p> <p>18 MR. LEVY: We'll call this document Exhibit</p> <p>19 14.</p> <p>20 (Exhibit Aven-14 marked for identification and</p> <p>21 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>22 BY MR. LEVY:</p>	84	<p>1 Q Were you present at that speech?</p> <p>2 A Yes, of course.</p> <p>3 Q Can you turn to document 88, please.</p> <p>4 MR. LEVY: We'll mark this as Exhibit 15.</p> <p>5 (Exhibit Aven-15 marked for identification and</p> <p>6 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>7 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>8 Q This is an article from Moscow News dated July</p> <p>9 22, 1994, and if you turn to the last page, the Moscow</p> <p>10 News reported here, quote, To become a millionaire in</p> <p>11 our country, it is not at all necessary to have a good</p> <p>12 head and specialized knowledge, says Aven, who is now</p> <p>13 the president of the Alfa-Bank.</p> <p>14 Quote, Often, it is enough to have active</p> <p>15 support in the government, the parliament, local power</p> <p>16 structures and law enforcement agencies. One fine day</p> <p>17 your insignificant bank is authorized, for instance, to</p> <p>18 conduct operations with budgetary funds. Or quotas are</p> <p>19 generously allotted to a company which is in no way</p> <p>20 connected with production for the export of oil, timber</p> <p>21 and gas. In other words, you are appointed a</p> <p>22 millionaire, as someone put it very aptly, end of quote.</p>

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22 (85 to 88)

85	<p>1 Were you misquoted in that article, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>2 A This is absolutely correct.</p> <p>3 Q You see that the Moscow News spelled Alfa-Bank</p> <p>4 A-L-P-H-A?</p> <p>5 A It's a mistake.</p> <p>6 Q Did you seek a correction?</p> <p>7 A No.</p> <p>8 Q Does Vladimir Putin solicit economic advice</p> <p>9 from you?</p> <p>10 A The only purpose behind the meetings that we</p> <p>11 have is to discuss macroeconomics and the situation in</p> <p>12 the banking sector.</p> <p>13 Q Can you turn to document 78, please.</p> <p>14 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 16.</p> <p>15 (Exhibit Aven-16 marked for identification and</p> <p>16 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>17 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>18 Q Turn to the last page. This is more of the</p> <p>19 transcript from your UK litigation against Orbis.</p> <p>20 A I can see that, yes.</p> <p>21 Q If you look at minuscrite page 11, your lawyer</p> <p>22 told the Court, quote, Mr. Aven is an internationally</p>	87	<p>1 LetterOne, what have you done to enhance your public</p> <p>2 image in the West?</p> <p>3 A I don't think we did much. We did not pursue</p> <p>4 any special campaigns to that effect.</p> <p>5 Q Turn to document 18, please.</p> <p>6 MR. LEVY: We'll mark this Exhibit 18.</p> <p>7 (Exhibit Aven-18 marked for identification and</p> <p>8 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>9 THE WITNESS: Is this my lecture?</p> <p>10 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>11 Q You tell me.</p> <p>12 A Is it under tab 18, sir?</p> <p>13 Q Yes. It appears to be a lecture that you and</p> <p>14 Mr. Fridman gave at the Peterson Institute in</p> <p>15 Washington, D.C. on May 8, 2008. Is that correct?</p> <p>16 A Yes. I delivered the talk.</p> <p>17 Q Why was it helpful to speak at the Peterson</p> <p>18 Institute in 2008?</p> <p>19 MR. LEWIS: Objection to "helpful."</p> <p>20 A This is what I do. I'm a professional</p> <p>21 economist. I'm interested in matters of economics. I</p> <p>22 deliver talks. I give lectures in lots of different</p>
86	<p>1 renowned economist who for a time was a government</p> <p>2 minister under President Yeltsin in the 1990s and indeed</p> <p>3 was very closely involved in the liberalization of the</p> <p>4 Russian economy. And President Putin values his views</p> <p>5 on economics because of his standing as an economist,</p> <p>6 and he meets with President Putin from time to time and</p> <p>7 they discuss banking and economics, end of quote.</p> <p>8 Was your lawyer correct?</p> <p>9 A Absolutely correct.</p> <p>10 Q Turn to document number 11.</p> <p>11 MR. LEVY: And make this Exhibit 17, please.</p> <p>12 (Exhibit Aven-17 marked for identification and</p> <p>13 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>14 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>15 Q This is your witness statement in the UK case.</p> <p>16 If you turn to page 7, paragraph 35, the last sentence,</p> <p>17 you state, quote, I knew there would be many people who</p> <p>18 would find it easy to believe that a Russian businessman</p> <p>19 was corrupt, end of quote.</p> <p>20 Is that correct?</p> <p>21 A Yes.</p> <p>22 Q Since you founded LetterOne or co-founded</p>	88	<p>1 fora, and I am interested in economics, and it was of</p> <p>2 great interest to me to deliver a talk before Peterson</p> <p>3 Institute, which is an institution which is held in high</p> <p>4 regard. There is absolutely no self-promotion involved</p> <p>5 here per se.</p> <p>6 Q Is it helpful to Alfa and you when you make a</p> <p>7 speech like this?</p> <p>8 A Given Russia's reputation out there, it simply</p> <p>9 goes to demonstrate that we are different in a way, and</p> <p>10 different for the better.</p> <p>11 Q Different from whom?</p> <p>12 A You have just quoted from Moscow Times, sir.</p> <p>13 I have said that there are lots of corrupt people in</p> <p>14 Russia. We have always insistently stayed away from</p> <p>15 corruption. We have not been involved in any corruption</p> <p>16 or in any criminal activity.</p> <p>17 Q Did anyone help you arrange to have this</p> <p>18 speech made at the Peterson Institute?</p> <p>19 A I do not recall who was or was not giving</p> <p>20 assistance with respect to that lecture, but I have</p> <p>21 given a lot of talks in different institutions, and I do</p> <p>22 not recall this one, whether it was organized by anyone.</p>

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23 (89 to 92)

89	<p>1 Q On May 11, 2015, did you attend an event at</p> <p>2 the Neue Galerie in New York City, N-E-U-E?</p> <p>3 A Yes.</p> <p>4 Q What was that event?</p> <p>5 A It was the launch of a joint exhibition of</p> <p>6 both my collection and Ronald Lauder, and it dealt with</p> <p>7 impressionism, both Russian and Western --</p> <p>8 expressionism, Russian and Western expressionism.</p> <p>9 Q Was Lauder present?</p> <p>10 THE INTERPRETER: I'm sorry, say it again?</p> <p>11 Q Was Mr. Lauder present?</p> <p>12 A Of course, yes.</p> <p>13 Q Were Mr. Fridman and Mr. Khan present?</p> <p>14 A Yes.</p> <p>15 Q Were members of the press present?</p> <p>16 A Yes.</p> <p>17 Q Which media organizations attended the event?</p> <p>18 A I don't recall.</p> <p>19 Q If you can go to document 20, please.</p> <p>20 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 19.</p> <p>21 (Exhibit Aven-19 marked for identification and</p> <p>22 attached to the transcript.)</p>	91	<p>1 Is that description of the exhibit's purpose</p> <p>2 accurate?</p> <p>3 A I believe that any -- it would be a fair</p> <p>4 description to say that any event pursues a multitude of</p> <p>5 different objectives, and my objectives may have been</p> <p>6 different. Mine were actually different in the sense</p> <p>7 that I was interested in showcasing my collection, my</p> <p>8 Russian art collection, and to -- some people have said</p> <p>9 that it went to prove that there are normal people in</p> <p>10 Russia, and I would agree with that. But so far as I</p> <p>11 was concerned, the main rationale, the main idea behind</p> <p>12 this was to showcase my collection.</p> <p>13 By the way, Lord Browne also spoke at that</p> <p>14 event, and he spoke about his company, L1 Energy. For</p> <p>15 me, once again, the main purpose behind this was to</p> <p>16 showcase my art collection. Mr. Lauder was there, and</p> <p>17 his objectives might been different, for all I know.</p> <p>18 Q BuzzFeed reported, quote, The invitations ...</p> <p>19 presented the event as the launch of L1 Energy, a</p> <p>20 \$10 billion oil and gas group launched by two Alfa</p> <p>21 colleagues, Mikhail Fridman and German Khan, end of</p> <p>22 quote.</p>
90	<p>1 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>2 Q This is a BuzzFeed story from May 12th, 2015.</p> <p>3 If you look at page 3 of this story, BuzzFeed responded,</p> <p>4 quote --</p> <p>5 THE INTERPRETER: Sir, we don't have page 3.</p> <p>6 We only have 1.</p> <p>7 Q Let me just read the quote to you, and then</p> <p>8 you can tell me whether this reporting sounds accurate.</p> <p>9 BuzzFeed reports that, quote, Addressing the small crowd</p> <p>10 gathered Monday evening, Aven made no mention of the</p> <p>11 Kremlin or President Vladimir Putin, or the worsening</p> <p>12 relations between Washington and Moscow. Nor did he</p> <p>13 mention the strict sanctions regime that has closed the</p> <p>14 West to many of his fellow wealthy countrymen, end of</p> <p>15 quote.</p> <p>16 Does that reporting sound accurate, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>17 A I think so, yes.</p> <p>18 Q According to BuzzFeed, when Mikhail Fridman</p> <p>19 was interviewed, he said he felt increasing fear among</p> <p>20 Western investors regarding Russia, and called the Neue</p> <p>21 Galerie exhibit a, quote, way to keep communication</p> <p>22 open, end of quote.</p>	92	<p>1 Is that reporting accurate?</p> <p>2 A Yes. We -- I was not a founder of that</p> <p>3 company. I hold stock in that company. I hold an</p> <p>4 equity stake in it. The founders, in operational terms,</p> <p>5 were Fridman and Khan.</p> <p>6 Q Is L1 Energy headquartered or incorporated in</p> <p>7 the United States?</p> <p>8 A I don't think so. To be honest, I do not even</p> <p>9 know whether they have a rep office there or not.</p> <p>10 Q Why did the launch event for L1 Energy then</p> <p>11 take place in New York City?</p> <p>12 A I believe it was just a coincidence. It just</p> <p>13 so happened that at one point in time Lord Browne,</p> <p>14 Mikhail Fridman, and I found ourselves in the same</p> <p>15 location, and it was just a happenstance. It just so</p> <p>16 happened that we decided to launch the event there.</p> <p>17 They were going to launch the event in a hotel, and we</p> <p>18 suggested we do it on -- using our platform, and that's</p> <p>19 what we did.</p> <p>20 Q How many people attended this event?</p> <p>21 A I don't recall. Some people were invited by</p> <p>22 myself and Lauder, and those were people from the world</p>

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24 (93 to 96)

93	<p>1 of arts; and then other people were invited by the other</p> <p>2 people, considering the fact that Lord Browne and other</p> <p>3 people were going to discuss business matters there.</p> <p>4 Q How far in advance did invitations go out for</p> <p>5 this event?</p> <p>6 A Definitely not a long time prior to the event.</p> <p>7 But I do not recall how short the notice had been.</p> <p>8 Q Turn to document 64.</p> <p>9 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 20.</p> <p>10 (Exhibit Aven-20 marked for identification and</p> <p>11 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>12 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>13 Q Is this a photo of Ed Rogers and Andrei</p> <p>14 Kosogov [sic] taken at the 2015 Neue Galerie event?</p> <p>15 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>16 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, sir, did you say</p> <p>17 Kosogov or Kuzmichev?</p> <p>18 MR. LEVY: I'm sorry, Alexey Kuzmichev.</p> <p>19 A It's the first time ever that I see this.</p> <p>20 Q Is this a picture of the two of them at the</p> <p>21 Neue Galerie event in New York City from May 2015?</p> <p>22 A I don't recall.</p>	95	<p>1 outside of the United States?</p> <p>2 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Just the word "your,"</p> <p>3 I presume you're asking him about his personal</p> <p>4 investments?</p> <p>5 Q Let's start there.</p> <p>6 MR. LEWIS: So with that clarification, you</p> <p>7 may answer.</p> <p>8 A I have no personal investments at all.</p> <p>9 Q In the United States?</p> <p>10 A Zero.</p> <p>11 Q Does Alfa have the majority of its investments</p> <p>12 outside of the United States?</p> <p>13 A Alfa has no investments -- no foreign</p> <p>14 investments at all. L1 does. Not Alfa.</p> <p>15 Q Does L1 have the majority of its investments</p> <p>16 outside of the United States?</p> <p>17 A Of course.</p> <p>18 Q Does BGR provide any additional services to</p> <p>19 you, Alfa, or LetterOne that you've not mentioned?</p> <p>20 MR. LEWIS: Objection. The objection is that</p> <p>21 the question asks about providing other services to you,</p> <p>22 but that assumes a fact not in evidence. He's already</p>
94	<p>1 Q Who is Ed Rogers?</p> <p>2 A Mr. Rogers works with BGR, which -- the name</p> <p>3 stands for Barbour, Griffith and Rogers, a political</p> <p>4 consultancy -- a political lobbying group. And he's</p> <p>5 also a former public servant in the U.S. administration.</p> <p>6 Q How long has Ed Rogers worked with you?</p> <p>7 A Not with me. With the bank and then with</p> <p>8 LetterOne, and I would say over the past 25 years or</p> <p>9 something like that.</p> <p>10 Q Over the past 25 years, he's been working with</p> <p>11 Alfa?</p> <p>12 A First Alfa, and then L1.</p> <p>13 Q What sort of services has BGR provided to</p> <p>14 Alfa, LetterOne, and you and your partners?</p> <p>15 A Okay. They provided consultancy services with</p> <p>16 respect to the various matters in the United States of</p> <p>17 America because we -- while we lived in the Soviet</p> <p>18 Union, we didn't know the first thing about how things</p> <p>19 worked in the U.S. They did some introductions in the</p> <p>20 U.S. administration and the Senate and the House, and</p> <p>21 then they were assisting with the Alfa fellows program.</p> <p>22 Q Are the majority of your investments held</p>	96	<p>1 made it clear that BGR was engaged first by Alfa, and</p> <p>2 then by LetterOne. There's no testimony that he</p> <p>3 personally engaged Ed Rogers or BGR.</p> <p>4 Q Has BGR provided any additional services to</p> <p>5 Alfa or LetterOne that you've not mentioned today?</p> <p>6 A I cannot recall any.</p> <p>7 Q In May of 2008, did Ed Rogers accompany you</p> <p>8 and Mikhail Fridman to a meeting with U.S. Treasury</p> <p>9 Secretary Henry Paulson at Secretary Paulson's office?</p> <p>10 A Yes.</p> <p>11 Q If you turn to page -- I'm sorry, document 15.</p> <p>12 MR. LEVY: And we'll call this Exhibit 21.</p> <p>13 (Exhibit Aven-21 marked for identification and</p> <p>14 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>15 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>16 Q You'll see this is a publicly available</p> <p>17 document. It's Secretary Paulson's calendar from May 6,</p> <p>18 2008, and at page 2, from 12:05 to 12:20 p.m., it</p> <p>19 says --</p> <p>20 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>21 Q 12:05 p.m. to 12:20 p.m., it says, quote,</p> <p>22 Meeting with Mikhail Fridman, Petr Aven, Ed Rogers, Jim</p>

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25 (97 to 100)

97	<p>1 Wilkinson, Bill Murden -- M-U-R-D-E-N -- Eric Meyer,</p> <p>2 Secretary's Office, end of quote.</p> <p>3 What was the purpose of that meeting,</p> <p>4 Mr. Aven?</p> <p>5 A To be honest, I do not recall exactly. I do</p> <p>6 not believe we discussed any specific agenda. To be</p> <p>7 honest, I just do not recall.</p> <p>8 Q You've donated art to museums in London and</p> <p>9 New York, correct?</p> <p>10 A Yes.</p> <p>11 Q The Tate Modern in London?</p> <p>12 A Tate Modern, Royal Academy.</p> <p>13 Q The Guggenheim in New York?</p> <p>14 A No, that's not true. That was a mistake.</p> <p>15 Q Any other museums to which you've donated art?</p> <p>16 A I did not donate in the sense of gifting them.</p> <p>17 I exhibited my works of art there.</p> <p>18 Q When did you begin --</p> <p>19 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>20 Q Sorry, go ahead.</p> <p>21 A In Moscow.</p> <p>22 Q When did you begin exhibiting art in the UK at</p>	99	<p>1 Q Did you seek a correction with the New York</p> <p>2 Times?</p> <p>3 A No.</p> <p>4 Q In May of 2015, did Richard Burt suggest that</p> <p>5 you and Mikhail Fridman begin meeting with Atlantic</p> <p>6 Council members?</p> <p>7 A Possibly so. I do not recall exactly when,</p> <p>8 but he did.</p> <p>9 Q Turn to document 53.</p> <p>10 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 23.</p> <p>11 (Exhibit Aven-23 marked for identification and</p> <p>12 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>13 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>14 Q This is a May 21, 2015 e-mail from Richard</p> <p>15 Morningstar to Richard Burt. The Atlantic Council's</p> <p>16 Richard Morningstar, a former U.S. ambassador, e-mailed</p> <p>17 Burt on May 21, 2015 and said, quote, I would be happy</p> <p>18 to meet with Lord Browne, Mikhail Fridman, and Petr Aven</p> <p>19 any time, either here or in London. Thank you very much</p> <p>20 for bringing this opportunity to us, and we will do</p> <p>21 whatever is necessary to follow through, end of quote.</p> <p>22 Did you meet with Ambassador Morningstar in</p>
98	<p>1 museums?</p> <p>2 A About seven to eight years ago, I would say.</p> <p>3 Q Can you turn to document 113, please.</p> <p>4 MR. LEVY: This will be Exhibit 22.</p> <p>5 (Exhibit Aven-22 marked for identification and</p> <p>6 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>7 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>8 Q The New York Times article from October 2019.</p> <p>9 And if you go to the bottom of page 6, the last</p> <p>10 paragraph. And I will just read this to you.</p> <p>11 It says, quote, Petr Aven, for example, leads</p> <p>12 one of Russia's largest banks and has contributed</p> <p>13 financially to exhibitions on Russian art at the Tate</p> <p>14 Modern and Royal Academy of Arts in London, where he is</p> <p>15 also a trustee. The companies he helps direct have also</p> <p>16 helped underwrite exhibitions at museums like the</p> <p>17 Guggenheim, end of quote.</p> <p>18 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, sir, which paragraph</p> <p>19 are you referring to?</p> <p>20 A Alfa-Bank did sponsor an exhibition of</p> <p>21 Malevich's art in Guggenheim, but that was not me. So</p> <p>22 it's a mistake.</p>	100	<p>1 2015?</p> <p>2 A I would not rule it out. Having said that, I</p> <p>3 do not recall that. I do not recall Morningstar. We</p> <p>4 did have multiple meetings with Fred Kempe, who is cc'd</p> <p>5 here. That I do recall. But I do not recall anything</p> <p>6 about Ambassador Morningstar.</p> <p>7 Q What was the purpose of meeting Morningstar?</p> <p>8 A They were inviting us to pursue cooperative</p> <p>9 endeavors with them, to take part in discussions,</p> <p>10 deliver talks and lectures, and obviously they wanted us</p> <p>11 to sponsor them.</p> <p>12 Q In June of 2015, were you in Washington, D.C.?</p> <p>13 A I don't recall. I used to spend some time in</p> <p>14 the summer over there, but whether it was June, July, or</p> <p>15 some other summer month, I do not remember.</p> <p>16 Q Turn to document 32.</p> <p>17 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 24.</p> <p>18 (Exhibit Aven-24 marked for identification and</p> <p>19 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>20 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>21 Q From the bottom of page 2 to the top of</p> <p>22 page --</p>

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26 (101 to 104)

101	<p>1 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>2 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, sir. Bear with us.</p> <p>3 We are still struggling to find the document.</p> <p>4 Atlantic Council, right?</p> <p>5 MR. LEVY: It's an e-mail thread with the</p> <p>6 Atlantic Council.</p> <p>7 Q At the bottom of page 2, continuing to the top</p> <p>8 of page 3, there's a July 30, 2015 e-mail from Petr Aven</p> <p>9 to Fred Kempe. It says it's an e-mail from Olga A.</p> <p>10 Dubova, quote, on behalf of Petr O. Aven, end of quote,</p> <p>11 (inaudible) Fred Kempe, with a copy to Richard Burt. It</p> <p>12 is signed --</p> <p>13 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, sir. We're not with</p> <p>14 you yet. Mr. Aven is struggling to find this.</p> <p>15 Okay, now he has. Now he has. Thank you.</p> <p>16 Q It is signed, quote, Best regards, Petr Aven,</p> <p>17 end of quote.</p> <p>18 Do you recall asking Dubova to send this</p> <p>19 e-mail on your behalf?</p> <p>20 A I must have, yes.</p> <p>21 Q In this e-mail you wrote, quote, Also as we've</p> <p>22 talked last time in D.C., you should receive an</p>	103	<p>1 prizes from them, or awards.</p> <p>2 Q So do you know if you, Alfa, or LetterOne</p> <p>3 donated money to the Kennan Institute?</p> <p>4 A We did not. Once again, if we had done</p> <p>5 anything along those lines, I would have never accepted</p> <p>6 any awards from them because that would have been</p> <p>7 immoral and unethical.</p> <p>8 Q Do you know if you, LetterOne, or Alfa donated</p> <p>9 money to the Wilson Center?</p> <p>10 A No. So far as I know, none of the entities</p> <p>11 you listed have done so.</p> <p>12 Q Was the Woodrow Wilson Award awarded to you in</p> <p>13 recognition of your public service?</p> <p>14 A You would have to read the exact language that</p> <p>15 they used. They called it Corporate Citizenship Award.</p> <p>16 If you describe public service -- if you understand</p> <p>17 public service to mean corporate citizenship, then the</p> <p>18 answer is yes.</p> <p>19 Q Can you turn to document number 42, please.</p> <p>20 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 25.</p> <p>21 (Exhibit Aven-25 marked for identification and</p> <p>22 attached to the transcript.)</p>
102	<p>1 invitation to Valdai Forum, end of quote.</p> <p>2 Why did you invite the president of an</p> <p>3 American think tank to attend a discussion forum in</p> <p>4 Russia?</p> <p>5 A Speaking from memory, the request originated</p> <p>6 from them.</p> <p>7 Q From Atlantic Council?</p> <p>8 A They paid us to invite them to attend.</p> <p>9 Q On November 3rd, 2015, did you receive the</p> <p>10 Woodrow Wilson Award from the Kennan Institute?</p> <p>11 A Yes.</p> <p>12 Q What is the Kennan Institute?</p> <p>13 A It's a think tank, and bearing in mind</p> <p>14 Mr. Kennan's background, it has to do with Russia. Its</p> <p>15 main focus is Russia.</p> <p>16 Q Russia/U.S. relations?</p> <p>17 A I think so, considering Mr. Kennan's</p> <p>18 biography.</p> <p>19 Q Have you, Alfa, or LetterOne ever donated</p> <p>20 money to the Kennan Institute?</p> <p>21 A If we had, I would have never agreed to get</p> <p>22 any money from them -- I would have never accepted any</p>	104	<p>1 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>2 Q This is a Wilson Center press release from the</p> <p>3 Wilson Center's website. And the announcement --</p> <p>4 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>5 Q The announcement of its award to you and</p> <p>6 another individual. And it says, quote, Petr Aven will</p> <p>7 receive the Woodrow Wilson Award for Corporate</p> <p>8 Citizenship for his many achievements in building</p> <p>9 understanding between Russians and Americans during his</p> <p>10 career as a Russian government official, his tenure at</p> <p>11 Russia's largest private bank (Alfa-Bank), and for his</p> <p>12 role as co-founder of the Alfa Fellowship Program, which</p> <p>13 brings early career Americans to work in Russia, end of</p> <p>14 quote.</p> <p>15 Did you receive that announcement?</p> <p>16 A Yes.</p> <p>17 Q The Wilson Center's announcement mentions</p> <p>18 your, quote, many achievements in building understanding</p> <p>19 between Russians and Americans, end of quote.</p> <p>20 What steps have you taken to improve</p> <p>21 Americans' understanding of Russian businessmen?</p> <p>22 A I was an active participant in the</p>

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27 (105 to 108)

105	<p>1 Russian/U.S. business roundtable sponsored by RAND</p> <p>2 Corporation, which included a large number of major</p> <p>3 American businesses. I gave talks at their gatherings.</p> <p>4 I also gave talks about Russian business in –</p> <p>5 before Peterson Institute, the one that we referred to a</p> <p>6 few minutes ago, and in a number of American</p> <p>7 universities.</p> <p>8 Q Anything else?</p> <p>9 A Alfa Fellows was also all about business and</p> <p>10 building bridges between the business communities.</p> <p>11 Q Anything else?</p> <p>12 A We took active part in the various programs</p> <p>13 conducted by the Russian/U.S. Chamber of Commerce, but I</p> <p>14 believe that I've listed the most salient and the most</p> <p>15 prominent of those during my career outside of</p> <p>16 government, because this makes reference to my</p> <p>17 government service as well.</p> <p>18 Q For your Wilson Center Award on November 3,</p> <p>19 2015, was there a dinner held?</p> <p>20 A Yes. And a large one.</p> <p>21 Q How many people attended?</p> <p>22 A I was not in charge of sending out</p>	107	<p>1 A I don't recall.</p> <p>2 Q Was this Wilson Center award dinner part of</p> <p>3 your trip to Washington, D.C. to promote your book</p> <p>4 Gaidar's Revolution?</p> <p>5 A It was not really at the top of my agenda. It</p> <p>6 was not the main purpose behind this. But I did discuss</p> <p>7 the book there.</p> <p>8 Q Was the book published in 2015?</p> <p>9 A I don't recall.</p> <p>10 Q This is the book, right, Gaidar's Revolution?</p> <p>11 A That's the one.</p> <p>12 Q Petr Aven and Alfred Kokh?</p> <p>13 A Yes.</p> <p>14 Q And it's sold on Amazon?</p> <p>15 A I think so.</p> <p>16 Q Anyone can buy your book here in the United</p> <p>17 States, correct, whether that person lives in</p> <p>18 Washington, D.C., New York, or St. Louis?</p> <p>19 A I suppose so. I may not be the right person</p> <p>20 to ask. You are in a better position to answer that</p> <p>21 question, sir.</p> <p>22 Q In your book, you reproduced an interview of</p>
106	<p>1 invitations; they were. But I would say it was a very</p> <p>2 large room or large gathering, hundreds of people, a</p> <p>3 hundred, two hundred, maybe more.</p> <p>4 Q Do you recall some of the people who attended?</p> <p>5 A John Browne was there.</p> <p>6 Q Anyone else?</p> <p>7 A My future wife was there.</p> <p>8 Q Anyone else?</p> <p>9 A There were lots of Americans there. I do not</p> <p>10 recall exactly, sitting here today. There were a few</p> <p>11 Russian businesspeople who just happened to be in the</p> <p>12 city at that time, but I do not recall exactly who those</p> <p>13 were. Some of the people who lived there at that time.</p> <p>14 Q Was Mikhail Lesin on the guest list?</p> <p>15 A Yes. But he was murdered the day before.</p> <p>16 Therefore, obviously he did not attend.</p> <p>17 Q The day before or the day after?</p> <p>18 A I do not recall exactly, and I believe that it</p> <p>19 was either on the day or the day before. What I'm</p> <p>20 absolutely certain of is that he did not attend.</p> <p>21 Q Did LetterOne put out a press release about</p> <p>22 your Wilson Center Award?</p>	108	<p>1 former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, III,</p> <p>2 correct?</p> <p>3 A Yes.</p> <p>4 Q How did you arrange for that interview of</p> <p>5 Secretary Baker?</p> <p>6 A I had a good acquaintance of mine, a U.S.</p> <p>7 lawyer, who happened to know Secretary Baker.</p> <p>8 Q Who is that?</p> <p>9 A Jim Langdon.</p> <p>10 Q Can you spell that, please?</p> <p>11 A L-A-N-G-D-O-N, Langdon.</p> <p>12 Q Was he practicing at a law firm at the time?</p> <p>13 A Yes.</p> <p>14 Q What law firm?</p> <p>15 A Akin Gump. It was a long name. I remember it</p> <p>16 was a long name. Akin Gump -- Akin Gump Strauss, et</p> <p>17 cetera.</p> <p>18 Q Akin Gump was your counsel of record when you</p> <p>19 sued CPI in Washington, D.C., correct?</p> <p>20 A Possibly so. I don't recall, sitting here</p> <p>21 today.</p> <p>22 Q Did Alfa or any of its representatives help</p>

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28 (109 to 112)

109	<p>1 arrange the Woodrow Wilson Center award?</p> <p>2 A No.</p> <p>3 Q On November 4, 2015, did you have a dinner</p> <p>4 with David Lipton and Richard Burt?</p> <p>5 A I do not recall, but I would not rule that</p> <p>6 out. It is possible.</p> <p>7 Q Was David Lipton a White House official in</p> <p>8 November 2015?</p> <p>9 A Possibly so. I've known him since 1991.</p> <p>10 Q Did he host the dinner on November 4, 2015?</p> <p>11 A I don't recall. He was my assistant at that</p> <p>12 time. We had a very good rapport, and I simply don't</p> <p>13 recall.</p> <p>14 Q He was your assistant in 2015?</p> <p>15 A No, no, in 1992, when I was minister in the</p> <p>16 Russian government. Americans had seconded people to</p> <p>17 assist us, so people from Harvard, young economists who</p> <p>18 helped us, and we worked with them.</p> <p>19 Q This is when --</p> <p>20 A Including Mr. Lipton.</p> <p>21 Q This is when you were minister of foreign</p> <p>22 economic relations for the Kremlin?</p>	111	<p>1 number it is, please?</p> <p>2 MR. LEVY: It's document 33. We're calling it</p> <p>3 Exhibit 26.</p> <p>4 Q In this e-mail, Mr. Aslund is talking about</p> <p>5 you, Mr. Aven, and he says, quote, the day before</p> <p>6 yesterday, their VimpelCom reserved \$900 million for</p> <p>7 costs of the corruption case U.S. Department of Justice</p> <p>8 brought up against it for its bribery in Uzbekistan.</p> <p>9 He -- Aven -- might need the legal support of Moscow,</p> <p>10 end of quote.</p> <p>11 Do you recall telling Aslund that, any of</p> <p>12 that?</p> <p>13 A (In English.) Not at all. I was not involved</p> <p>14 in VimpelCom case at all, at all. I have no relations</p> <p>15 whatsoever. That was his statement, maybe he wanted to</p> <p>16 show something (indiscernible). But I was not involved</p> <p>17 in VimpelCom at all. Zero involvement.</p> <p>18 Q Thank you. Thank you for responding to me in</p> <p>19 English.</p> <p>20 Was VimpelCom under investigation by the</p> <p>21 Department of Justice for bribery at this time?</p> <p>22 A That's what people say. It was a matter</p>
110	<p>1 A Correct.</p> <p>2 Q This November 2015 dinner with Mr. Lipton, did</p> <p>3 Anders Aslund also attend it?</p> <p>4 A I don't recall.</p> <p>5 Q In November of 2015, were you thinking about</p> <p>6 leaving the West and heading back home to Russia?</p> <p>7 A You are beginning to ask personal questions.</p> <p>8 For personal reasons, I was beginning to spend more time</p> <p>9 in Russia.</p> <p>10 Q Did you need to go home to Russia for legal</p> <p>11 support from the Russian government?</p> <p>12 A My wife had passed away shortly before that</p> <p>13 time, and it was difficult for me to stay in London.</p> <p>14 There were no other reasons involved.</p> <p>15 Q Can you turn to document 33, please.</p> <p>16 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 26.</p> <p>17 (Exhibit Aven-26 marked for identification and</p> <p>18 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>19 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>20 Q This is a November 5, 2015 e-mail from Anders</p> <p>21 Aslund to others at the Atlantic Council.</p> <p>22 MR. LEWIS: Can you tell me which document</p>	112	<p>1 related to Uzbekistan in some way, and I was very far</p> <p>2 removed from that.</p> <p>3 Q Did VimpelCom --</p> <p>4 MR. LEWIS: Josh, can we -- I'm just going to</p> <p>5 ask that we take a break, a few-minute break now?</p> <p>6 MR. LEVY: In a couple seconds.</p> <p>7 Q Did VimpelCom reserve \$900 million?</p> <p>8 A I have no idea at all.</p> <p>9 Q But you do know that VimpelCom paid \$750</p> <p>10 million in February of 2016 to resolve the U.S. criminal</p> <p>11 investigation of it, correct?</p> <p>12 MR. LEWIS: Objection to relevance. This is</p> <p>13 really far afield from the issues in this case.</p> <p>14 Q Please answer the question.</p> <p>15 A That I do know, yes.</p> <p>16 MR. LEVY: We can take a break.</p> <p>17 (Recess from 11:44 a.m. until 11:56 a.m.)</p> <p>18 MR. LEVY: We can go back on the record.</p> <p>19 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>20 Q Mr. Aven, we've been talking about this</p> <p>21 November 4, 2015 dinner. Did you receive Mr. Aslund's</p> <p>22 invitation to this dinner two months prior, in September</p>

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29 (113 to 116)

113	<p>1 2015?</p> <p>2 A I do not recall any involvement on the part of</p> <p>3 Mr. Aslund in this at all.</p> <p>4 Q Can you turn to document 89.</p> <p>5 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 27.</p> <p>6 (Exhibit Aven-27 marked for identification and</p> <p>7 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>8 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>9 Q This is an e-mail --</p> <p>10 A Is this about the Atlantic Council? Yeah,</p> <p>11 that's true. That one I do remember, yes.</p> <p>12 Q Okay. This e-mail invitation copies Olga</p> <p>13 Dubova and Richard Burt.</p> <p>14 Did you ask Mr. Aslund to copy Dubova and</p> <p>15 Burt?</p> <p>16 A No. Many people who work with me know that</p> <p>17 it's always a good idea to cc Olga Dubova just to make</p> <p>18 sure that I do not miss out on any appointments. And I</p> <p>19 did not ask anyone to cc Rick Burt.</p> <p>20 Q In response to this e-mail (inaudible)</p> <p>21 Mr. Aslund, you advised Aslund to get in touch with</p> <p>22 Burt, who is, quote, fully aware, unquote, of your</p>	115	<p>1 Q When did you start working with Richard Burt?</p> <p>2 A In the latter part of the 1990s. That's when</p> <p>3 Alfa-Bank started working with BGR.</p> <p>4 Q What services has Richard Burt provided to</p> <p>5 you, Alfa, and LetterOne?</p> <p>6 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection. I think</p> <p>7 asked and answered already that Burt has been engaged by</p> <p>8 BGR, been engaged by Alfa and LetterOne, but no</p> <p>9 testimony about Mr. Aven personally engaging Burt.</p> <p>10 MR. LEVY: Yeah, and I'm asking him what</p> <p>11 services Mr. Burt has provided to him. He can tell me</p> <p>12 whatever he wants to tell me. I'm asking him.</p> <p>13 Q What services has Richard Burt provided to</p> <p>14 you, Alfa, or LetterOne?</p> <p>15 A He did not offer any services to me</p> <p>16 individually or personally. And I fully agree with Alan</p> <p>17 Lewis in the sense that he was providing services first</p> <p>18 to Alfa, then to LetterOne. So that's number one.</p> <p>19 Q What are those services?</p> <p>20 A His main function was to organize meetings, to</p> <p>21 do -- to make introductions, to introduce us to the</p> <p>22 people who might be of interest to us and people who</p>
114	<p>1 schedule.</p> <p>2 Do you see that?</p> <p>3 A Yes, that is possible. So what's your</p> <p>4 question, sir?</p> <p>5 Q Do you know how Richard Burt was fully aware</p> <p>6 of your schedule?</p> <p>7 A Rick Burt was the one who was organizing all</p> <p>8 our meetings in the United States, so he knew the</p> <p>9 schedule. There were things that he knew that I did not</p> <p>10 know because he was in charge of organizing the</p> <p>11 schedule.</p> <p>12 Q In 2015 and 2016, did Mr. Burt have access to</p> <p>13 your schedule?</p> <p>14 A It would be wrong to say that he had access to</p> <p>15 my schedule. What he did was, he was in charge of</p> <p>16 putting together our schedule during our visits to the</p> <p>17 United States.</p> <p>18 Q And when those visits were about to occur,</p> <p>19 would you let him know what your schedule was?</p> <p>20 A He was the one -- he was the one who was in</p> <p>21 charge of putting the schedule together. He was the</p> <p>22 one.</p>	116	<p>1 might be interested in us. So that was his first main</p> <p>2 objective and function.</p> <p>3 And the second one was consultancy services,</p> <p>4 and that's something that we have already discussed in</p> <p>5 connection with BGR.</p> <p>6 Q Turn to document -- before we do, were there</p> <p>7 any other services that he provided to Alfa or</p> <p>8 LetterOne?</p> <p>9 A Not so far as I know.</p> <p>10 Q Turn to document 45, please.</p> <p>11 MR. LEVY: This will be Exhibit 28.</p> <p>12 (Exhibit Aven-28 marked for identification and</p> <p>13 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>14 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>15 Q This is an October 15, 2015 e-mail from</p> <p>16 Richard Burt to Fred Kempe. In this e-mail, Mr. Burt</p> <p>17 said that you would like a, quote, sophisticated group,</p> <p>18 unquote, of about 20 people to be invited to an</p> <p>19 off-the-record discussion.</p> <p>20 Did this off-the-record discussion occur when</p> <p>21 you were in D.C. in November of 2015?</p> <p>22 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, sir. We are both</p>

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30 (117 to 120)

117	<p>1 struggling to find the --</p> <p>2 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>3 A Yes.</p> <p>4 Q Who from this, quote, sophisticated group,</p> <p>5 unquote, attended?</p> <p>6 A There were about 30 people there. I do not</p> <p>7 recall all of them. And this is in the public domain.</p> <p>8 I'm sure we can look it up.</p> <p>9 Q Do you recall your assistant inviting Poul</p> <p>10 Thomsen, the European director of the IMF, to this</p> <p>11 discussion?</p> <p>12 A I think I asked Burt and Aslund to invite</p> <p>13 them. That's what the e-mail says.</p> <p>14 Q Did Mr. Thomsen attend the event?</p> <p>15 A I don't think he was there.</p> <p>16 Q Do you recall Richard Burt inviting Kathleen</p> <p>17 Kavalec, K-A-V-A-L-E-C, U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary</p> <p>18 of State for European and Eurasian Affairs?</p> <p>19 A I think you got -- you got her title wrong,</p> <p>20 sir.</p> <p>21 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>22 Q Do you recall Richard Burt inviting her?</p>	119	<p>1 sorry.</p> <p>2 MR. LEVY: 46.</p> <p>3 Q Mr. Aven --</p> <p>4 MR. SHARP: All right. The document is</p> <p>5 mislabeled. I'll have to track that down separately.</p> <p>6 MR. LEWIS: He's not reading from 46, as far</p> <p>7 as I can tell.</p> <p>8 MR. SHARP: Yes, we'll have it. I'll just --</p> <p>9 I'll get it separately.</p> <p>10 Josh, carry on for now.</p> <p>11 MR. LEWIS: I think if you phrase your</p> <p>12 question without reference to the document because we</p> <p>13 don't have it.</p> <p>14 Q Mr. Aven, in November of 2015, did you meet</p> <p>15 with Toria Nuland?</p> <p>16 A Every time we were in the U.S. and Washington,</p> <p>17 D.C., we used to have meetings with her. I do not</p> <p>18 recall exact dates.</p> <p>19 Q Why was it important for you to meet with her?</p> <p>20 A Well, she was in charge of Russia. So I think</p> <p>21 it was interesting to know what the U.S. administration</p> <p>22 thought about Russia and to discuss Russian economy.</p>
118	<p>1 A I don't know. I don't know her. And she</p> <p>2 definitely did not attend.</p> <p>3 (The witness and interpreter conferred in</p> <p>4 Russian.)</p> <p>5 A I know her, but she definitely did not attend.</p> <p>6 Q Turn to document 46.</p> <p>7 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 29.</p> <p>8 (Exhibit Aven-29 marked for identification and</p> <p>9 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>10 (After the conclusion of the deposition, the</p> <p>11 correct document 46 was provided to the court reporter,</p> <p>12 which was marked as Aven-29 and attached to the</p> <p>13 transcript.)</p> <p>14 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>15 Q This is a November 4, 2015 e-mail from Richard</p> <p>16 Burt to Anders Aslund. Quote, Anders, this is very last</p> <p>17 minute request but can you invite Kathy Kavalec, deputy</p> <p>18 assistant secretary at State, to tonight's dinner? Petr</p> <p>19 met with her and Toria Nuland yesterday and Kathy</p> <p>20 expressed interest.</p> <p>21 End of quote.</p> <p>22 MR. LEWIS: This is which document? I'm</p>	120	<p>1 For us, in our capacity as businesspeople, it was of</p> <p>2 great importance.</p> <p>3 Q Do you recall meeting with Kathy Kavalec in</p> <p>4 November of 2015?</p> <p>5 A They usually attended together.</p> <p>6 Q And why was it of value to meet with Deputy</p> <p>7 Assistant Secretary Kavalec?</p> <p>8 A It was not important for us, as she was of no</p> <p>9 particular stand-alone value to us. She had always been</p> <p>10 historically invited by Victoria Nuland.</p> <p>11 Q Did you have your secretary, Olga Dubova, ask</p> <p>12 Mr. Aslund to invite Mikhail Lesin to the November 4,</p> <p>13 2015 dinner with Mr. Lipton and Mr. Burt?</p> <p>14 A Yes.</p> <p>15 Q Didn't Aslund advise against inviting Lesin to</p> <p>16 this dinner?</p> <p>17 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, say it again, sir?</p> <p>18 Q Didn't Mr. Aslund advise you against inviting</p> <p>19 Mr. Lesin to this dinner?</p> <p>20 A Yes.</p> <p>21 Q Turn to document 23, please.</p> <p>22 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 30.</p>

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31 (121 to 124)

121	<p>1 (Exhibit Aven-30 marked for identification and</p> <p>2 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>3 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>4 Q This is an e-mail from Mr. Aslund to you dated</p> <p>5 October 30, 2015. In the middle of the page, he says,</p> <p>6 quote, We have received a query from your assistant Olga</p> <p>7 about inviting Mikhail Lesin to the dinner. I would</p> <p>8 advise against inviting Lesin because he is being</p> <p>9 investigated by the FBI for money laundering in the</p> <p>10 United States. I attach two links about it below. It</p> <p>11 would reflect badly on you, as well as upon us, if Lesin</p> <p>12 were to be invited. I trust you agree with us, end of</p> <p>13 quote.</p> <p>14 Aslund also described Lesin as, quote, awful,</p> <p>15 end of quote, and, quote, propaganda minister, unquote.</p> <p>16 Did you see your reply to this e-mail?</p> <p>17 A Yes.</p> <p>18 Q In response, you said, quote, if you start</p> <p>19 looking for information online, you will likely find,</p> <p>20 quote, kompromat, unquote, on many Russian businessmen</p> <p>21 and former ministers including myself. As far as I</p> <p>22 know, the U.S. government does not have any official</p>	123	<p>1 A Yes.</p> <p>2 Q Did you know that in 2014, U.S. Senator Roger</p> <p>3 Wicker had asked the Department of Justice to</p> <p>4 investigate Lesin, and the Assistant Attorney General</p> <p>5 for the United States replied that the matter was</p> <p>6 referred to the criminal division?</p> <p>7 A No, I was not aware of that.</p> <p>8 Q You said that Lesin died while you were in</p> <p>9 Washington, D.C., correct?</p> <p>10 A Yes.</p> <p>11 Q Do you know how he died?</p> <p>12 A I know this from newspapers.</p> <p>13 Q Did the police interview you about his death?</p> <p>14 A Of course not. I have not seen him prior to</p> <p>15 his death.</p> <p>16 Q Are you aware of media reporting that says</p> <p>17 Mr. Lesin was murdered in Washington, D.C. by agents of</p> <p>18 the Russian government?</p> <p>19 A So far as -- so far as I know, that was fully</p> <p>20 refuted and proven wrong by the investigative</p> <p>21 authorities in the U.S., and we know that from official</p> <p>22 government statements to that effect.</p>
122	<p>1 complaints against Lesin, who by the way permanently</p> <p>2 lives in California, end of quote.</p> <p>3 Mr. Aven, in 2015, wasn't it easy to find</p> <p>4 kompromat on many Russian businessmen, including</p> <p>5 yourself?</p> <p>6 A Yes. It's very easy to find that in the</p> <p>7 Russian tabloids, in the Russian gutter press, and in</p> <p>8 all sorts of websites.</p> <p>9 Q And did it remain easy to find that kind of</p> <p>10 kompromat on many Russian businessmen, including</p> <p>11 yourself, in 2016?</p> <p>12 A In 2016, we were no longer a part of that</p> <p>13 narrative in the sense that our reputation and our</p> <p>14 profile had been very good and very high, and people</p> <p>15 hardly ever wrote about us anything.</p> <p>16 One comment that I'd like to offer with</p> <p>17 respect to Mr. Lesin, if I may, if at all of interest to</p> <p>18 you, sir.</p> <p>19 Q Hold on. Let me -- we'll get there. I just</p> <p>20 need you to be responsive to my questions.</p> <p>21 The e-mail exchange you're looking at here</p> <p>22 took place in 2015, correct?</p>	124	<p>1 Q Official government statements from which</p> <p>2 government?</p> <p>3 A U.S. government.</p> <p>4 Q Turn to document 55, please.</p> <p>5 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 31.</p> <p>6 (Exhibit Aven-31 marked for identification and</p> <p>7 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: Are you going to ask me about</p> <p>9 Mr. Lesin?</p> <p>10 (In English.) I just wanted to make one</p> <p>11 point.</p> <p>12 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>13 Q Your counsel will have opportunities to ask</p> <p>14 you questions, sir. This is my time.</p> <p>15 I'm going to ask you a question about document</p> <p>16 55 that we're calling Exhibit 31.</p> <p>17 On November 19, the Jewish Business News ran</p> <p>18 an article called, Exclusive "No Tie" Interview with</p> <p>19 head of the Alfa Banking Holding, Petr Aven on business,</p> <p>20 childhood and friends.</p> <p>21 That's this document.</p> <p>22 Did you sit for an interview with the Jewish</p>

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32 (125 to 128)

125	<p>1 Business News?</p> <p>2 A Yes.</p> <p>3 Q Did you arrange for that interview, or did the</p> <p>4 Jewish Business News call you?</p> <p>5 A I never organized anything in my life.</p> <p>6 Q Did the Jewish Business News reach out to you</p> <p>7 for an interview?</p> <p>8 A Yes.</p> <p>9 Q On page 3 of this document, you'll see this</p> <p>10 photo of you and Vladimir Putin sitting and talking at a</p> <p>11 desk.</p> <p>12 Do you see that?</p> <p>13 A Yes.</p> <p>14 Q Where was that photo taken?</p> <p>15 A In the Kremlin.</p> <p>16 Q Is that in the president's office?</p> <p>17 A Yes.</p> <p>18 Q When was that photo taken?</p> <p>19 A I don't know. We used to have three or four</p> <p>20 meetings per year. So it was on occasion of one of</p> <p>21 those meetings, I presume.</p> <p>22 Q In this article on page 8, you said of your</p>	127	<p>1 Q When did you meet with Mr. Lipton at the White</p> <p>2 House?</p> <p>3 A We had three or four distinct meetings. I</p> <p>4 don't recall exactly when.</p> <p>5 Q Do you recall meeting with him in May of 2010?</p> <p>6 A Maybe. It was ten years ago. I have very</p> <p>7 vague recollections of that.</p> <p>8 Q Turn to document 71.</p> <p>9 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 32.</p> <p>10 (Exhibit Aven-32 marked for identification and</p> <p>11 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>12 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>13 Q These are publicly available documents called</p> <p>14 WAVE files that show who's at the White House, and this</p> <p>15 first document states that on May 13, 2010, you, Mikhail</p> <p>16 Fridman, Richard Burt, and Stephen Rademaker met with</p> <p>17 David Lipton at the White House.</p> <p>18 Does that refresh your recollection about your</p> <p>19 meeting with Mr. Lipton?</p> <p>20 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection. Can you</p> <p>21 just show us where there's a reference to David Lipton</p> <p>22 on this document?</p>
126	<p>1 business union (inaudible) --</p> <p>2 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>3 Q On page 8, you are quoted discussing your</p> <p>4 business union with Mikhail Fridman in 1993, and you</p> <p>5 say, quote, I needed the money, and he needed the ideas</p> <p>6 and useful contacts at the government, end of quote.</p> <p>7 Is that correct?</p> <p>8 A That is correct.</p> <p>9 Q On page 6 of this article, you said that David</p> <p>10 Lipton was one of your advisors when you were in</p> <p>11 government. Is that correct?</p> <p>12 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>13 MR. LEWIS: If you could just tell us what</p> <p>14 you're referring to on page 6.</p> <p>15 MR. LEVY: It doesn't matter.</p> <p>16 Q Mr. Aven, you've told us already that</p> <p>17 Mr. Lipton was one of your advisors when you were</p> <p>18 serving at the Kremlin, correct?</p> <p>19 A Yes.</p> <p>20 Q And did you and Mr. Fridman meet with</p> <p>21 Mr. Lipton when he was working at the White House?</p> <p>22 A Yes.</p>	128	<p>1 MR. LEVY: The first page, the fourth to last</p> <p>2 column, there is --</p> <p>3 MR. LEWIS: Ah, I see it now. Thank you. Got</p> <p>4 it.</p> <p>5 A Yes, we did have the meeting. Yes. I'm not</p> <p>6 denying that.</p> <p>7 Q What was discussed?</p> <p>8 A The same things that we discussed with</p> <p>9 Victoria Nuland: Russia, Russian business. And of</p> <p>10 course we were thinking back to 1992 when we had been</p> <p>11 working together.</p> <p>12 Q Turn to document 52.</p> <p>13 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 33.</p> <p>14 (Exhibit Aven-33 marked for identification and</p> <p>15 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>16 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>17 Q This is an e-mail exchange between Richard</p> <p>18 Burt and John Herbst at the Atlantic Council. On March</p> <p>19 14, 2016, Richard Burt e-mails Herbst to confirm that</p> <p>20 you, Mr. Aven, had been invited to a March 18, 2016</p> <p>21 lunch with U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Tefft. And</p> <p>22 Herbst replied, quote, He's in, end of quote.</p>

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33 (129 to 132)

129	<p>1 Did you attend this lunch?</p> <p>2 A I think so, yes.</p> <p>3 Q Is this request typical of the services that</p> <p>4 Richard Burt provides to you?</p> <p>5 MR. LEWIS: Objection to "typical." I don't</p> <p>6 know what that means.</p> <p>7 A I agree. It's not clear what it means.</p> <p>8 Q Does Richard Burt invite -- does Richard Burt</p> <p>9 confirm your presence at events with U.S. government</p> <p>10 officials on your behalf?</p> <p>11 A I think so, because he was the one who</p> <p>12 organized the meeting.</p> <p>13 Q Did you speak with Ambassador Tefft at this</p> <p>14 lunch?</p> <p>15 A I had a very good cordial relationship with</p> <p>16 Ambassador Tefft going back to the 1990s, both prior to</p> <p>17 that meeting, in the course of that meeting, and after</p> <p>18 that meeting, and we had multiple encounters involving</p> <p>19 myself and Ambassador Tefft.</p> <p>20 Q Do you recall what you discussed with</p> <p>21 Ambassador Tefft at this lunch in March of 2016?</p> <p>22 A We always discussed the same agenda at all the</p>	131	<p>1 Q Is that what you said, or is that what he</p> <p>2 said?</p> <p>3 A I did not say anything because I don't know</p> <p>4 the first thing, nor did I know the first thing about</p> <p>5 American politics at that time.</p> <p>6 Q How many times have you visited Washington,</p> <p>7 D.C. to meet with U.S. government officials?</p> <p>8 A Maybe 20 times.</p> <p>9 Q How long were you in Washington, D.C. in March</p> <p>10 of 2016, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>11 A I don't recall exactly, but every time it was</p> <p>12 typically between three and four days.</p> <p>13 Q Would Mr. Burt have your schedule for the</p> <p>14 March 2016 trip to Washington, D.C.?</p> <p>15 A Of course, yes.</p> <p>16 Q What other business did you conduct in</p> <p>17 Washington, D.C. in March of 2016?</p> <p>18 A There was no particular business for me to</p> <p>19 conduct. Speaking from memory, I believe we were</p> <p>20 exploring possibilities of making investments in the</p> <p>21 U.S. economy.</p> <p>22 Q Did you meet with any other U.S. government</p>
130	<p>1 meetings that we had, and that was Russian business,</p> <p>2 Russian-American relations. I think we assisted the</p> <p>3 U.S. ambassador in better understanding Russia.</p> <p>4 Q Did you discuss the 2016 U.S. presidential</p> <p>5 election with him?</p> <p>6 A If we did, the discussion was limited to the</p> <p>7 discussion of who you believe is going to win.</p> <p>8 Q And what was said?</p> <p>9 A No comment on that one.</p> <p>10 Q I need you to answer my question.</p> <p>11 A I don't recall.</p> <p>12 Q Was it "I don't recall" or "no comment," sir?</p> <p>13 A (In English.) I don't recall. I don't</p> <p>14 recall.</p> <p>15 (Through interpreter.) I don't recall.</p> <p>16 Q Are you sure?</p> <p>17 A I don't recall.</p> <p>18 Q March --</p> <p>19 A All people came up with all sorts of forecasts</p> <p>20 such that I don't recall. I believe at that time the</p> <p>21 prevailing view was that the Democrats were going to</p> <p>22 win.</p>	132	<p>1 officials in Washington, D.C. in March of 2016?</p> <p>2 A I do not recall exactly either, but typically</p> <p>3 we would have meetings in the Department of State, in</p> <p>4 Congress, and the Department of Treasury. That was the</p> <p>5 usual set list of -- and the IMF.</p> <p>6 Q Did Mr. Fridman accompany you on this trip to</p> <p>7 D.C. in March of 2016?</p> <p>8 A I do not recall that one specifically, but</p> <p>9 almost always we went there together.</p> <p>10 Q Did Mr. Khan accompany you on this trip to</p> <p>11 Washington, D.C.?</p> <p>12 A He never accompanied us at all.</p> <p>13 Q Turn to document 34, please.</p> <p>14 MR. LEVY: This is going to be Exhibit 34.</p> <p>15 (Exhibit Aven-34 marked for identification and</p> <p>16 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>17 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>18 Q This is a -- this is a FIFA press release.</p> <p>19 On July 18, 2016, did you appear at an event</p> <p>20 in Moscow where FIFA officials announced Alfa-Bank as</p> <p>21 the first FIFA World Cup regional sponsor or supporter?</p> <p>22 A Yes.</p>

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34 (133 to 136)

133	<p>1 Q Did you have communications with anyone from</p> <p>2 the Russian government about this sponsorship?</p> <p>3 A No, with no one at all. Only with the</p> <p>4 organizing committee of the championship.</p> <p>5 Q You see on the first page of this media</p> <p>6 release a photo of you holding an Alfa-Bank soccer</p> <p>7 jersey. Is this you?</p> <p>8 A It is me indeed.</p> <p>9 Q Do you know why you were chosen to represent</p> <p>10 Alfa-Bank at this press conference?</p> <p>11 A Because I'm chairman of the bank.</p> <p>12 Q Turn to document 36, please.</p> <p>13 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 35.</p> <p>14 (Exhibit Aven-35 marked for identification and</p> <p>15 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>16 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>17 Q This is a September 23rd, 2016 article in</p> <p>18 Politico. The headline is, Who is Carter Page?</p> <p>19 A I can see that, yes.</p> <p>20 Q This story quoted you. Were you interviewed</p> <p>21 for this article?</p> <p>22 A I don't recall. Where does it quote from me?</p>	135	<p>1 Q In July of 2016, were you also a member of the</p> <p>2 New Economic School's endowment foundation board of</p> <p>3 trustees?</p> <p>4 A I was, and I still am.</p> <p>5 Q And didn't Mr. Page deliver the commencement</p> <p>6 address at the New Economic School in July 2016?</p> <p>7 A I learned that from the newspapers only.</p> <p>8 Q On page 9 of this exhibit, you are quoted</p> <p>9 saying, I don't know this person, end of quote, said</p> <p>10 Pyotr Aven.</p> <p>11 Did -- does that refresh your recollection</p> <p>12 that you were interviewed for this article?</p> <p>13 A I don't recall this, but if they are saying</p> <p>14 what they're saying, and then they are telling the</p> <p>15 truth, then I would not rule out the possibility that I</p> <p>16 was interviewed.</p> <p>17 Q Do you know if the New Economic School paid</p> <p>18 for Mr. Page's trip to Moscow?</p> <p>19 A It did, because they -- because he arrived</p> <p>20 with a visit to the New Economic School, hence they</p> <p>21 would have paid his expenses.</p> <p>22 Q Politico described you as the New Economic</p>
134	<p>1 Q Turn to page 9, please. In this story, in the</p> <p>2 second to last paragraph, Politico wrote, quote, In the</p> <p>3 interest of due diligence, I also tried to run down the</p> <p>4 rumors being handed me by the corporate investigators:</p> <p>5 That Russia's Alfa-Bank paid for the trip as a favor to</p> <p>6 the Kremlin, end of quote.</p> <p>7 In that quote, is the Politico reporter</p> <p>8 referring to Carter Page's July 7 to 8, 2016 trip to</p> <p>9 Moscow where Mr. Page delivered the commencement address</p> <p>10 for the New Economic School in Moscow?</p> <p>11 MR. LEWIS: Objection. You're asking him to</p> <p>12 tell you what a paragraph in a 10- or 13-page article</p> <p>13 means without having read the article?</p> <p>14 Q Please answer the question, Mr. Aven.</p> <p>15 A I don't know Carter Page. I've never met the</p> <p>16 guy. I have nothing to do with this trip at all. This</p> <p>17 is total nonsense, and I have no involvement, and I have</p> <p>18 nothing to do with this.</p> <p>19 Q In July 2016, were you a member of the New</p> <p>20 Economic School board of directors?</p> <p>21 A I was. I still am. And I'm one of the</p> <p>22 largest sponsors.</p>	136	<p>1 School's main benefactor. Is that accurate?</p> <p>2 A One of the major benefactors, yes.</p> <p>3 Q Prior to July 2016, did you know that Mr. Page</p> <p>4 was a Trump campaign aide?</p> <p>5 A I had not even heard that name at all.</p> <p>6 Q Did you tell Politico anything else that was</p> <p>7 not published in this story?</p> <p>8 A I don't think so.</p> <p>9 Q Did Politico reach out directly to you, or did</p> <p>10 it reach out to Alfa or BGR?</p> <p>11 A I don't recall. They may have -- they may</p> <p>12 have reached out to me. I mean, this is total drivel.</p> <p>13 Establishing any relationship between us and Carter</p> <p>14 Page, I could have refuted that easily on my own.</p> <p>15 Q Did they reach out to the -- strike that.</p> <p>16 Did Politico reach out to the New Economic</p> <p>17 School for comment from you?</p> <p>18 A How would I know? I'm not aware of the</p> <p>19 details at all. They may have spoken with them. I just</p> <p>20 have no clue.</p> <p>21 I make funds available at the start of every</p> <p>22 year. Now, how they use the money, I don't know.</p>

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35 (137 to 140)

137	<p>1 Q Did you consult with any (inaudible)?</p> <p>2 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>3 Q Did you consult with any of Alfa or</p> <p>4 LetterOne's PR people, whether it was anyone from BGR,</p> <p>5 Stuart Bruseth, Richard Burt?</p> <p>6 A No, of course not. There is nothing to</p> <p>7 consult about. I did not know the guy. I had nothing</p> <p>8 to do with him. There is nothing to seek advice on.</p> <p>9 Q At the bottom of page 9, Politico describes</p> <p>10 you as follows: Quote, one of two founders of Alfa-Bank,</p> <p>11 which is considered the Western Russian bank. Aven and</p> <p>12 his partner, Mikhail Fridman, have transferred much of</p> <p>13 their assets out of Russia and have been quite critical</p> <p>14 of Putin, end of quote.</p> <p>15 Did you provide that information to Politico?</p> <p>16 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, where is that, sir?</p> <p>17 We are both struggling to find that on page 9.</p> <p>18 Q That is the bottom of page 9. It says, Pyotr</p> <p>19 Aven, one of the two founders of Alfa-Bank, which is</p> <p>20 considered the Western Russian bank.</p> <p>21 Do you see that? The last paragraph.</p> <p>22 THE INTERPRETER: No.</p>	139	<p>1 Q Did anyone else from Alfa or its</p> <p>2 representatives communicate with Politico about this</p> <p>3 story?</p> <p>4 A I don't think so.</p> <p>5 Q Please tell me all the times when you've</p> <p>6 criticized Vladimir Putin in public.</p> <p>7 A I criticized the economic policies pursued by</p> <p>8 the government, but I never criticized Vladimir Putin</p> <p>9 personally.</p> <p>10 Q In public, have you criticized Mr. Putin about</p> <p>11 the situation in the Crimea?</p> <p>12 A Never. No, never.</p> <p>13 Q In public, have you criticized Vladimir Putin</p> <p>14 about the murders of Alexei Navalny or Sergei Skripal?</p> <p>15 A Never.</p> <p>16 Q In public, have you criticized Vladimir Putin</p> <p>17 about Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential</p> <p>18 election?</p> <p>19 A I knew nothing about any interference.</p> <p>20 Therefore, I could not have possibly made any</p> <p>21 statements.</p> <p>22 Q So the answer to my question is "no"?</p>
138	<p>1 A It starts with, I don't know this person --</p> <p>2 (In English.) No, Aven and his partner owns</p> <p>3 it.</p> <p>4 Q Yes. And right --</p> <p>5 THE INTERPRETER: Oh, Aven and his partner --</p> <p>6 Q Right after, it says, Pyotr Aven, one of the</p> <p>7 two founders of Alfa-Bank.</p> <p>8 See that?</p> <p>9 THE INTERPRETER: No.</p> <p>10 THE WITNESS: (In English.) Aven and his</p> <p>11 partner --</p> <p>12 THE INTERPRETER: No, it says, Aven and his</p> <p>13 partner, Mikhail Fridman, have transferred, et cetera.</p> <p>14 But we can't find the sentence that you're referring to.</p> <p>15 MR. LEVY: Can the technician put the document</p> <p>16 on the screen, please.</p> <p>17 A So is this the paragraph that starts with, I</p> <p>18 don't know this person?</p> <p>19 Q Yes.</p> <p>20 A Oh, okay.</p> <p>21 Q Did you provide that information to Politico?</p> <p>22 A No.</p>	140	<p>1 A Correct.</p> <p>2 Q In public, have you criticized Vladimir Putin</p> <p>3 about the war in Chechnya?</p> <p>4 A No.</p> <p>5 Q Would you agree that Western media has a</p> <p>6 perception that Russian oligarchs have a close</p> <p>7 relationship with the Kremlin?</p> <p>8 A Yes.</p> <p>9 Q Would you also agree that the Western press</p> <p>10 has a perception that Putin's Russia is a kleptocracy?</p> <p>11 A Not all of them at all. This is not a</p> <p>12 widespread perception at all.</p> <p>13 Q Have you, Alfa, and/or LetterOne spent</p> <p>14 millions of dollars to improve your image in the West as</p> <p>15 you're trying to do business in the West?</p> <p>16 A That is not true.</p> <p>17 Q Turn to document 41, please.</p> <p>18 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 36.</p> <p>19 (Exhibit Aven-36 marked for identification and</p> <p>20 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>21 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>22 Q This is a Fortune magazine article from</p>

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36 (141 to 144)

141	<p>1 November 2, 2016 called, Meet the Russian Bank with Ties</p> <p>2 to Donald Trump.</p> <p>3 Are you familiar with this story?</p> <p>4 A I'm aware of the story, but not of the</p> <p>5 article.</p> <p>6 Q This story talks about Alfa and the Trump</p> <p>7 organization possibly communicating, doesn't it?</p> <p>8 A I simply don't know. It's a long article. I</p> <p>9 would need some time to read through this.</p> <p>10 Q If you go to page 2, at the top of the page it</p> <p>11 says, On Monday, Slate had published a story about</p> <p>12 communication between a server hosting Trump</p> <p>13 organization domain addresses and a server owned by</p> <p>14 Alfa-Bank.</p> <p>15 Do you see that?</p> <p>16 A Right, yes.</p> <p>17 Q Did you, Alfa, or any representative speak</p> <p>18 with Fortune magazine or the reporter, Geoffrey Smith,</p> <p>19 for this story?</p> <p>20 A I certainly did not, myself, and I'm not sure</p> <p>21 about Alfa. I just don't know.</p> <p>22 Q If you go to page 4 of this story, it says,</p>	143	<p>1 "oligarch" is a word used by many, but people have</p> <p>2 different understandings of what it means. We've seen</p> <p>3 that already in this deposition about your questions to</p> <p>4 Mr. Aven about whether he considers himself to be an</p> <p>5 oligarch. He said he doesn't.</p> <p>6 So it might be clearer if you asked your</p> <p>7 question about Russian businesspeople or some other term</p> <p>8 that isn't a value-laden term about which people can</p> <p>9 disagree who it applies to.</p> <p>10 Q Do you know what an oligarch is, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>11 A What an oligarch is?</p> <p>12 Q Yes.</p> <p>13 A I do, of course. An oligarch is a wealthy</p> <p>14 individual who exerts influence on political matters,</p> <p>15 public policy.</p> <p>16 Q That's your definition?</p> <p>17 A It's not -- it's not my definition; it's the</p> <p>18 definition generated by either Plato or Aristotle, I'm</p> <p>19 not sure which one of the two.</p> <p>20 Q Have there ever been Russian oligarchs?</p> <p>21 A There were a couple of people back in the</p> <p>22 1990s who came pretty close to that definition.</p>
142	<p>1 quote, One former employee of the bank recalls a</p> <p>2 ceremony ten years back at which Fridman's partner,</p> <p>3 Pyotr Aven, a deputy prime minister who has headed the</p> <p>4 group's government relationship [sic], was due to</p> <p>5 receive an award from Putin. An awkward exchange</p> <p>6 (allegedly) ran as follows:</p> <p>7 Putin: Remind me, why am I giving this to</p> <p>8 you?</p> <p>9 Aven: Because I haven't done anything you can</p> <p>10 put me in jail for.</p> <p>11 Putin: No, not yet.</p> <p>12 End of quote.</p> <p>13 Mr. Aven, do you recall that exchange with</p> <p>14 Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>15 A (In English.) I do.</p> <p>16 Q Where and when did it occur?</p> <p>17 A I was in the Kremlin.</p> <p>18 Q Under Vladimir Putin's presidency in Russia,</p> <p>19 has the Russian government jailed any oligarchs?</p> <p>20 A I'm not sure about oligarchs --</p> <p>21 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>22 MR. LEWIS: Objection. My objection is that</p>	144	<p>1 Q Like your old boss, Berezovsky?</p> <p>2 A He was not my boss, but other than that, the</p> <p>3 answer is "yes."</p> <p>4 Q Is he not your boss because he didn't pay you,</p> <p>5 or is he not your boss because you didn't work with him?</p> <p>6 A I did not work for him.</p> <p>7 Q Can you turn to document 29.</p> <p>8 MR. LEWIS: Josh, just a reminder that we'd</p> <p>9 like to take a break, a lunch break, fairly soon.</p> <p>10 MR. LEVY: Okay. In five or ten minutes.</p> <p>11 This is Exhibit 37.</p> <p>12 (Exhibit Aven-37 marked for identification and</p> <p>13 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>14 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>15 Q This is your -- portions of your transcript</p> <p>16 from your deposition in the CPI case.</p> <p>17 A Yes.</p> <p>18 Q Do you recall being deposed for Fridman v.</p> <p>19 CPI?</p> <p>20 A Of course.</p> <p>21 Q Can you turn to page 59.</p> <p>22 A 59? Okay, got it.</p>

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37 (145 to 148)

145	<p>1 Q If you look at line 6, it says -- there's a</p> <p>2 question from the lawyer, Did you -- were you hired --</p> <p>3 the day after you resigned from the government, were you</p> <p>4 hired as an advisor to the president of -- is it the</p> <p>5 Logovaz -- L-O-G-O-V-A-Z -- company?</p> <p>6 You answered, Yeah.</p> <p>7 Is that accurate testimony?</p> <p>8 A I was his advisor -- I was that company's</p> <p>9 advisor. That does not mean that he was my boss.</p> <p>10 Q He was the president of Logovaz, correct?</p> <p>11 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>12 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form.</p> <p>13 A He was either the shareholder or the general</p> <p>14 director. It was a large structure. The truth is that</p> <p>15 he was never my boss.</p> <p>16 Q Look at the bottom of page 59, line 24.</p> <p>17 Question: And who was the president of</p> <p>18 Logovaz at that point?</p> <p>19 Answer: Boris Berezovsky.</p> <p>20 A He was definitely never my boss.</p> <p>21 (In English.) In real life.</p> <p>22 (Through interpreter.) In real life.</p>	147	<p>1 relationship with them.</p> <p>2 Q And these 2016 stories in Politico, Slate, and</p> <p>3 Fortune also raise questions about Alfa-Bank's ties and</p> <p>4 your ties to the Trump campaign, correct?</p> <p>5 A Judging from what I saw there, yes.</p> <p>6 Q Turn to document 57, please.</p> <p>7 THE INTERPRETER: 50 --</p> <p>8 MR. LEVY: 7.</p> <p>9 THE INTERPRETER: 57. Thank you.</p> <p>10 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 38.</p> <p>11 We'll take a break soon, Alan.</p> <p>12 (Exhibit Aven-38 marked for identification and</p> <p>13 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>14 THE WITNESS: (In English.) Break now?</p> <p>15 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>16 Q No. Soon. Very soon.</p> <p>17 This appears to be a bio on the Gaidar Forum</p> <p>18 website. Is this bio accurate?</p> <p>19 A It may well be accurate, except that I would</p> <p>20 first need to read it.</p> <p>21 Q Let me just ask you about specific portions of</p> <p>22 it. It says you frequently deliver lectures on the</p>
146	<p>1 Q Was your testimony not accurate, sir, that</p> <p>2 Berezovsky was the president of Logovaz?</p> <p>3 A There was this position of general director,</p> <p>4 and then Berezovsky came up with a fancy title which did</p> <p>5 not bear any relationship to what he was actually doing.</p> <p>6 He was not running the business in any way.</p> <p>7 Q Did the Kremlin or the Russian government jail</p> <p>8 Khodorkovsky?</p> <p>9 A Definitely.</p> <p>10 Q These news stories we've discussed in</p> <p>11 Politico, Fortune magazine, the Slate story, all took</p> <p>12 place in 2016, and they all raised questions about your</p> <p>13 relationship with the Kremlin and Putin, didn't they?</p> <p>14 MR. LEWIS: Objection. This is really just</p> <p>15 argument. The articles say what they say. We've gone</p> <p>16 over them to sort of ask the witness to characterize a</p> <p>17 bunch of different articles in a very general way. It's</p> <p>18 not a proper question.</p> <p>19 Q Please answer the question.</p> <p>20 A Back in 2016 and in other years -- well,</p> <p>21 actually, throughout my life, lots of stories have been</p> <p>22 produced telling about my alleged -- our alleged</p>	148	<p>1 economic development of the country both in Russia and</p> <p>2 abroad. Is that accurate?</p> <p>3 A That is accurate.</p> <p>4 Q Turn to document 60.</p> <p>5 MR. LEVY: This is Exhibit 39.</p> <p>6 MR. DUNN: Josh, the previous document I</p> <p>7 believe was Exhibit 38, but it showed up in the</p> <p>8 real-time feed as 58.</p> <p>9 COURT REPORTER: I'll correct that later.</p> <p>10 Thank you.</p> <p>11 (Exhibit Aven-39 marked for identification and</p> <p>12 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>13 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>14 Q This appears to be your bio on the Alfa Group</p> <p>15 website. Is this bio accurate?</p> <p>16 A I don't know. Again, I would need to read</p> <p>17 this. Which portion of this specifically are you</p> <p>18 referring to, sir?</p> <p>19 Q It's brief. If you could read it and just let</p> <p>20 me know if it's accurate, that would be helpful.</p> <p>21 A Yes, that's correct.</p> <p>22 Q Turn to document 59, please.</p>

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38 (149 to 152)

149	<p>1 MR. LEVY: Exhibit 40.</p> <p>2 (Exhibit Aven-40 marked for identification and</p> <p>3 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>4 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>5 Q This is a document from Yale University's</p> <p>6 Office of the President. It says, President's Council</p> <p>7 on International Activities. It lists you as a member</p> <p>8 of the President's Council on International Activities</p> <p>9 for Yale University. Is that accurate?</p> <p>10 A Absolutely correct.</p> <p>11 Q When did you become a member of the</p> <p>12 President's Council on International Activities at Yale?</p> <p>13 A I think it was back in 2015 or maybe 2014.</p> <p>14 Q 2014 or 2015?</p> <p>15 A Either/or, yes, '14 or '15.</p> <p>16 Q Does the council have meetings?</p> <p>17 A The last one was a week ago.</p> <p>18 Q How often each year does the council meet?</p> <p>19 A Twice a year.</p> <p>20 Q Do you attend those meetings?</p> <p>21 A Every other time.</p> <p>22 Q Did you attend these meetings in 2015 and</p>	151	<p>1 investigation?</p> <p>2 A No. I was making my donations prior to that.</p> <p>3 Q What's the period of time when you made your</p> <p>4 donations?</p> <p>5 A I think it was back in 2013.</p> <p>6 Q Not 2014?</p> <p>7 A No, before that.</p> <p>8 Q You've not made any donations since that --</p> <p>9 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>10 A I think it was before that time. That, you</p> <p>11 can easily double-check on that.</p> <p>12 Q So since you've been on the President's</p> <p>13 Council on International Activities, you've not given</p> <p>14 any money to Yale?</p> <p>15 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>16 A This is not a secret. I'm happy to answer. I</p> <p>17 think back in 2013, I started gradually making money</p> <p>18 available to -- that kept growing, and the amount of</p> <p>19 money kept growing steadily, to make it possible to pay</p> <p>20 stipends to professors. It was actually professor</p> <p>21 stipends named after certain individuals, for a specific</p> <p>22 person.</p>
150	<p>1 2016?</p> <p>2 A I think so, yes.</p> <p>3 Q Do you see here that Alexander Abramov is also</p> <p>4 on the council, according to this document?</p> <p>5 A I can see that.</p> <p>6 Q Is this the same Alexander Abramov who's the</p> <p>7 senior advisor to Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>8 A Nothing -- nothing to do with that person.</p> <p>9 It's just a namesake. He's actually a businessperson.</p> <p>10 Q So this is a different Alexander Abramov from</p> <p>11 the one who --</p> <p>12 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>13 Q -- worked at Alfa and who now works at the</p> <p>14 Kremlin?</p> <p>15 A Absolutely different, nothing to do with that</p> <p>16 one.</p> <p>17 Q Okay. Have you made financial contributions</p> <p>18 to Yale University?</p> <p>19 A Yes.</p> <p>20 Q Were your donations among other foreign</p> <p>21 contributions to Yale made between 2014 and 2017 that</p> <p>22 have been the subject of a U.S. Department of Education</p>	152	<p>1 Q How many -- how many millions of dollars did</p> <p>2 you donate to Yale?</p> <p>3 A Five million.</p> <p>4 MR. LEVY: We can take a break. Go off the</p> <p>5 record.</p> <p>6 (Recess from 1:09 p.m. until 1:47 p.m.)</p> <p>7 MR. LEVY: Let's go back on the record.</p> <p>8 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>9 Q Mr. Aven, are you a trustee of the Royal</p> <p>10 Academy Trust, which supports the Royal Academy of Arts</p> <p>11 in London?</p> <p>12 A Yes.</p> <p>13 Q Are you a cofounder and trustee of the Genesis</p> <p>14 Philanthropy Group?</p> <p>15 A Yes.</p> <p>16 Q Have you been sitting on the presidium of the</p> <p>17 Russian International Affairs Council, the RIAC?</p> <p>18 A Yes.</p> <p>19 Q What is the Russian International Affairs</p> <p>20 Council?</p> <p>21 A It's a think tank that was put together with</p> <p>22 the support from the Russian government, and it is</p>

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39 (153 to 156)

153	<p>1 headed by my good friend Igor Ivanov, who is the former</p> <p>2 Russian foreign minister.</p> <p>3 Q Was it founded in 2010?</p> <p>4 A Possibly so, yes.</p> <p>5 Q Can you turn to document 70.</p> <p>6 MR. LEVY: This will be Exhibit 41.</p> <p>7 (Exhibit Aven-41 marked for identification and</p> <p>8 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>9 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>10 Q This is an article from June 14, 2013 in</p> <p>11 Russia Direct. And on the second page of this article,</p> <p>12 it says, quote, The Russian International Affairs</p> <p>13 Council was founded on orders of then-President Dmitry</p> <p>14 Medvedev with the goal of contributing to Russia's soft</p> <p>15 power efforts, end of quote.</p> <p>16 Is that accurate, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>17 A Possibly, yes.</p> <p>18 Q On February 4, 2016, did you meet with former</p> <p>19 U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, along with</p> <p>20 other members of the Valdai Club?</p> <p>21 A I think so. I think so, yes.</p> <p>22 Q Did you discuss Russian-American relations</p>	155	<p>1 for a long time.</p> <p>2 Q Are the speakers and moderators at these Alfa</p> <p>3 lecture events only chosen because of their knowledge of</p> <p>4 Russian-American affairs?</p> <p>5 A I suppose so.</p> <p>6 Q What's your understanding of the purpose of</p> <p>7 these lectures?</p> <p>8 A The purpose is for the Americans to better</p> <p>9 understand Russians and for Russians to better</p> <p>10 understand America.</p> <p>11 Q And is Alfa -- while Alfa was sponsoring this</p> <p>12 lecture, was it furthering the debate about the Russian</p> <p>13 state's relationship with the United States?</p> <p>14 A We never thought in terms of --</p> <p>15 MR. LEWIS: Objection. What debate is being</p> <p>16 referred to? I don't think we've had any reference to a</p> <p>17 debate before this question. So the question is unclear</p> <p>18 as to what it's referring to.</p> <p>19 Q Please answer.</p> <p>20 A We never thought about this when we worked --</p> <p>21 in the council, we never thought in terms of state or</p> <p>22 government. It was always about business. We were</p>
154	<p>1 with Secretary Kissinger?</p> <p>2 A I don't think I delivered any talks there. I</p> <p>3 was there -- I was on the listening end. I'm not a</p> <p>4 professional in that area.</p> <p>5 Q Did you have a private meeting with Secretary</p> <p>6 Kissinger in February of 2016?</p> <p>7 A No.</p> <p>8 Q In the 2000s, did you and Mr. Fridman create</p> <p>9 and sponsor the Alfa lecture at the Council on Foreign</p> <p>10 Relations?</p> <p>11 A Yes. I remember that he became a member --</p> <p>12 he, Mr. Fridman, became a member, yes.</p> <p>13 Q Did the two of you create and sponsor the Alfa</p> <p>14 lecture?</p> <p>15 A No. It was the bank and Mr. Fridman,</p> <p>16 either/or. Either the bank or Mr. Fridman personally.</p> <p>17 I did not personally take part in that.</p> <p>18 Q Does the bank (inaudible) --</p> <p>19 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>20 Q Does the bank continue to support these</p> <p>21 lectures financially?</p> <p>22 A I don't think so. I've not heard about this</p>	156	<p>1 looking at this from the perspective of businesspeople</p> <p>2 that we were, and we believed that in the interests of</p> <p>3 furthering business relationships, it was -- and</p> <p>4 furthering business in general, it was a good idea to</p> <p>5 make sure that there is good common understanding on</p> <p>6 both sides.</p> <p>7 We always tried to bridge the gap in</p> <p>8 understanding between people. It was a humanitarian</p> <p>9 endeavor that we pursued, and we always believed that it</p> <p>10 was very important to overcome the gap, the</p> <p>11 misunderstanding between the people, and that's what the</p> <p>12 Fellowship's program and the other programs served to</p> <p>13 advance.</p> <p>14 Q What was the misunderstanding?</p> <p>15 A Americans don't know the first thing about</p> <p>16 Russia and Russians don't understand America at all.</p> <p>17 Q If you -- well, let me ask you. A few weeks</p> <p>18 after you filed the lawsuit, the reason why we're here</p> <p>19 today, do you recall being present for an Alfa lecture</p> <p>20 on October 25, 2017?</p> <p>21 A What was the lecture?</p> <p>22 Q It was an Alfa lecture, on October 25, 2017.</p>

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40 (157 to 160)

157	<p>1 Do you recall being present for that?</p> <p>2 A Where was that?</p> <p>3 Q Turn to document 37, please.</p> <p>4 MR. LEVY: We're going to call this Exhibit</p> <p>5 42.</p> <p>6 (Exhibit Aven-42 marked for identification and</p> <p>7 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>8 A I may have been there, yes.</p> <p>9 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>10 Q You'll see this document is from the Council</p> <p>11 on Foreign Relations' website. It says, Russia and the</p> <p>12 West: A Historical Perspective, Wednesday, October 25,</p> <p>13 2017.</p> <p>14 A It is quite possible that I was in attendance.</p> <p>15 Q And you'll see on page 2 it says, President,</p> <p>16 Stephen Sestanovich -- S-E-S-T-A-N-O-V-I-C-H.</p> <p>17 I'm going to read a portion of the opening</p> <p>18 statement that former U.S. Ambassador Stephen</p> <p>19 Sestanovich made when he was moderating this panel.</p> <p>20 Quote, I want to begin, though, by noting that</p> <p>21 this is a session conducted under the rubric of the Alfa</p> <p>22 Lecture. And I should say an explanatory word about</p>	159	<p>1 Q You'll see that on the bottom of page 2, it</p> <p>2 says, Responses of Ambassador Steven [sic] R.</p> <p>3 Sestanovich to Additional Questions for the Record.</p> <p>4 And if you turn to the first page, this is</p> <p>5 questions for the record with regard to a hearing before</p> <p>6 the Subcommittee on European Affairs of the U.S. Senate</p> <p>7 Committee on Foreign Relations dated April 12, 2000.</p> <p>8 And if you turn to the seventh page of this</p> <p>9 document, you'll see question 11.</p> <p>10 A So what's the question that you're referring</p> <p>11 to, sir?</p> <p>12 Q Question 11 from the Senate subcommittee says,</p> <p>13 quote, What is the relationship between Pyotr Aven and</p> <p>14 Russian President-Elect Vladimir Putin? Did Pyotr Aven</p> <p>15 play any direct or indirect role in Putin's recent</p> <p>16 campaign for the Russian presidency?</p> <p>17 And Ambassador Sestanovich responded, quote,</p> <p>18 According to Russian press reports, Aven and President</p> <p>19 Putin have known each other since the early 1990s and</p> <p>20 have met since Putin became acting president. Aven's</p> <p>21 Alfa Group has reportedly supplied several staff members</p> <p>22 for the presidential administration. Alfa Group is also</p>
158	<p>1 that. About 15 years ago, the leadership of Alfa, Misha</p> <p>2 Fridman and Petr Aven, who are here with us today,</p> <p>3 approached us with the thought that it was necessary and</p> <p>4 worthwhile to continue attention to Russia in this</p> <p>5 country. And we thought that was a worthy project, and</p> <p>6 one that we've tried to carry out over the past 15</p> <p>7 years, end of quote.</p> <p>8 Do you recall these remarks, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>9 A I do not recall that specifically, but I would</p> <p>10 subscribe to every word of it.</p> <p>11 Q Does Alfa-Bank's sponsorship of the Alfa</p> <p>12 Lecture at the Council on Foreign Relations help you</p> <p>13 with your relationship with Ambassador Sestanovich?</p> <p>14 A I don't think so. I have known Ambassador</p> <p>15 Sestanovich ever since the early 1990s when I was with</p> <p>16 the government. It had absolutely no relationship and</p> <p>17 no bearing on the relations that we had, none at all.</p> <p>18 Q Turn to document 54.</p> <p>19 MR. LEVY: This is Exhibit 43.</p> <p>20 (Exhibit Aven-43 marked for identification and</p> <p>21 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>22 BY MR. LEVY:</p>	160	<p>1 reported to have made financial contributions to</p> <p>2 President Putin's election campaign, end of quote.</p> <p>3 Did you discuss that testimony with the</p> <p>4 ambassador?</p> <p>5 A Never. It's the first time ever that I see</p> <p>6 this.</p> <p>7 Q Did Alfa Group make contributions to President</p> <p>8 Putin's election campaign?</p> <p>9 A Never. We never made any contributions. And</p> <p>10 no one asked us to do that.</p> <p>11 Q Turn to document 4, which is Exhibit 6. These</p> <p>12 are your Answers to Interrogatories. If you turn to</p> <p>13 page (inaudible) --</p> <p>14 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>15 A Which page is that, sir? It wasn't audible.</p> <p>16 Q 24.</p> <p>17 THE INTERPRETER: Thank you.</p> <p>18 Q This is your response to interrogatory number</p> <p>19 17. It says, Aven: -- and then it lists a number of</p> <p>20 awards.</p> <p>21 Is that accurate and complete?</p> <p>22 A Yes.</p>

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41 (161 to 164)

161	<p>1 MR. LEWIS: Objection. The objection to the</p> <p>2 interrogatory objects to it on the ground that it is</p> <p>3 vague, which means it is in some sense hard to answer.</p> <p>4 So I think your question -- well, so that is, the answer</p> <p>5 to that question is also informed by the objection to it</p> <p>6 for its breadth and vagueness.</p> <p>7 Q Mr. Aven, are there any other awards that</p> <p>8 you've received that you haven't listed in response to</p> <p>9 interrogatory number 17?</p> <p>10 A I won a special achievement award for</p> <p>11 mathematics when I was back in school, secondary school,</p> <p>12 that is.</p> <p>13 Q Any other awards you've received in your adult</p> <p>14 life that are not listed here, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>15 A I don't recall.</p> <p>16 Q Have you ever met with Mike McFaul?</p> <p>17 A Many times.</p> <p>18 Q Did you meet with him in Washington and</p> <p>19 Moscow?</p> <p>20 A Yes.</p> <p>21 Q Did you discuss the WTO?</p> <p>22 A We may have.</p>	163	<p>1 A Yes, yes, in her office.</p> <p>2 Q How many times did you meet with her?</p> <p>3 A So far as I can recall, twice.</p> <p>4 Q Both times while she was a member of the</p> <p>5 National Security Council?</p> <p>6 A Yes.</p> <p>7 Q Did you meet with her at her office?</p> <p>8 A Yes.</p> <p>9 Q Was that in the White House?</p> <p>10 A It's the building next to the White House.</p> <p>11 Q The Old Executive Office Building?</p> <p>12 A I don't know the name of the building.</p> <p>13 Q Was it the New Executive Office Building?</p> <p>14 A I simply don't know whether it's New or Old.</p> <p>15 Q What did you discuss with her?</p> <p>16 A Exactly the same agenda that I discussed with</p> <p>17 all the other interlocutors of mine.</p> <p>18 Q On your March 2016 trip to Washington, D.C.,</p> <p>19 did you meet with Ms. Wallander?</p> <p>20 A You already asked me that question. I do not</p> <p>21 recall exactly when. I know that I met her twice during</p> <p>22 her tenure as head of the Russia desk of the National</p>
162	<p>1 Q Did you discuss U.S./Russian relations?</p> <p>2 A Yes. It was exactly the same agenda, without</p> <p>3 any exception, that we discussed with other people such</p> <p>4 as Nuland, Sestanovich, and others.</p> <p>5 Q Did you ever send him a message on behalf of</p> <p>6 the Russian government?</p> <p>7 A I never sent any messages to anyone on behalf</p> <p>8 of the Russian government after I left Russian</p> <p>9 government.</p> <p>10 Q Did you ever meet with Jake Sullivan?</p> <p>11 A Never.</p> <p>12 Q Did you ever meet with Laura Rosenberger?</p> <p>13 A I don't think so. The name doesn't ring a</p> <p>14 bell.</p> <p>15 Q Did you ever meet with Celeste Wallander?</p> <p>16 A Yes.</p> <p>17 Q Did you meet with Celeste Wallander in 2016?</p> <p>18 A We had two meetings with her. I don't recall</p> <p>19 exactly when, but that's when she was a member of the</p> <p>20 National Security Council - Russia staff -- Russia desk.</p> <p>21 She was the head of the Russia desk.</p> <p>22 Q Did you meet with her in Washington, D.C.?</p>	164	<p>1 Security Council, but I don't recall exactly when.</p> <p>2 Q Did you discuss U.S./Russian relations with</p> <p>3 her?</p> <p>4 A In very general terms, we discussed the</p> <p>5 general status of the Russian/American relationship. We</p> <p>6 were above all interested in matters related to our</p> <p>7 business. Of course, sanctions and the opportunities</p> <p>8 for making investments in the United States.</p> <p>9 Q What did you discuss when sanctions came up?</p> <p>10 A We held a point of view on that, and we</p> <p>11 conveyed that viewpoint to all our interlocutors.</p> <p>12 Q What was that point of view on sanctions that</p> <p>13 you conveyed --</p> <p>14 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>15 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>16 Q What was that point of view on sanctions that</p> <p>17 you conveyed to Ms. Wallander when you met with her?</p> <p>18 A Let me emphasize that it was not just</p> <p>19 Ms. Wallander. We conveyed the same message, the same</p> <p>20 agenda to all the people that we had meetings with.</p> <p>21 We said that sanctions need to be fair in</p> <p>22 nature, and it serves no useful purpose to sanction just</p>

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42 (165 to 168)

165	<p>1 about every businessperson, including those who have</p> <p>2 nothing to do with that.</p> <p>3 I would not like to go into any details, but</p> <p>4 we also believed that the sanctions were not efficient,</p> <p>5 they were not effective -- some of them were not</p> <p>6 effective at all.</p> <p>7 Q Were these U.S. sanctions on Russian</p> <p>8 individuals?</p> <p>9 A All sorts of sanctions.</p> <p>10 Q From the U.S. government?</p> <p>11 A Of course.</p> <p>12 Q On Russia and Russian entities and Russian</p> <p>13 individuals?</p> <p>14 A Yes. All our American interlocutors were</p> <p>15 always interested in finding out what our thinking was</p> <p>16 with respect to sanctions.</p> <p>17 Q Did your viewpoint on U.S. sanctions include</p> <p>18 the sanctions levied under the Magnitsky Act?</p> <p>19 A No. We did not discuss that because that has</p> <p>20 no relationship to business at all.</p> <p>21 Q In 2015, how many one-on-one meetings with</p> <p>22 Vladimir Putin did you have?</p>	167	<p>1 as Exhibit 17.</p> <p>2 THE INTERPRETER: 11? Is that 11, sir?</p> <p>3 MR. LEVY: Yes.</p> <p>4 Q If you turn to page 4, paragraph 14, this is</p> <p>5 your witness statement in the UK litigation against</p> <p>6 Orbis.</p> <p>7 In paragraph 14, you testified that at your</p> <p>8 one-on-one meetings with Putin, quote, He also asks</p> <p>9 about Alfa, given its importance to the economy as the</p> <p>10 largest private group in Russia, end of quote.</p> <p>11 Is that accurate testimony?</p> <p>12 A I said exactly that same thing literally a</p> <p>13 minute ago.</p> <p>14 Q Isn't it true that what's good for the Russian</p> <p>15 economy is good for the Kremlin?</p> <p>16 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>17 A All I can say is that I cannot be held</p> <p>18 responsible for Kremlin. I'm not a -- what is good for</p> <p>19 the Kremlin is a question better asked of the Kremlin.</p> <p>20 Q What else did you discuss with Vladimir Putin</p> <p>21 in the first two meetings in 2016?</p> <p>22 A Nothing except what is already set out here.</p>
166	<p>1 A Throughout his tenure as president, we always</p> <p>2 had between three and four meetings per year.</p> <p>3 Q Would those three to four annual meetings take</p> <p>4 place in his office at the Kremlin?</p> <p>5 A Of course.</p> <p>6 Q Did those one-on-one meetings with Vladimir</p> <p>7 Putin continue through the end of 2016?</p> <p>8 A Yes. It's no secret.</p> <p>9 Q So in 2016, you had three meetings with him?</p> <p>10 A I can simply repeat what I already said in</p> <p>11 answer to your question, sir, i.e., that we had between</p> <p>12 three and four meetings every year.</p> <p>13 Q When did the three meetings in 2016 take</p> <p>14 place?</p> <p>15 A I don't remember. One was definitely in the</p> <p>16 fall of that year.</p> <p>17 Q At your one-on-one meetings with Putin, would</p> <p>18 he ask about Alfa?</p> <p>19 A Definitely. We are the largest privately held</p> <p>20 business in Russia, and in the course of all our</p> <p>21 meetings, he always asked questions about Alfa.</p> <p>22 Q Please turn to document 11, already designated</p>	168	<p>1 Q Is it -- when you meet with Vladimir Putin,</p> <p>2 are you meeting by yourself, or are other people in</p> <p>3 attendance?</p> <p>4 A Always one on one.</p> <p>5 Q How are those meetings arranged?</p> <p>6 A It's really a ritual by now. I get a call</p> <p>7 from someone on the staff -- chief of staff -- chief of</p> <p>8 presidential staff, and they say that it's been about</p> <p>9 three months since you last saw the president. When</p> <p>10 would be a convenient time for you to have a meeting?</p> <p>11 Q And the chief of staff in 2016 was Mr. Vaino,</p> <p>12 V-A-I-N-O?</p> <p>13 A Yes.</p> <p>14 Q When he calls you to arrange the meeting, does</p> <p>15 he or somebody else from the Kremlin present you with an</p> <p>16 agenda for the meeting?</p> <p>17 A No.</p> <p>18 Q Are you given any kind of a heads-up from</p> <p>19 anyone about what Putin would like to discuss with you</p> <p>20 in advance of these one-on-one meetings?</p> <p>21 A No. That's a ritual, as I said. The agenda</p> <p>22 is well-known. So the answer is "no."</p>

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43 (169 to 172)

169	<p>1 Q What is the agenda?</p> <p>2 MR. LEWIS: Asked and answered. Objection.</p> <p>3 A I've answered that question on four occasions</p> <p>4 already, sir. On page 4, it sets the agenda out very</p> <p>5 clearly: macroeconomics, Alfa, and the rest of it.</p> <p>6 It's the fourth time that I'm answering the</p> <p>7 question, sir.</p> <p>8 Q In the last quarter of 2016, did you and</p> <p>9 Vladimir Putin discuss the U.S. presidential election?</p> <p>10 A We never discuss political matters with</p> <p>11 President Putin, and that includes the U.S. election</p> <p>12 campaign.</p> <p>13 Q Did you discuss U.S. sanctions with him in the</p> <p>14 last quarter of 2016?</p> <p>15 A Yes.</p> <p>16 Q Did he tell you that he expected the U.S.</p> <p>17 government to impose additional sanctions on Russian</p> <p>18 businessmen in December of 2016?</p> <p>19 A That's exactly what he said.</p> <p>20 Q At the same December 2016 meeting with Putin,</p> <p>21 did he say he was concerned Alfa could be sanctioned by</p> <p>22 the United States?</p>	171	<p>1 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>2 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>3 Q This is more of your testimony from the Aven</p> <p>4 v. Orbis case in the UK. Can you turn to manuscript</p> <p>5 page 70. You'll see a question about what you said to</p> <p>6 Richard Burt, and at line 17, you answer -- or line 18,</p> <p>7 excuse me, you answer: I told him that I saw Mr. Putin.</p> <p>8 He's concerned about potential sanctions on Alfa.</p> <p>9 Was that accurate testimony?</p> <p>10 A That is correct. That's my testimony. Yes.</p> <p>11 Q Did Putin tell you why he thought Alfa would</p> <p>12 be sanctioned or might be sanctioned?</p> <p>13 A He said that he believed all of the large</p> <p>14 businesses could be sanctioned. He did not focus</p> <p>15 specifically on Alfa.</p> <p>16 Q Turn to manuscript page 64 of the same</p> <p>17 document. At line 1, you're asked by the attorney,</p> <p>18 quote: And was this because of all the publicity during</p> <p>19 the elections about Russian interference in the</p> <p>20 presidential elections? Is that why he was concerned</p> <p>21 there were going to be sanctions against Russia?</p> <p>22 Answer: He didn't explain. I know -- I did</p>
170	<p>1 A Alfa among other large Russian business</p> <p>2 groups.</p> <p>3 Q Did he mention the possibility that you,</p> <p>4 Fridman, or Khan could be sanctioned by the United</p> <p>5 States?</p> <p>6 A No. He only addressed business matters.</p> <p>7 Q Putin was --</p> <p>8 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>9 A He did not discuss personal matters at all.</p> <p>10 Q Putin was concerned about Alfa being</p> <p>11 sanctioned, correct?</p> <p>12 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection to</p> <p>13 "concerned." He's already testified to what he</p> <p>14 remembers President Putin saying about the potential for</p> <p>15 sanctions. So if that means he was concerned is really</p> <p>16 something better addressed to President Putin. He said</p> <p>17 what he said; he heard what he heard.</p> <p>18 Q Mr. Aven, please go to document 21.</p> <p>19 THE INTERPRETER: 21?</p> <p>20 MR. LEVY: Yes.</p> <p>21 We're going to call this Exhibit 44.</p> <p>22 (Exhibit Aven-44 marked for identification and</p>	172	<p>1 know the reasons why he was concerned, but he didn't</p> <p>2 give any reason why he believed it would be sanctions.</p> <p>3 He never mentioned elections or intervention into</p> <p>4 election, end of quote.</p> <p>5 When you said, quote, I did know the reasons</p> <p>6 why he was concerned, end of quote, what were those</p> <p>7 reasons?</p> <p>8 MR. LEWIS: Objection. The question is</p> <p>9 misleading. You're taking that question and answer out</p> <p>10 of context, and not directing the witness to the</p> <p>11 following question and answer in the transcript.</p> <p>12 A If Mr. Lewis is objecting, I will not answer.</p> <p>13 MR. LEWIS: Well, I just -- my objection is</p> <p>14 that the --</p> <p>15 MR. LEVY: I don't want your objection --</p> <p>16 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>17 MR. LEWIS: -- the questions are being asked</p> <p>18 about this part of the transcript, but to really</p> <p>19 understand it, you have to read the next question and</p> <p>20 answer.</p> <p>21 MR. LEVY: Alan, you've stated your objection.</p> <p>22 You stated it twice. We've got everything being</p>

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44 (173 to 176)

173	<p>1 translated. We don't need (inaudible) --</p> <p>2 Q Mr. Aven, what were the reasons --</p> <p>3 A Sorry, sir. Pardon me. I need to read this.</p> <p>4 Q Take your time.</p> <p>5 A Yeah, and so what's the question?</p> <p>6 Q What were the reasons why Vladimir Putin was</p> <p>7 concerned that there were going to be sanctions against</p> <p>8 Russians, including possibly Alfa?</p> <p>9 A There was a lot of background noise of -- a</p> <p>10 lot of publicity, a whole lot of hullabaloo that had</p> <p>11 been raised in the media about the elections and the</p> <p>12 alleged interference in the elections. So, of course, I</p> <p>13 did not know that exactly, but I could have presumed</p> <p>14 that he was also reading the media and he was drawing</p> <p>15 conclusions from, inferences from what he was reading.</p> <p>16 Q Did Vladimir Putin, in December of 2016, tell</p> <p>17 you to approach the incoming U.S. administration, that</p> <p>18 is, the Trump administration?</p> <p>19 A He made a general statement to the effect that</p> <p>20 you need to make sure that you are known, you need to</p> <p>21 make sure that your voice is heard, and that you are not</p> <p>22 sanctioned.</p>	175	<p>1 the sanction's on us, then all payments -- a lot of</p> <p>2 payments from country/into country will be stopped.</p> <p>3 That's important for national economy. That's not about</p> <p>4 Alfa; it's about Russia and Russian economy. That's why</p> <p>5 he was concerned, and he explained the same concern to</p> <p>6 many other businessmen, as far as I knew, end of quote.</p> <p>7 Is that accurate testimony, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>8 A Absolutely, yes.</p> <p>9 Q You told Putin you would try to open a channel</p> <p>10 of communication with the new U.S. administration,</p> <p>11 correct?</p> <p>12 A We'll try to talk to someone within the</p> <p>13 administration.</p> <p>14 Q To open up a line of communication?</p> <p>15 A Just for ourselves. It's not a channel of</p> <p>16 communication between someone and someone else; it was a</p> <p>17 means of discussing our concerns with Americans, not on</p> <p>18 behalf of anyone else. Never, ever, in no way, shape,</p> <p>19 or form did Putin ever discuss a channel of</p> <p>20 communication, quote, unquote.</p> <p>21 Q Did you take Vladimir Putin's advice</p> <p>22 seriously?</p>
174	<p>1 Q Did he say you should lobby against</p> <p>2 (inaudible) sanctions on Alfa?</p> <p>3 A No. He said that, in general terms, you</p> <p>4 should defend yourself -- yourselves, and you should</p> <p>5 talk to the Americans.</p> <p>6 Q Turn to minuscrit page 64 and 65, at line 24</p> <p>7 of page 64. Here the lawyer --</p> <p>8 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>9 Q So the lawyer asks you, quote, Question: So</p> <p>10 he was, on your behalf, expressing concern about Alfa</p> <p>11 and saying you should go to the incoming Trump</p> <p>12 administration and lobby for Alfa against sanctions?</p> <p>13 Answer: Yes.</p> <p>14 Question: Against sanctions on Alfa?</p> <p>15 Answer: Yes.</p> <p>16 Question: Nobody else, just Alfa?</p> <p>17 Answer: Yes.</p> <p>18 Question: That was very kind of him, wasn't</p> <p>19 it, to think of you rather than everybody else --</p> <p>20 everybody?</p> <p>21 Excuse me.</p> <p>22 Answer: We are the major Russian bank. If</p>	176	<p>1 A Advice, yes.</p> <p>2 Q You did what he advised, correct?</p> <p>3 MR. LEWIS: Objection. In this particular</p> <p>4 case?</p> <p>5 Q Right here.</p> <p>6 A There is a major difference between "advice"</p> <p>7 and "instruction." I may listen to advice. Sometimes I</p> <p>8 follow advice; sometimes I don't. But it's advice.</p> <p>9 It's not -- it's serious advice, but it's not an</p> <p>10 instruction.</p> <p>11 Q Here, he advised to speak with the new</p> <p>12 administration in the United States, and you did that,</p> <p>13 correct?</p> <p>14 A I spoke with Burt.</p> <p>15 Q And if you continue in this document, at page</p> <p>16 66 of your testimony, line 20, you said, I wanted to do</p> <p>17 what he -- Putin -- advised and to speak with the new</p> <p>18 American administration, as we were doing for many years</p> <p>19 with old administration before, end of quote.</p> <p>20 Is that accurate?</p> <p>21 A Yes.</p> <p>22 Q Did you first confer with Fridman and Khan</p>

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45 (177 to 180)

177	<p>1 about whether to follow Putin's advice?</p> <p>2 A There was no reason to seek advice. It was</p> <p>3 obvious that we had a vested interest in making sure</p> <p>4 that we speak to the new U.S. administration. It was</p> <p>5 absolutely evident.</p> <p>6 Q I'm going to quote from your testimony here</p> <p>7 at -- I believe it's page 66. Strike that.</p> <p>8 Did you speak with any other Kremlin officials</p> <p>9 about Putin's advice to you here?</p> <p>10 A I don't think so. I may have discussed that</p> <p>11 with someone else, but I believe that Putin's advice</p> <p>12 carries so much weight and clout that it was really the</p> <p>13 most important. And he proffered the same advice in the</p> <p>14 course of public meetings with Russian businesspeople.</p> <p>15 So it was not a private piece of advice; it was</p> <p>16 something that was part of the common knowledge.</p> <p>17 Q Who was the other person with whom you spoke?</p> <p>18 A I don't remember.</p> <p>19 Q Did you speak with Surkov, Abramov, Fradkov,</p> <p>20 Vaino, or Sechin about Vladimir Putin's advice to you</p> <p>21 here in December 2016?</p> <p>22 (Reporter interruption.)</p>	179	<p>1 Q Dating back to when George H. W. Bush was</p> <p>2 president?</p> <p>3 A Yes.</p> <p>4 Q Was Burt the person you and Alfa used for</p> <p>5 years to introduce you to U.S. officials?</p> <p>6 MR. LEWIS: Objection to "you and Alfa."</p> <p>7 There's no testimony that Mr. Aven personally used Burt.</p> <p>8 But subject to that objection, he may answer.</p> <p>9 A That only concerned Alfa-Bank and then Alfa</p> <p>10 Group. That was the work that he had been historically</p> <p>11 doing for Alfa Group, yes.</p> <p>12 Q If you turn to document 21, which is Exhibit</p> <p>13 44, and go to the last page at manuscript page 77.</p> <p>14 MR. LEWIS: Sorry, which document number?</p> <p>15 MR. LEVY: 21.</p> <p>16 Q At line 10 of page 77, you're asked by the</p> <p>17 attorney, quote, You asked him -- Burt -- to do it?</p> <p>18 Answer: Yes, because he did it for many years</p> <p>19 for us, end of quote.</p> <p>20 Is that accurate testimony?</p> <p>21 A Yes.</p> <p>22 Q Burt had previously --</p>
178	<p>1 Q Did you speak with Surkov, Abramov, Fradkov,</p> <p>2 Vaino, Sechin, or any other Kremlin officials about this</p> <p>3 advice from President Putin in December of 2016?</p> <p>4 A Out of this list of individuals, the bulk of</p> <p>5 those people I have not seen for years.</p> <p>6 Q So is that "no"?</p> <p>7 A I may have discussed that with someone, but</p> <p>8 none of the individuals on your list, sir. Vaino</p> <p>9 attended the meeting with the businesspeople, so he</p> <p>10 heard that straight from the horse's mouth.</p> <p>11 Q Was there another person that you are</p> <p>12 referring to with whom you spoke?</p> <p>13 A I don't recall.</p> <p>14 Q After your December 2016 meetings with Putin,</p> <p>15 did you ask Richard Burt to meet with the Trump</p> <p>16 transition team?</p> <p>17 A We asked for a relationship to be put in place</p> <p>18 between ourselves and the transition team.</p> <p>19 Q And you had asked Mr. Burt to establish</p> <p>20 relationships with prior U.S. administrations as well,</p> <p>21 correct?</p> <p>22 A Yes, and he always did that.</p>	180	<p>1 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>2 A But then follows my explanation.</p> <p>3 Q Burt previously served as the U.S. ambassador</p> <p>4 to Germany, and Assistant Secretary of State for</p> <p>5 European and Canadian Affairs.</p> <p>6 A Correct.</p> <p>7 Q You knew that in 2016, correct?</p> <p>8 A Of course.</p> <p>9 Q In 2016, you and Burt were both on the board</p> <p>10 of LetterOne, correct?</p> <p>11 A I think so, yes.</p> <p>12 Q When did Burt join the board of LetterOne?</p> <p>13 A I would say back in 2015 or shortly prior to</p> <p>14 2015.</p> <p>15 Q Today he's on the board of LetterOne and -- as</p> <p>16 its nonexecutive director; is that correct?</p> <p>17 A Correct.</p> <p>18 Q And in 2016, was Burt an advisor to both</p> <p>19 LetterOne and Alfa-Bank?</p> <p>20 A I do not recall exactly. Yes, so far as L1 is</p> <p>21 concerned. I'm not sure about Alfa-Bank. I simply do</p> <p>22 not recall.</p>

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46 (181 to 184)

181	<p>1 Q Turn to document 43.</p> <p>2 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 45.</p> <p>3 (Exhibit Aven-45 marked for identification and</p> <p>4 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>5 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>6 Q This is a composite of Richard Burt's bios,</p> <p>7 and -- from his McLarty website. And on the first page,</p> <p>8 it's dated August 11, 2016. You can see that at the top</p> <p>9 of the page.</p> <p>10 And in the last full paragraph on the same</p> <p>11 page, in the last line, it says Ambassador Burt is a</p> <p>12 member of the Alfa-Bank's senior advisory board in</p> <p>13 Moscow. Was that accurate as of August 11, 2016?</p> <p>14 A I do not know exactly how his relationship</p> <p>15 with the top management, with executives, of Alfa-Bank</p> <p>16 are structured.</p> <p>17 Q If you move to the second to last page of this</p> <p>18 document, this is a capture of the same web page for</p> <p>19 Richard Burt on McLarty from November 1 --</p> <p>20 A Which page do you refer to, sir, please?</p> <p>21 There are several pages in this document, and then it</p> <p>22 starts with Rick's photograph again.</p>	183	<p>1 A I just don't know. I really don't know</p> <p>2 anything about that.</p> <p>3 Q Hadn't Richard Burt written a part of Donald</p> <p>4 Trump's April 2016 foreign policy speech?</p> <p>5 A I learned that from reading newspapers.</p> <p>6 Q And in August and October of 2016, Burt was</p> <p>7 speaking to the press about his role with the Trump</p> <p>8 campaign, correct?</p> <p>9 A I found that out from newspaper reports.</p> <p>10 Q In 2016, did you tell Burt that he should not</p> <p>11 have worked on Trump's foreign policy speech?</p> <p>12 A No, because I did not know that he was</p> <p>13 involved in that until I read some newspaper reports</p> <p>14 about that.</p> <p>15 Q When you read the newspaper reports, did you</p> <p>16 tell him that it was a bad idea for him to be writing</p> <p>17 parts of Donald Trump's foreign policy speech?</p> <p>18 A No. We never discussed that.</p> <p>19 Q In 2016, at any time that year, did you tell</p> <p>20 Richard Burt not to get involved with the Trump</p> <p>21 campaign?</p> <p>22 A No. I never said that. That's not the kind</p>
182	<p>1 Q I'll tell you again. The second to last page,</p> <p>2 at the top, you see it says November 1, 2016. There's a</p> <p>3 picture --</p> <p>4 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>5 A Okay.</p> <p>6 Q Okay? So the next two pages, this page and</p> <p>7 the one that follows, are Richard Burt's McLarty</p> <p>8 biography as of November 1, 2016, and there's no longer</p> <p>9 any reference to him being a member of Alfa-Bank's</p> <p>10 senior advisory board in Moscow.</p> <p>11 Do you see that?</p> <p>12 A Yes.</p> <p>13 Q Between August 2016 and November 1, 2016, was</p> <p>14 Richard Burt removed from the Alfa-Bank advisory board?</p> <p>15 A That's what it says here. Mind you, his</p> <p>16 relationship was with the company, with Alfa-Bank. I</p> <p>17 did not hire him. I did not pay him money. Therefore,</p> <p>18 I don't know.</p> <p>19 Q Do you know why he was removed?</p> <p>20 MR. LEWIS: Objection. It assumes a fact not</p> <p>21 in evidence. He's already said he doesn't know if he</p> <p>22 was removed --</p>	184	<p>1 of relationship we have.</p> <p>2 Q In 2016, did you know that Richard Burt was</p> <p>3 working on the promotion of a Russian government</p> <p>4 pipeline as a lobbyist with the U.S. government?</p> <p>5 A Definitely not in '16. Definitely not in '16.</p> <p>6 It came to our attention at some point in time, but he</p> <p>7 definitely did not discuss that with us.</p> <p>8 Q In December -- by December of 2016, didn't you</p> <p>9 know that Richard Burt was trying to become the U.S.</p> <p>10 ambassador to Russia?</p> <p>11 A I found it out from reading newspaper reports,</p> <p>12 with great surprise.</p> <p>13 Q By December of 2016, correct?</p> <p>14 A Correct.</p> <p>15 Q And before you approached him after your</p> <p>16 meeting with Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>17 A I do not recall exactly -- I do not recall</p> <p>18 exactly the sequence of events, what happened first and</p> <p>19 what happened next. But it really didn't matter. It</p> <p>20 made no difference. I did not believe -- I do not</p> <p>21 believe that he could have become an ambassador.</p> <p>22 Q After you met with Vladimir Putin in December</p>

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47 (185 to 188)

185	<p>1 of 2016, you pulled Burt aside at a LetterOne board</p> <p>2 meeting in Luxembourg later that month, correct?</p> <p>3 A Yes.</p> <p>4 Q You told Burt you had spoken to Putin, who was</p> <p>5 concerned about potential sanctions on Alfa, correct?</p> <p>6 A Yes.</p> <p>7 Q You told Burt you needed to make contacts with</p> <p>8 the new administration, correct?</p> <p>9 A Yes.</p> <p>10 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form.</p> <p>11 Q Please turn to the document 21. This is</p> <p>12 Exhibit 44. Go to page 70 (inaudible).</p> <p>13 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>14 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, we can't hear you,</p> <p>15 Counsel. Page 70, 7-0, right?</p> <p>16 Q 7-0, line 18. Your testimony, quote, I told</p> <p>17 Burt that we needed contacts with the new</p> <p>18 administration. That's all. Because of potential</p> <p>19 sanctions. End of quote.</p> <p>20 Is your testimony accurate?</p> <p>21 A Yes, that's true.</p> <p>22 Q And Burt believed you made this request on</p>	187	<p>1 A But the only person who can confirm that with</p> <p>2 certitude would be Ambassador Rick Burt.</p> <p>3 Q If you turn to document 91.</p> <p>4 MR. LEVY: This is Exhibit 46.</p> <p>5 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>6 (Exhibit Aven-46 marked for identification and</p> <p>7 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>8 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>9 Q Mr. Aven, this is the Mueller report. If you</p> <p>10 turn -- turn to the fourth page of this document, it's</p> <p>11 the Mueller report, page number 163. At the bottom --</p> <p>12 the Mueller report here cited to Burt's testimony, and</p> <p>13 somebody's Grand Jury testimony, that you told Burt you</p> <p>14 had spoken with, quote, someone high in the Russian</p> <p>15 government who expressed interest in establishing a</p> <p>16 communications channel between the Kremlin and the Trump</p> <p>17 transition team, end of quote.</p> <p>18 Was the Mueller team here citing your Grand</p> <p>19 Jury testimony?</p> <p>20 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>21 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>22 MR. LEWIS: (Inaudible) what they're citing.</p>
186	<p>1 behalf of the Russian government, correct?</p> <p>2 MR. LEWIS: Objection to what Burt believed.</p> <p>3 A I don't know what he believed.</p> <p>4 Q Is it your understanding that Burt believed</p> <p>5 you had made this request on behalf of the Russian</p> <p>6 government?</p> <p>7 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Was that his</p> <p>8 understanding when?</p> <p>9 A I don't know what Burt could have believed.</p> <p>10 Q Please turn to document 11. This is Exhibit</p> <p>11 17. This is the witness statement in the Aven v. Orbis</p> <p>12 case in the UK. Please turn to paragraph 28 at page 6.</p> <p>13 Here's your testimony from paragraph 28.</p> <p>14 Quote, I have since learned that Mr. Burt misunderstood</p> <p>15 our conversation and believed that I was asking him</p> <p>16 about an approach on behalf of the Russian government,</p> <p>17 end of quote.</p> <p>18 Is that your accurate testimony?</p> <p>19 A That is the impression that I got. Having</p> <p>20 said that, I'm not sure what went through Ambassador</p> <p>21 Burt's mind. But I got that impression, yes.</p> <p>22 Q Your testimony --</p>	188	<p>1 And also not going to discuss his Grand Jury testimony</p> <p>2 because it's privileged. So he should not answer.</p> <p>3 A I'm not answering questions with respect to</p> <p>4 these discussions.</p> <p>5 Q Did you tell Burt that you had spoken with</p> <p>6 someone high in the Russian government who expressed</p> <p>7 interest in establishing a communications channel</p> <p>8 between the Kremlin and the Trump transition team?</p> <p>9 A I never spoke to him in these terms. I was</p> <p>10 only referring to Alfa. And I said that it was our</p> <p>11 desire to build a relationship with a new</p> <p>12 administration.</p> <p>13 Let me just confirm that I did get the</p> <p>14 impression later on that I had been misunderstood by</p> <p>15 Ambassador Burt, but he is the only one who can actually</p> <p>16 confirm whether that was the case.</p> <p>17 Q Did you have a conversation with him where he</p> <p>18 developed an understanding of what Mr. Putin conveyed to</p> <p>19 you?</p> <p>20 A We never discussed the matter with them --</p> <p>21 with him afterwards.</p> <p>22 Q But you had the initial conversation in</p>

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48 (189 to 192)

189	<p>1 Luxembourg at the LetterOne board meeting, correct?</p> <p>2 A Yes.</p> <p>3 Q And the sentence that I read to you from the</p> <p>4 Mueller report from 163 to 164 ends with footnote 1171,</p> <p>5 and the Mueller report cites to Burt's 302 and someone's</p> <p>6 Grand Jury testimony.</p> <p>7 Do you see that, sir?</p> <p>8 A Yes.</p> <p>9 Q Have you seen an unredacted version of the</p> <p>10 Mueller report that reveals citations to your Grand Jury</p> <p>11 testimony?</p> <p>12 A No, I have not.</p> <p>13 Q If you go to document 11, this is Exhibit 17,</p> <p>14 your witness statement in Aven v. Orbis in the UK,</p> <p>15 (inaudible) paragraph 28.</p> <p>16 MR. LEWIS: Which paragraph?</p> <p>17 MR. LEVY: 28.</p> <p>18 Q If you look at paragraph 28 -- we've quoted</p> <p>19 from some of this. I'll read the whole paragraph.</p> <p>20 I've since learned that Mr. Burt misunderstood</p> <p>21 our conversation and believed that I was asking him</p> <p>22 about an approach on behalf of the Russian government.</p>	191	<p>1 team?</p> <p>2 MR. LEWIS: Objection to "his counsel," but</p> <p>3 you can ask him if he wrote to the Mueller report --</p> <p>4 Mueller investigation.</p> <p>5 A I'm not answering.</p> <p>6 Q Did you write -- your counsel's even</p> <p>7 permitting you to testify as to whether you wrote the</p> <p>8 Special Counsel.</p> <p>9 A I myself did not write anything to anyone.</p> <p>10 Q When interviewing you, did Mueller's</p> <p>11 investigators share Burt's recollection that you asked</p> <p>12 him about an approach on behalf of the Russian</p> <p>13 government?</p> <p>14 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection. Again,</p> <p>15 these communications are part of the Grand Jury process.</p> <p>16 Interviewing a witness. And he's directed not to answer</p> <p>17 them.</p> <p>18 Q Were you (inaudible) outside the Grand Jury</p> <p>19 process by Mueller's investigators?</p> <p>20 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>21 Q Were you interviewed by Mueller's</p> <p>22 investigators outside of the Grand Jury process?</p>
190	<p>1 This is not correct. As I have said, the request for an</p> <p>2 introduction was solely on behalf of me, my partners and</p> <p>3 our respective business interests, and for no one else.</p> <p>4 It is inconceivable that President Putin would entrust a</p> <p>5 businessman like me with any communications or</p> <p>6 approaches on behalf of the Russian government, end of</p> <p>7 quote.</p> <p>8 You submitted this statement in 2020, correct?</p> <p>9 A Yes, and I fully subscribe to this.</p> <p>10 Q Did this testimony in paragraph 28 contradict</p> <p>11 what you told the Grand Jury?</p> <p>12 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection.</p> <p>13 You're not to testify about what you told the</p> <p>14 Grand Jury.</p> <p>15 A Mr. Lewis is correct, and I will not answer.</p> <p>16 Q When you read the Mueller report, did you or</p> <p>17 your counsel write to the Special Counsel's office to</p> <p>18 tell them that they got the sentence wrong in which the</p> <p>19 Mueller report says that you told Burt you had spoken</p> <p>20 with someone high in the Russian government who</p> <p>21 expressed interest in establishing a communications</p> <p>22 channel between the Kremlin and the Trump transition</p>	192	<p>1 MR. LEWIS: Objection. The process is part of</p> <p>2 the Grand Jury process. Whether he understands that or</p> <p>3 not, that's what it was. And so the question seeks to</p> <p>4 invade the Grand Jury privilege. He's directed not to</p> <p>5 answer.</p> <p>6 A It's a legal matter. I simply do not</p> <p>7 understand whether there's any connection or any link</p> <p>8 there at all.</p> <p>9 Q You testified after Richard Burt testified</p> <p>10 with the Mueller team, correct?</p> <p>11 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>12 A I don't know. I don't know.</p> <p>13 Q According to your 302, your FBI interview</p> <p>14 occurred in August 2018; is that correct?</p> <p>15 A I suppose so.</p> <p>16 Q The Mueller report did not note a conflict in</p> <p>17 your testimony with Richard Burt, did it?</p> <p>18 MR. LEWIS: Objection. The Mueller report</p> <p>19 speaks for itself.</p> <p>20 A I know nothing about that. I know nothing</p> <p>21 about Burt.</p> <p>22 Q Go to document 21 --</p>

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49 (193 to 196)

193	<p>1 A I really don't know anything at all. I did</p> <p>2 not discuss, I did not read this.</p> <p>3 Q Go to document 21, Exhibit 44. (Inaudible.)</p> <p>4 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>5 Q Page 76, line 23, the lawyer asks you,</p> <p>6 Question: You said to Burt, in this 30-second</p> <p>7 conversation, quote, We, Alfa, want to set up -- make</p> <p>8 contact with the incoming administration; is that right?</p> <p>9 End of quote.</p> <p>10 Answer: Yes.</p> <p>11 Question: To discuss the risk that Alfa gets</p> <p>12 sanctions imposed on it?</p> <p>13 Answer: Yes.</p> <p>14 Question: Or, we, as leaders of Alfa, get</p> <p>15 sanctions imposed?</p> <p>16 Answer: Yes.</p> <p>17 Is that accurate testimony?</p> <p>18 A Yes.</p> <p>19 Q A decision by the U.S. government to sanction</p> <p>20 someone is a political decision, correct?</p> <p>21 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>22 Don't answer.</p>	195	<p>1 A It would be really inappropriate to interrupt</p> <p>2 the reading of my answer without continuing to read what</p> <p>3 I say after that, where I said that, all this and -- our</p> <p>4 life has such -- has many dimensions.</p> <p>5 Q Including --</p> <p>6 A There is an economic dimension and then there</p> <p>7 is a political dimension.</p> <p>8 Q Okay. Burt in turn reached out to Dimitri</p> <p>9 Simes to help facilitate your request to reach out to</p> <p>10 the incoming Trump administration, correct?</p> <p>11 A I know nothing about Dimitri Simes.</p> <p>12 Q Is it your understanding that Burt wanted</p> <p>13 Simes to arrange a meeting with Jared Kushner?</p> <p>14 A I definitely know nothing about that one. I</p> <p>15 remember hearing that Burt was discussing something with</p> <p>16 Dimitri Simes, but who Dimitri Simes was then going to</p> <p>17 discuss matters with is totally beyond my knowledge.</p> <p>18 Q If you turn to document 91, which is Exhibit</p> <p>19 46, at page 164. This is the Mueller report, and at</p> <p>20 page 164, it says, quote, Burt decided to approach CNI</p> <p>21 president, Dimitri Simes, for help facilitating Aven's</p> <p>22 request.</p>
194	<p>1 Argumentative.</p> <p>2 A (In English.) But you have to ask American</p> <p>3 government. I don't represent American government.</p> <p>4 (Through interpreter.) How can I answer for</p> <p>5 the American government?</p> <p>6 Q Turn to page 66 of the same document, please.</p> <p>7 This is your testimony. If you go to line 3, your</p> <p>8 lawyer asks you, What if the American Congress passed</p> <p>9 legislation imposing sanctions on selected Russians?</p> <p>10 That wasn't political?</p> <p>11 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>12 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>13 Q So at page 66, line 3 --</p> <p>14 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>15 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>16 Q I'm going to do this for the third time.</p> <p>17 Please don't interrupt me.</p> <p>18 Question: What if the American Congress</p> <p>19 passed legislation imposing sanctions on selected</p> <p>20 Russians? That wasn't political?</p> <p>21 Answer: It would be political decision.</p> <p>22 Is that accurate testimony, Mr. Aven?</p>	196	<p>1 Is that correct?</p> <p>2 THE INTERPRETER: Is this 164, sir?</p> <p>3 MR. LEVY: Yes.</p> <p>4 THE INTERPRETER: Where does it say that?</p> <p>5 MR. LEVY: First full paragraph.</p> <p>6 THE INTERPRETER: Okay, "Burt decided."</p> <p>7 (Rendering interpretation.)</p> <p>8 A This is not information that comes from me;</p> <p>9 this is something that this report says. Why and how</p> <p>10 would I know?</p> <p>11 Q The report continues, and it says, Burt --</p> <p>12 next paragraph, quote, Burt contacted Simes by telephone</p> <p>13 and asked if he could arrange a meeting with Kushner,</p> <p>14 end of quote.</p> <p>15 Is that correct?</p> <p>16 A How would I know? Until the proceedings</p> <p>17 started, I had never heard about Dimitri Simes at all,</p> <p>18 and I definitely knew nothing about what was going on</p> <p>19 between Simes and Kushner. I only first heard</p> <p>20 references to the name Dimitri Simes when the</p> <p>21 investigation started.</p> <p>22 Q Isn't it true that Simes said no to Burt</p>

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50 (197 to 200)

197	<p>1 because of the media attention around Russia's influence</p> <p>2 in the U.S. presidential election?</p> <p>3 MR. LEWIS: Objection. What are you asking --</p> <p>4 objection. What are you asking him to testify about?</p> <p>5 Are you asking him --</p> <p>6 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>7 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>8 MR. LEWIS: So the question has been asked. I</p> <p>9 don't think it has been translated yet. Do you want to</p> <p>10 re-read the question, have it translated, and then I'll</p> <p>11 articulate my objection.</p> <p>12 THE INTERPRETER: Can the interpreter then</p> <p>13 please respectfully ask Mr. Levy to repeat the question,</p> <p>14 because I no longer remember it.</p> <p>15 Q Let me ask a different question.</p> <p>16 MR. LEVY: And Alan, you can cut down a lot on</p> <p>17 the cross-talk by just objecting to form.</p> <p>18 Q In an e-mail dated December 22, 2016, Burt</p> <p>19 recounted for Aven a conversation that he had with</p> <p>20 Simes, and the Mueller report quotes from this e-mail at</p> <p>21 the bottom of 164 carrying over to 165.</p> <p>22 Do you recall receiving this e-mail from</p>	199	<p>1 A Yes.</p> <p>2 Q In the first quarter of 2017, you met again</p> <p>3 with Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>4 A Yes.</p> <p>5 Q And did Putin ask you about your attempt to</p> <p>6 build relations with the Trump administration?</p> <p>7 A Yes, he asked whether we had been able to make</p> <p>8 some acquaintance. And that was the only question he</p> <p>9 asked. And I said no.</p> <p>10 Q You told him you weren't successful, correct?</p> <p>11 A Correct.</p> <p>12 Q And Putin continued to ask you about efforts</p> <p>13 to connect to the Trump administration in subsequent</p> <p>14 quarterly meetings in 2017?</p> <p>15 A Not so far as I can recall. I don't think it</p> <p>16 did.</p> <p>17 Q If you go to page 165 of the Mueller report,</p> <p>18 this is document 91, Exhibit 46, and if you look at the</p> <p>19 last full paragraph, the last sentence, it says, quote,</p> <p>20 Putin continued to inquire about Aven's efforts to</p> <p>21 connect to the Trump administration in several</p> <p>22 subsequent quarterly meetings, end of quote.</p>
198	<p>1 Mr. Burt?</p> <p>2 A Yes.</p> <p>3 Q And in this e-mail, Burt told you that there's</p> <p>4 no interest in establishing a channel of communication,</p> <p>5 correct?</p> <p>6 A I suppose so.</p> <p>7 Q Do you have this e-mail?</p> <p>8 A I saw it a hundred times. I no longer have</p> <p>9 it. If he sent it to Alfa-Bank, then it would be</p> <p>10 somewhere on Alfa-Bank's servers.</p> <p>11 Q So you had it at one point and then you sent</p> <p>12 it to Alfa, or was it always at Alfa?</p> <p>13 A We already discussed my e-mail accounts</p> <p>14 earlier today. My e-mail account is with Alfa, so it's</p> <p>15 kept there. It has always been with Alfa. We discussed</p> <p>16 that at the very start of the deposition.</p> <p>17 Q So this --</p> <p>18 MR. DUNN: Josh, could we take a break in a</p> <p>19 few moments when you finish this line?</p> <p>20 MR. LEVY: Sure.</p> <p>21 Q So this e-mail was sent to your Alfa-Bank</p> <p>22 e-mail account?</p>	200	<p>1 And then it cites to somebody's Grand Jury</p> <p>2 testimony.</p> <p>3 Is that an accurate statement?</p> <p>4 MR. LEWIS: Objection.</p> <p>5 A I no longer remember that. He may have asked</p> <p>6 that. I would have been in a position to better</p> <p>7 recollect that back in 2018, but now, sitting here</p> <p>8 today, I no longer remember.</p> <p>9 Q What details, if any, did you provide Putin</p> <p>10 about your efforts to make contact with the Trump</p> <p>11 administration or the Trump transition team?</p> <p>12 A None at all. There was nothing to discuss.</p> <p>13 Q In this first quarterly meeting in 2017, did</p> <p>14 Vladimir Putin tell you why he thought it was important</p> <p>15 for you to connect with the Trump administration?</p> <p>16 A I don't believe so. I don't think we were</p> <p>17 discussing that in 2017, and I believe that that matter</p> <p>18 was no longer at the forefront of the president's mind</p> <p>19 in 2017.</p> <p>20 Q In the last --</p> <p>21 MR. LEWIS: Josh, we're going about an hour</p> <p>22 and 40 minutes at this point without a break. Can we</p>

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51 (201 to 204)

201	<p>1 take a break soon?</p> <p>2 MR. LEVY: Sure. One second.</p> <p>3 Q At the first sentence of the last paragraph of</p> <p>4 this page, it says, quote, Aven also told Putin's chief</p> <p>5 of staff that he had been subpoenaed by the FBI, end of</p> <p>6 quote.</p> <p>7 Was that Vaino?</p> <p>8 A Yes.</p> <p>9 Q Did you tell Vladimir Putin's chief of staff</p> <p>10 that the Federal Bureau of Investigations served you</p> <p>11 with a subpoena?</p> <p>12 A Of course. There is no way one can conceal</p> <p>13 that kind of subpoena coming from a foreign</p> <p>14 enforcement -- law enforcement agency. Of course I</p> <p>15 informed him about that.</p> <p>16 Q In an investigation about whether the Russian</p> <p>17 government, led by Vladimir Putin, interfered with the</p> <p>18 U.S. presidential election, correct?</p> <p>19 MR. LEWIS: Objection, argumentative.</p> <p>20 Q What did you tell Vladimir Putin? Strike</p> <p>21 that.</p> <p>22 What did you --</p>	203	<p>1 We'll go off the record.</p> <p>2 MR. LEWIS: It's 3:26. Why don't we say 3:40.</p> <p>3 (Recess from 3:26 p.m. until 3:42 p.m.)</p> <p>4 MR. LEVY: Let's go back on the record.</p> <p>5 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>6 Q Mr. Aven, in addition to your one-on-one</p> <p>7 meetings with Vladimir Putin, did you also meet in a</p> <p>8 group with him in 2016?</p> <p>9 A Yes.</p> <p>10 Q How many of those meetings occurred in 2016?</p> <p>11 A I would say two to three.</p> <p>12 Q Did any of them happen -- or when did they</p> <p>13 happen in 2016?</p> <p>14 A At least one of them was in the Kremlin,</p> <p>15 because there was meeting with the businessmen. So</p> <p>16 that's the common practice.</p> <p>17 Q When did the meetings occur in 2016?</p> <p>18 A One was in the late fall, the one with the</p> <p>19 businesspeople. I think there was also one with the</p> <p>20 Geographic Society during the summer of that year.</p> <p>21 Q In the Mueller report, it says that you</p> <p>22 described this meeting as, quote, an all-hands oligarch</p>
202	<p>1 A Nothing at all. It was of no interest to</p> <p>2 Putin at all.</p> <p>3 Q What did you tell Vaino about the subpoena?</p> <p>4 A I just said that I was going to be</p> <p>5 interviewed. I just conveyed that fact. We did not</p> <p>6 discuss it any further.</p> <p>7 Q Did you have any further conversations with</p> <p>8 anyone else at the Kremlin about the Mueller</p> <p>9 investigation or your testimony?</p> <p>10 A No. I did not want to discuss the matter.</p> <p>11 Q Have you or your lawyer ever shared either</p> <p>12 your lawyer's affidavit, your lawyer's proffer, or your</p> <p>13 302 in an unredacted form to anyone in the Russian</p> <p>14 government?</p> <p>15 A (In English.) That you get off my lawyers.</p> <p>16 (Through interpreter.) I know nothing about</p> <p>17 that. You'll have to ask my lawyers.</p> <p>18 Q Thank you for answering that question in</p> <p>19 English.</p> <p>20 MR. LEVY: We'll take a break.</p> <p>21 And Alan, when do you want to come back? I</p> <p>22 know you've been wanting a break.</p>	204	<p>1 meeting.</p> <p>2 Is that accurate?</p> <p>3 A I never used the term "oligarch" at all.</p> <p>4 Q What about the term "all-hands"?</p> <p>5 A Yes, that is true.</p> <p>6 Q Did you ask the Mueller report to correct that</p> <p>7 sentence?</p> <p>8 A No.</p> <p>9 Q Did you ask the Office of Special Counsel to</p> <p>10 correct anything in this report?</p> <p>11 A No.</p> <p>12 Q How many of these all-hands meetings with</p> <p>13 Vladimir Putin do you attend?</p> <p>14 A 15 times, I would say.</p> <p>15 Q Do you try to attend all of them?</p> <p>16 A If I'm in Moscow, yes.</p> <p>17 Q Have you ever missed a meeting while you were</p> <p>18 in Moscow?</p> <p>19 A No. Every time I was in Moscow, I attended</p> <p>20 the meeting. Well, every time there was a meeting while</p> <p>21 I was in Moscow, I was in attendance.</p> <p>22 Q Do you recall an all-hands meeting in December</p>

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52 (205 to 208)

205	<p>1 2016 with Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>2 A Yes.</p> <p>3 Q Was the focus of this meeting the threat of</p> <p>4 forthcoming U.S. sanctions?</p> <p>5 A That was not the focus, but it did refer to</p> <p>6 that.</p> <p>7 Q Was it a main topic?</p> <p>8 A As I said, I did not -- I do not want to</p> <p>9 repeat myself. I've just said this was not the focus.</p> <p>10 This was not the main subject matter. But Putin did</p> <p>11 mention that.</p> <p>12 Q Yeah, I didn't ask if it was "the" main; I</p> <p>13 asked if it was "a" main topic.</p> <p>14 A You would have to define "main" versus</p> <p>15 "non-main." I do not know whether it was a main subject</p> <p>16 matter or not.</p> <p>17 Q What else was discussed?</p> <p>18 A As usual, we discussed economic matters.</p> <p>19 Q Anything else?</p> <p>20 A No.</p> <p>21 Q Do your one-on-one meetings continue to this</p> <p>22 day?</p>	207	<p>1 Q How long have you known Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>2 A We met in October 1991.</p> <p>3 Q Have you worked with him?</p> <p>4 A To an extent. He was working in my ministry.</p> <p>5 Q Did you work with him in any other capacity?</p> <p>6 A No.</p> <p>7 Q When he was working in your ministry, what was</p> <p>8 he doing?</p> <p>9 A He was head of the minister's office in St.</p> <p>10 Petersburg.</p> <p>11 Q Has he ever asked you to do anything for him?</p> <p>12 MR. LEWIS: Objection. That's a very -- it's</p> <p>13 a vague question. Does it encompass the testimony that</p> <p>14 he's already given? What does it mean for him?</p> <p>15 (Inaudible) anything do?</p> <p>16 MR. LEVY: Sure.</p> <p>17 Q Other than what you've told us today, is there</p> <p>18 anything else that Vladimir Putin has asked you to do</p> <p>19 for him?</p> <p>20 MR. LEWIS: Still objection to that</p> <p>21 formulation of the question as well because -- anyway,</p> <p>22 he can answer.</p>
206	<p>1 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, sir. Could you</p> <p>2 repeat that? You broke up for a second.</p> <p>3 MR. LEVY: Yeah, there seems to be an echo.</p> <p>4 THE INTERPRETER: It was not an echo. You</p> <p>5 just broke up. You disappeared for a couple of seconds.</p> <p>6 MR. LEVY: I'm hearing an echo when I speak.</p> <p>7 Now it's gone.</p> <p>8 Let's go back on the record.</p> <p>9 Q Mr. Aven, do your one-on-one meetings with</p> <p>10 Vladimir Putin continue to this day?</p> <p>11 A Not since the start of the pandemic.</p> <p>12 Q When is the last time you met with Vladimir</p> <p>13 Putin one on one?</p> <p>14 A I believe it was either in January or February</p> <p>15 2020, before the pandemic kicked in.</p> <p>16 Q Have you ever discussed this lawsuit with him?</p> <p>17 A Of course not.</p> <p>18 Q Have you ever discussed CIR 112 with him?</p> <p>19 A No.</p> <p>20 Q Have you ever discussed the 2016 election with</p> <p>21 him?</p> <p>22 A Never.</p>	208	<p>1 A No, not for him, never.</p> <p>2 Q Has he asked you to do anything for anyone</p> <p>3 else?</p> <p>4 A I don't recall that being the case.</p> <p>5 Q Have you ever made a request of him?</p> <p>6 A No, not from me personally, no.</p> <p>7 Q Have you asked him to do anything for you in a</p> <p>8 nonpersonal way, say a professional or business context?</p> <p>9 A We discussed the laws, we discussed the</p> <p>10 various regulations, but that had to do with the</p> <p>11 industry as a whole, not for me personally.</p> <p>12 Q Have you asked him to do anything that would</p> <p>13 benefit Alfa?</p> <p>14 A No. By and large, no. No. No. By and</p> <p>15 large, the answer is no. Not something that would go</p> <p>16 outside of the usual course of business.</p> <p>17 Q When you say "by and large, ... no," are there</p> <p>18 times where you've asked him to do something that would</p> <p>19 benefit Alfa?</p> <p>20 A No, not specifically for Alfa, never.</p> <p>21 Q Have you asked him to do anything that would</p> <p>22 benefit the Russian banking industry?</p>

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53 (209 to 212)

209	<p>1 A I definitely expressed my views, and the</p> <p>2 various matters that I believe would work to the benefit</p> <p>3 of the banking industry, yes.</p> <p>4 Q Can you give me two or three examples from</p> <p>5 2015 or 2016 where you've asked him to do something that</p> <p>6 would be favorable to the Russian banking industry?</p> <p>7 A I simply do not recall in connection with any</p> <p>8 specific time frame.</p> <p>9 Q Can you give me -- sorry, go ahead, Mr. Aven.</p> <p>10 A We would discuss matters in connection with</p> <p>11 the interests of the Russian population as a whole, in</p> <p>12 connection with the banking industry. And in connection</p> <p>13 with the start of the pandemic, we discussed the various</p> <p>14 matters that might go a long way toward alleviating the</p> <p>15 concerns that the people had and that the industry had.</p> <p>16 MR. LEVY: Alan, does your client need to take</p> <p>17 a break? I just want to make sure he's okay.</p> <p>18 MR. LEWIS: Well, the interpreter I notice is</p> <p>19 coughing. So he should say if he would like to take a</p> <p>20 break.</p> <p>21 THE INTERPRETER: If we could break literally</p> <p>22 for like 30 seconds. I just need to clear my throat.</p>	211	<p>1 people at large, to the community. But we are going</p> <p>2 into the typical minutia of this, really, the typical</p> <p>3 details.</p> <p>4 Q To which crisis were you referring?</p> <p>5 A The current crisis.</p> <p>6 Q The pandemic-related economic crisis?</p> <p>7 A Yes, the pandemic.</p> <p>8 Q Have you --</p> <p>9 A And the ensuing economic crisis. Back at that</p> <p>10 time, we could feel that some bad things were about to</p> <p>11 happen. One month after that meeting, Mr. Putin went</p> <p>12 into self-isolation, but already back in February, we</p> <p>13 were discussing the possibility of some severe</p> <p>14 implications happening as a result of the crisis.</p> <p>15 Q Since February 2020, have you and Vladimir</p> <p>16 Putin been able to communicate in ways other than an</p> <p>17 in-person meeting?</p> <p>18 A Yes. We once had a video conferencing event,</p> <p>19 and then another one, a smaller one, to discuss the</p> <p>20 banking sector.</p> <p>21 Q When was that latter communication with</p> <p>22 Vladimir Putin?</p>
210	<p>1 MR. LEVY: Sure. Let's go off the record.</p> <p>2 (A discussion was held off the record.)</p> <p>3 Q Mr. Aven, what requests did you make of</p> <p>4 Vladimir Putin that would help the banking industry in</p> <p>5 Russia?</p> <p>6 A When the crisis kicked in, we discussed</p> <p>7 enhancing the liquidity of the banking sector. This is</p> <p>8 a matter that requires some input at the level of the</p> <p>9 president. So some liquidity needed to be injected into</p> <p>10 the banking industry to support the industry and the</p> <p>11 people.</p> <p>12 Now, when we met last time, there was</p> <p>13 literally in the run-up to the start of the crisis, we</p> <p>14 discussed measures that would help support the banking</p> <p>15 industry and the people, and that was in January or</p> <p>16 February.</p> <p>17 Q And did he adopt some or all of those</p> <p>18 measures?</p> <p>19 A He definitely did not discuss this matter just</p> <p>20 with me. Many people pitched in. But about a hundred</p> <p>21 support measures were adopted after the crisis began in</p> <p>22 order to lend support to the banking industry and to the</p>	212	<p>1 A This really has nothing to do with the matter</p> <p>2 under discussion today. My relationship with the</p> <p>3 president really has nothing to do with this. I no</p> <p>4 longer want to -- my relationship with the president has</p> <p>5 nothing to do whatsoever with the matter under</p> <p>6 discussion today. I really am reluctant to continue</p> <p>7 discussing that.</p> <p>8 Q Sir, you're suing my clients because of</p> <p>9 statements made about your relationship with Vladimir</p> <p>10 Putin. I'd like you to answer my question.</p> <p>11 When was the last time --</p> <p>12 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>13 A Let me make it clear, we only discuss</p> <p>14 macroeconomic matters and the matters of the economy day</p> <p>15 in, day out, every time we meet. There are no</p> <p>16 exceptions. Why would we continue discussing this?</p> <p>17 Q It's a nonresponsive answer to my question.</p> <p>18 When was the last time you communicated with</p> <p>19 Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>20 A In July.</p> <p>21 Q Of 2020?</p> <p>22 A Yes.</p>

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54 (213 to 216)

213	<p>1 Q As Russia's minister of foreign economic</p> <p>2 relations, you worked on bilateral and multilateral</p> <p>3 trade issues such as the WTO, correct?</p> <p>4 A I started the process that resulted in</p> <p>5 Russia's joining the WTO.</p> <p>6 Q And in that role as minister of foreign</p> <p>7 economic relations, you negotiated bilateral and</p> <p>8 multilateral agreements?</p> <p>9 A Of course.</p> <p>10 Q In 1992, did you serve as Russia's</p> <p>11 representative to the G7, The Group of 7, and</p> <p>12 represented President Yeltsin there at the summit?</p> <p>13 A Yes.</p> <p>14 Q Was that in Munich?</p> <p>15 A Yes.</p> <p>16 Q Did you have any other responsibilities as</p> <p>17 Russia's minister of foreign economic relations?</p> <p>18 A I don't think so. There were commissions that</p> <p>19 involved several governments, several countries.</p> <p>20 (In English.) Bilateral.</p> <p>21 (Through interpreter.) Bilateral commissions.</p> <p>22 Q As minister, did you meet with officials from</p>	215	<p>1 bottom of this page, you're asked by the attorney --</p> <p>2 this is your deposition in the CPI case: Did you</p> <p>3 participate in any press conferences?</p> <p>4 Answer: Maybe it was as joint press</p> <p>5 conference between myself and Barbara Franklin on this</p> <p>6 opening. I think it was the only press conference.</p> <p>7 Is that accurate testimony?</p> <p>8 A I no longer recall that.</p> <p>9 Q As a Russian cabinet minister, did you make</p> <p>10 many public statements?</p> <p>11 A I do not recall. I may have made public</p> <p>12 statements, but not that I can recall any.</p> <p>13 Q When you were minister, did you give</p> <p>14 interviews with the press?</p> <p>15 A Of course.</p> <p>16 Q Were you quoted monthly by the press when you</p> <p>17 were the minister?</p> <p>18 A I suppose so.</p> <p>19 Q As minister, were you interviewed by the U.S.</p> <p>20 news media?</p> <p>21 A I think so. I believe that I was interviewed</p> <p>22 by some American publications.</p>
214	<p>1 other governments?</p> <p>2 A Of course.</p> <p>3 Q While you were minister, did you accompany</p> <p>4 President Yeltsin on all of his foreign trips?</p> <p>5 A All of them, yes.</p> <p>6 Q Did that include Yeltsin's summit with</p> <p>7 President George H. W. Bush?</p> <p>8 A Yes.</p> <p>9 Q That was 1992?</p> <p>10 A I think so, yeah.</p> <p>11 Q On that trip, did you meet with U.S. Secretary</p> <p>12 of Commerce Barbara Franklin?</p> <p>13 A Yes, multiple times.</p> <p>14 Q Did you and she participate in a joint press</p> <p>15 conference in Washington during that trip?</p> <p>16 A Possibly so. I no longer remember that.</p> <p>17 Q Turn to document 29.</p> <p>18 MR. LEVY: I don't know if we've designated</p> <p>19 this as an exhibit yet. I believe we have.</p> <p>20 COURT REPORTER: Document 29, Exhibit 37.</p> <p>21 MR. LEVY: Thank you.</p> <p>22 Q If you could turn to page 49, please. At the</p>	216	<p>1 Q The New York Times?</p> <p>2 A It was 30 years ago. Would you expect me to</p> <p>3 recall what happened 30 years ago?</p> <p>4 Q Turn to document 30.</p> <p>5 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 47.</p> <p>6 (Exhibit Aven-47 marked for identification and</p> <p>7 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>8 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>9 Q Turn to page 4 of this document. It's</p> <p>10 transcript document [sic] 117. This is a continuation</p> <p>11 of your CPI deposition.</p> <p>12 And so you'll see on page 117, line 11, you're</p> <p>13 asked, Mr. Aven, when you were in the government, were</p> <p>14 the actions of your ministry covered by both the</p> <p>15 national and the foreign press?</p> <p>16 Answer: On a certain extent.</p> <p>17 Were you interviewed or asked for comment from</p> <p>18 journalists from the Russian press?</p> <p>19 Sometimes.</p> <p>20 And were you asked for -- interviewed or asked</p> <p>21 for comment by journalists from the Western press?</p> <p>22 Not very often.</p>

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55 (217 to 220)

217	<p>1 Question: Do you recall when you were in</p> <p>2 office being contacted by journalists from the New York</p> <p>3 Times?</p> <p>4 For sure.</p> <p>5 How about the Washington Post?</p> <p>6 Answer: I think so.</p> <p>7 How about the Wall Street Journal?</p> <p>8 Answer: Yes.</p> <p>9 Question: Agents France?</p> <p>10 Answer: Maybe.</p> <p>11 Question: And CNN?</p> <p>12 Answer: For sure.</p> <p>13 Question: The BBC?</p> <p>14 Yes.</p> <p>15 Question: The Financial Times of London?</p> <p>16 Answer: Yes.</p> <p>17 Is that accurate testimony?</p> <p>18 A (In English.) Yes.</p> <p>19 (Through interpreter.) Yes.</p> <p>20 Q What was your relationship with the Western</p> <p>21 press when you were minister?</p> <p>22 MR. LEWIS: Objection, vague.</p>	219	<p>1 Q At those meetings, were matters other than</p> <p>2 trade and tariffs discussed?</p> <p>3 A We discussed macroeconomic matters.</p> <p>4 Q As minister, did you make a number of</p> <p>5 speeches?</p> <p>6 A I have a very vague recollection of the</p> <p>7 matters that took place 29 years ago, but I would</p> <p>8 presume yes.</p> <p>9 Q Did the Russian and international press cover</p> <p>10 those speeches?</p> <p>11 A It would be logical to assume that the answer</p> <p>12 is yes.</p> <p>13 Q Staying in document 30, Exhibit 47, if you</p> <p>14 could turn to page 110. On this page, you testify,</p> <p>15 quote, I know Mr. Putin for many years because he worked</p> <p>16 for me when I was a minister. He represented our</p> <p>17 ministry in St. Petersburg region. So he reported to me</p> <p>18 directly for about year and a half, end of quote.</p> <p>19 Is that correct, that testimony?</p> <p>20 A Yes.</p> <p>21 Q In 1991, wasn't there a food shortage in St.</p> <p>22 Petersburg?</p>
218	<p>1 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, what was the</p> <p>2 question, sir? I did not hear that.</p> <p>3 Q What was your relationship with the Western</p> <p>4 press when you were the minister?</p> <p>5 A In general, the attitude of the Western press</p> <p>6 toward our government was quite positive.</p> <p>7 Q And if you turn to page 118 of the same</p> <p>8 transcript, you're asked, How would you characterize</p> <p>9 your relationship with the Western press when you were a</p> <p>10 minister?</p> <p>11 You answered, We tried to be very open and</p> <p>12 tried to explain as much as we can. So I guess we had a</p> <p>13 friendly and open relation.</p> <p>14 Is that accurate testimony?</p> <p>15 A That's exactly what I've just said.</p> <p>16 Q As minister, did you attend meetings with</p> <p>17 President Yeltsin?</p> <p>18 A Of course.</p> <p>19 Q Did you attend meetings --</p> <p>20 MR. LEWIS: Objection. When he was minister,</p> <p>21 did he attend -- oh, I'm sorry, Yeltsin. I'm sorry,</p> <p>22 withdrawn.</p>	220	<p>1 A No. It may have started, but there was no</p> <p>2 food -- what we had was the shortage of food in the</p> <p>3 Soviet understanding of the term. It was not that there</p> <p>4 was no food at all.</p> <p>5 Q There was a food shortage, yes?</p> <p>6 A As everywhere in the Soviet Union in the late</p> <p>7 1980s when the store shelves were empty, in that sense</p> <p>8 there was food shortage.</p> <p>9 Q Didn't Marina --</p> <p>10 A But there was no hunger. To answer your</p> <p>11 question, there was no hunger.</p> <p>12 Q Didn't Marina Sal'ye form a Russian</p> <p>13 legislative commission to investigate the food shortage</p> <p>14 in St. Petersburg?</p> <p>15 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>16 MR. LEVY: And that's spelled S-A-L,</p> <p>17 apostrophe, Y-E.</p> <p>18 A I heard about that.</p> <p>19 Q Didn't the Sal'ye commission accuse Putin of</p> <p>20 issuing licenses in exchange for food that never</p> <p>21 arrived?</p> <p>22 A I've heard about that as well.</p>

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56 (221 to 224)

<p style="text-align: right;">221</p> <p>1 Q Putin didn't turn over all of the contracts</p> <p>2 and licenses to the commission, did he?</p> <p>3 A I simply do not know. I was not involved in</p> <p>4 that. It was an investigation conducted by the</p> <p>5 prosecutor's office and the Russian -- if it was</p> <p>6 conducted, it would have been conducted by the police</p> <p>7 and the prosecutor's office. It was definitely not a</p> <p>8 matter that I would have been involved in.</p> <p>9 Q Turn to document 86.</p> <p>10 MR. LEVY: This is Exhibit 48.</p> <p>11 (Exhibit Aven-48 marked for identification and</p> <p>12 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>13 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>14 Q This is an excerpt from Karen Dawisha's book.</p> <p>15 Dawisha is spelled D-A-W-I-S-H-A.</p> <p>16 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>17 Q Please don't talk over me. Mr. Aven, please</p> <p>18 don't talk over me.</p> <p>19 THE INTERPRETER: Sorry, sir. We are still</p> <p>20 struggling to find the document.</p> <p>21 Q This is an excerpt from Karen Dawisha's book,</p> <p>22 Putin's Kleptocracy, Who Owns Russia?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">222</p> <p>1 You'll see an excerpt from page 108. That's</p> <p>2 the third [sic] page of this document. And toward the</p> <p>3 bottom of the page, she wrote, quote -- and I'll just</p> <p>4 read this -- Putin initially resisted handing over the</p> <p>5 documents to the Sal'ye commission, claiming that doing</p> <p>6 so would compromise business secrets. Ultimately, under</p> <p>7 the duress of a subpoena, he handed over documents for</p> <p>8 12 contracts and licenses amounting to about \$122</p> <p>9 million in exports. But the scope of the operation was</p> <p>10 thought to be ten times larger.</p> <p>11 Is that accurate?</p> <p>12 A I am not aware of this. I've heard about</p> <p>13 this, but I don't know to what extent this is true or</p> <p>14 untrue.</p> <p>15 Q Didn't Yuri Boldyrev conduct a further</p> <p>16 investigation into the food shortage scandal?</p> <p>17 A It is possible.</p> <p>18 MR. LEVY: And Boldyrev is spelled</p> <p>19 B-O-L-D-Y-R-E-V.</p> <p>20 A Just for your information, he is the main</p> <p>21 anti-Semite in the Russian Federation here, and a</p> <p>22 communist.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">223</p> <p>1 Q Didn't he ask you not to give Putin any</p> <p>2 further authority until the case was finally settled?</p> <p>3 A We did not issue permissions to issue licenses</p> <p>4 to Putin personally. It was granted to the mayor's</p> <p>5 office. So it was nothing to do with Putin personally.</p> <p>6 Q So you did nothing in response to Boldyrev's</p> <p>7 request, correct?</p> <p>8 A It was really not within my sphere of</p> <p>9 competence. It was not within my remit. It was within</p> <p>10 the remit of the prime minister.</p> <p>11 Now, in terms of what happened inside the</p> <p>12 mayor's office, that would be a question better asked of</p> <p>13 the mayor's office, not of me.</p> <p>14 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>15 A So when the press reports that I gave</p> <p>16 something to Putin, this is a total, utter lie. I could</p> <p>17 not have given anything to him at all.</p> <p>18 Q When you're referring me to ask questions of</p> <p>19 the mayor's office, is that Mayor Sobchak,</p> <p>20 S-O-B-C-H-A-K?</p> <p>21 A Correct. The right to issue licenses was</p> <p>22 granted to Sobchak because he -- not to Putin, because</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">224</p> <p>1 Sobchak commanded a lot of respect and trust, more than</p> <p>2 many other people.</p> <p>3 Q Didn't Sobchak die a month before Putin became</p> <p>4 president of Russia?</p> <p>5 A Yes.</p> <p>6 Q Can you turn to document 82.</p> <p>7 MR. LEVY: We'll mark this Exhibit 49.</p> <p>8 (Exhibit Aven-49 marked for identification and</p> <p>9 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>10 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>11 Q This is more of your testimony in your UK case</p> <p>12 against Orbis. If you go to minuscrit page 34.</p> <p>13 A There is no 34 here, sir. It skips from 28 to</p> <p>14 45.</p> <p>15 Q If you go to the last page of the PDF, of the</p> <p>16 document, page 34, line 13, the lawyer is asking you a</p> <p>17 question about Dawisha and her book, and the lawyer</p> <p>18 says, Dawisha criticizes you and Yeltsin by reference to</p> <p>19 the Sal'ye commission report for allowing Putin to</p> <p>20 continue issuing licenses.</p> <p>21 And you answer: Yeah.</p> <p>22 Question: And doing nothing about this</p>
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57 (225 to 228)

225	<p>1 scandal?</p> <p>2 Answer: Because I was not the prosecutor's</p> <p>3 office. I was minister of foreign trade. It was not my</p> <p>4 responsibility, end of quote.</p> <p>5 Is your testimony accurate?</p> <p>6 A It's true, but again, it would be</p> <p>7 inappropriate to pluck this out of context and quote</p> <p>8 just from this sentence without quoting what comes next.</p> <p>9 It gives some explanation later on.</p> <p>10 Q In fact, when Putin temporarily lost the right</p> <p>11 to grant these contracts in 1992, didn't you reinstate</p> <p>12 Putin's authority?</p> <p>13 A The right was granted to the city, to the</p> <p>14 mayor's office. So it was not granted to Putin</p> <p>15 personally. Now, if someone had reduced Putin's</p> <p>16 authority, it would have been the mayor, not us.</p> <p>17 Q And it's your position that Putin did nothing</p> <p>18 wrong here, correct?</p> <p>19 MR. LEWIS: Objection, mischaracterizes his</p> <p>20 testimony. His testimony was, I was not the</p> <p>21 prosecutor's office; it wasn't my responsibility to look</p> <p>22 into that. And you just asked him if that was accurate.</p>	227	<p>1 It was nothing to do with Putin, with anybody else. It</p> <p>2 was just systemic decision. That was my responsibility.</p> <p>3 End of quote.</p> <p>4 It was -- quote, It was Sobchak major</p> <p>5 responsibility. And my -- our decision was to give this</p> <p>6 right to him, to the city. That's all. End of quote.</p> <p>7 Is that testimony accurate, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>8 A Absolutely. It was a systemic decision in the</p> <p>9 sense that we thought that to the extent that the mayor</p> <p>10 was in charge of supplies to the city, that decision had</p> <p>11 to be devolved to him, and it was his responsibility</p> <p>12 then to act within the bounds of that devolution. We</p> <p>13 also devolved those decisions to other cities, including</p> <p>14 Kazan in the Republic of Tatarstan, and that was then up</p> <p>15 to them to make those decisions within the framework of</p> <p>16 the authority that had been granted to them.</p> <p>17 Q Do you know that years later, when interviewed</p> <p>18 about his role in this scandal, Vladimir Putin said it</p> <p>19 was all legal because you issued the licenses?</p> <p>20 A No, we granted them the right to issue the</p> <p>21 licenses. That's what happened.</p> <p>22 Q Can you turn to document 96.</p>
226	<p>1 Q I'm asking if it's your position, Mr. Aven,</p> <p>2 that Vladimir Putin did nothing wrong here with regard</p> <p>3 to the St. Petersburg food shortage.</p> <p>4 A I am not aware of that. I remember receiving</p> <p>5 hundreds of complaints from various people, from various</p> <p>6 citizens, villages of the Russian Federation. But so</p> <p>7 far as I am concerned, the presumption of innocence is</p> <p>8 still there. And I believe in the presumption of</p> <p>9 innocence, contrary to the author of this book which is</p> <p>10 full of lies.</p> <p>11 Q If you look at page 35 of your testimony in</p> <p>12 the same document.</p> <p>13 MR. DUNN: Josh, what document is that? I'm</p> <p>14 sorry.</p> <p>15 MR. LEVY: Document number 82.</p> <p>16 MR. DUNN: I don't see a page 35.</p> <p>17 MR. LEWIS: It's at the end, Matt. It's out</p> <p>18 of order.</p> <p>19 MR. DUNN: Okay, sorry.</p> <p>20 MR. LEVY: It's the last page of the PDF.</p> <p>21 MR. DUNN: Okay, sorry.</p> <p>22 Q Go to page 35, line 4. Your testimony, quote,</p>	228	<p>1 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 50.</p> <p>2 (Exhibit Aven-50 marked for identification and</p> <p>3 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>4 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>5 Q This is Vladimir Putin's autobiography, First</p> <p>6 Person, An Astonishingly Frank Self-Portrait By Russia's</p> <p>7 President.</p> <p>8 And if you look at page 99, the third page of</p> <p>9 this document, (inaudible), his memoir, his</p> <p>10 autobiography, and it says, But the granting of</p> <p>11 licenses?</p> <p>12 And he wrote, We did not have the right to</p> <p>13 grant licenses. That's just it. A division of the</p> <p>14 ministry of foreign economic relations issued the</p> <p>15 licenses. They were a federal structure and had nothing</p> <p>16 to do with the municipal administration, end of quote.</p> <p>17 Was Vladimir Putin telling the truth?</p> <p>18 A This is incorrect.</p> <p>19 Q Have you --</p> <p>20 A And I'm happy to explain.</p> <p>21 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>22 Q Have you told President Putin it's incorrect?</p>

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58 (229 to 232)

229	<p>1 THE INTERPRETER: Sir, there was overspeaking.</p> <p>2 Sir, could you repeat the question, please?</p> <p>3 Q Have you told President Putin that his memoir</p> <p>4 is incorrect here?</p> <p>5 A This is not entirely correct. It needs to</p> <p>6 be --</p> <p>7 Q That's not the answer to my question.</p> <p>8 A -- expanded on and clarified.</p> <p>9 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>10 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>11 Q Mr. Aven, I'm going to object to your</p> <p>12 responses that are not responsive.</p> <p>13 Did you tell Vladimir Putin that this</p> <p>14 statement is incorrect?</p> <p>15 A I had never seen this statement.</p> <p>16 Q Have you seen the allegation that you</p> <p>17 reinstated Putin's authority to issue licenses in other</p> <p>18 books or other media?</p> <p>19 A Just to be sure, this is not a lie. This is</p> <p>20 not an entirely correct description of what actually</p> <p>21 happened. What happened was that Moscow was granting</p> <p>22 authorizations to the local municipal authorities.</p>	231	<p>1 A I never saw the word "reinstated" used.</p> <p>2 Q Have you seen allegations that are similar to</p> <p>3 what I just explained to you in media and books about</p> <p>4 your role in the St. Petersburg food scandal?</p> <p>5 A I saw many allegations on multiple occasions</p> <p>6 to the effect that Gaidar and I had given authority to</p> <p>7 Putin, yes.</p> <p>8 Q Where in the media have you seen those</p> <p>9 allegations?</p> <p>10 A In lots of gutter press reports and outlets.</p> <p>11 But no one went so far as to file a complaint or accuse</p> <p>12 me of anything because this is a complete fabrication.</p> <p>13 This is slander.</p> <p>14 Q Have you seen the allegations anywhere else in</p> <p>15 the media?</p> <p>16 A Not in the serious literature at all. In the</p> <p>17 tabloid -- gutter press as we describe it, or in some</p> <p>18 stupid books like Dawisha's book.</p> <p>19 Q In 2012, did you speak publicly about your</p> <p>20 role in the St. Petersburg food scandal?</p> <p>21 MR. LEWIS: Objection to form. He didn't play</p> <p>22 a role in the scandal. That's not his testimony. But</p>
230	<p>1 MR. LEVY: Objection. Objection. This is not</p> <p>2 a responsive answer to my question.</p> <p>3 MR. LEWIS: Objection. He thinks it is</p> <p>4 responsive. He should be allowed to finish answering</p> <p>5 what he understands the question to be, and then if you</p> <p>6 have a follow-up question, you'll ask him.</p> <p>7 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>8 MR. LEWIS: But you're repeatedly interrupting</p> <p>9 him now.</p> <p>10 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>11 MR. LEVY: Alan, I am not --</p> <p>12 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>13 A You are being manipulative, Counsel. You are</p> <p>14 not allowing me to explain what I wanted to explain.</p> <p>15 You interrupt me half sentence, and you do not allow me</p> <p>16 to explain the gist of the matter.</p> <p>17 There are sentences that cannot be described</p> <p>18 as being a lie, but they do not properly describe what</p> <p>19 actually happened.</p> <p>20 Q Have you seen allegations that you reinstated</p> <p>21 Putin's authority to issue licenses in other books, in</p> <p>22 other media, news articles, et cetera?</p>	232	<p>1 if you want to ask him what he said publicly about the</p> <p>2 food scandal, go ahead.</p> <p>3 Q Please answer the question.</p> <p>4 A I do not recall.</p> <p>5 Q And by the way, when you talked about Karen</p> <p>6 Dawisha's book, this is -- Putin's Kleptocracy, you</p> <p>7 called this gutter press?</p> <p>8 A This is a complete lie. It's a total</p> <p>9 fabrication.</p> <p>10 Q You know this is published by Simon &</p> <p>11 Schuster?</p> <p>12 MR. LEWIS: Objection. This is argumentative.</p> <p>13 This is not a question, Do you know this is published by</p> <p>14 Simon & Schuster?</p> <p>15 Q Is Simon & Schuster gutter press?</p> <p>16 MR. LEWIS: You know, objection. He's</p> <p>17 really -- he's testified about this particular book, not</p> <p>18 about Simon & Schuster in general.</p> <p>19 MR. LEVY: Alan, if you could refrain from</p> <p>20 testifying for your client, I'd really appreciate it.</p> <p>21 MR. LEWIS: I'm not doing so. I'm objecting</p> <p>22 to these questions.</p>

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233	<p>1 MR. LEVY: Please object to form so we can</p> <p>2 move on.</p> <p>3 Q In March of 2012, Mr. Aven, did you speak with</p> <p>4 reporters at Dozhd, D-O-H-Z-D [sic]?</p> <p>5 A I do not recall.</p> <p>6 Q Did they ask you about the letter you received</p> <p>7 from Yuri Boldyrev asking you not to grant licenses to</p> <p>8 Putin?</p> <p>9 A They may have, and I would have told them</p> <p>10 exactly what I have said to you, sir, i.e., that it had</p> <p>11 nothing to do with Putin. It was the natural systemic</p> <p>12 decision and the right thing to do, i.e., to grant the</p> <p>13 right to the city authorities to provide supplies to the</p> <p>14 city.</p> <p>15 Q But the food never arrived, right?</p> <p>16 A I'm not aware of that. I'm not aware of that.</p> <p>17 I've heard about the presumption of innocence, and no</p> <p>18 criminal complaints have ever been lodged, no criminal</p> <p>19 case has been initiated.</p> <p>20 I know enough about Mr. Boldyrev to be able to</p> <p>21 say that he is a lying moron, the head of the communist</p> <p>22 opposition, and he deserves as much trust and confidence</p>	235	<p>1 much more you have to go?</p> <p>2 MR. LEVY: I'm going to take the allotment of</p> <p>3 my time, and we'll take a break in five minutes.</p> <p>4 (Exhibit Aven-51 marked for identification and</p> <p>5 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>6 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>7 Q This is an article from the Lithuania Tribune.</p> <p>8 It's dated June 19, 2015. The headline is, Putin's</p> <p>9 Russia, The dangerous illusion of independent and</p> <p>10 western oligarchs.</p> <p>11 And if you turn to the fourth page of this</p> <p>12 document, I'm going to read the second full paragraph to</p> <p>13 you.</p> <p>14 It says, quote, In March 2012, Aven was</p> <p>15 frankly asked to comment on the story by journalists at</p> <p>16 the oppositional TV channel Dozhd. The oligarch's</p> <p>17 response was more than surprising: He did not consider</p> <p>18 the letter from Russia's most senior inspector --</p> <p>19 Boldyrev -- and one relating to a serious scandal, any</p> <p>20 different from piles of correspondence he received as a</p> <p>21 minister. Aven said he did not remember a letter from</p> <p>22 Boldyrev. He only remembered that he turned to</p>
234	<p>1 as the author of this book deserves.</p> <p>2 Q Did you tell the reporters at Dozhd that you</p> <p>3 didn't recall the letter from Yuri Boldyrev but only</p> <p>4 recalled seeking advice from Sobchak, the mayor of</p> <p>5 St. Petersburg?</p> <p>6 A I do not recall that letter. I have not seen</p> <p>7 this letter actually. And I've recently heard about it.</p> <p>8 Some letter was shown to me, but I do not have any</p> <p>9 recollection in my mind.</p> <p>10 If Putin had not become president, no one</p> <p>11 would have ever remembered this. We received thousands</p> <p>12 of complaints whereby some people or some entities were</p> <p>13 complaining against other people or entities saying that</p> <p>14 they had stolen something or some licenses had been</p> <p>15 inappropriately issued. There were thousands of those,</p> <p>16 and I would simply not recall them.</p> <p>17 Q Turn to document 105.</p> <p>18 MR. LEVY: We're going to mark this Exhibit</p> <p>19 51.</p> <p>20 MR. LEWIS: Josh, can we take a break shortly?</p> <p>21 We're about an hour in since the last break.</p> <p>22 And relatedly, do you have a sense as to how</p>	236	<p>1 St. Petersburg Mayor Sobchak for advice, end of quote.</p> <p>2 Is that true, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>3 A I have just had a look at this article. The</p> <p>4 author is lying through their teeth. This is a stupid</p> <p>5 allegation, and I believed at that time, and I still</p> <p>6 believe today, that it was the right thing to do to</p> <p>7 grant the authority to the municipality to run the city.</p> <p>8 And had I been required to make that decision again</p> <p>9 today, I would have made exactly the same decision. It</p> <p>10 was the right thing to do.</p> <p>11 (Speaking Russian.)</p> <p>12 Q What did you say?</p> <p>13 MR. LEVY: Can you translate that?</p> <p>14 THE INTERPRETER: Mr. Aven said that, we have</p> <p>15 already discussed that.</p> <p>16 Q Isn't it true that there are questions in the</p> <p>17 media about how Sobchak died?</p> <p>18 A Well, Russia is a conspiracy theory country.</p> <p>19 So obviously some people did raise questions.</p> <p>20 Q Do you know how he died?</p> <p>21 A No.</p> <p>22 Q You've never publicly stated that Putin was at</p>

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237	<p>1 fault for his role in the St. Petersburg food scandal, 2 have you? 3 A I have no knowledge of that, and nor do I have 4 any reason or justification to suspect Putin of having 5 done anything, because there was no investigation and no 6 criminal case has ever been initiated. 7 This is total drivél. Amongst other things, 8 it says that we were engaged in running drugs. There's 9 nothing to discuss here. It's total stupidity. 10 Q I'm going to repeat my question, which you've 11 not yet answered. 12 You've never stated in public that Vladimir 13 Putin was at fault for his role in the St. Petersburg 14 food scandal, have you? 15 A Never. 16 Q Wouldn't any undisclosed information about 17 Putin's role in this scandal be kompromat? 18 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Assumes a lot that's 19 not in evidence. He has testified that he doesn't have 20 information about Putin's role in the scandal or the way 21 he was involved in the scandal. 22 (Cross-talk.)</p>	239	<p>1 Q When? 2 A In December '92. 3 Q Why? 4 A I resigned because my prime minister, Yegor 5 Gaidar, was no longer there, and the new prime minister 6 had the right, I believe, to come up with a list of his 7 own ministers, and even though ministers are appointed 8 by the president, I – theoretically I could have stayed 9 along, but I thought that it would have been 10 inappropriate because the prime minister should be 11 granted the authority and the ability to appoint his own 12 ministers. So I resigned. 13 MR. LEWIS: Josh, if we could take a short 14 break. 15 MR. LEVY: We can take a break. Why don't we 16 come back in, what, five minutes, Alan? What's good for 17 you? 18 MR. LEWIS: That's fine. 19 MR. LEVY: Okay. We'll go off the record. 20 (Recess from 4:47 p.m. until 4:56 p.m.) 21 MR. LEVY: We're back on the record. 22 (Unless indicated otherwise, for the remainder</p>
238	<p>1 (Reporter interruption.) 2 MR. LEWIS: So to make assumption upon 3 assumption upon assumption and say, would that be 4 kompromat, does nothing but call for speculation, and 5 certainly doesn't pose a question that is relevant to 6 this lawsuit. 7 MR. LEVY: Thank you for your -- 8 (Cross-talk.) 9 (Reporter interruption.) 10 A I believe that the question is inappropriate. 11 I do not believe there was any scandal. I'm not aware 12 of any investigation that has been initiated. 13 Therefore, it would be wrong to say anything against 14 Putin. 15 Q And if you had information on Putin's role in 16 the scandal, and you haven't disclosed it to the public, 17 wouldn't that be kompromat? 18 MR. LEWIS: Calls for speculation. Objection. 19 Assumes facts not in evidence. 20 A I do not want to hypothesize. 21 Q Did you resign from the ministry? 22 A Yes.</p>	240	<p>1 of the transcript, all questions and answers are in 2 English.) 3 BY MR. LEVY: 4 Q Mr. Aven, I saw during the break that you were 5 on your phone. Were you communicating with anyone 6 during the break who -- 7 A No, no, no, I just looked at the -- how to 8 say -- WhatsApp. That's here. Nothing. 9 Q Thank you for answering me in English. 10 I saw you walking around talking on your 11 phone. Were you speaking with anyone -- 12 A I spoke with my son. I spoke with my son from 13 New York. That's all. I assure you there's nothing 14 about our case, not at all. 15 (Cross-talk.) 16 Q You're familiar -- thank you. And thank you 17 for responding -- 18 A (Inaudible.) 19 Q Thank you, Mr. Aven. 20 You're familiar with the Yeltsin government's 21 contract with Kroll, K-R-O-L-L, to investigate Russian 22 corruption in 1992 and 1993?</p>

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241	<p>1 A I do. I do.</p> <p>2 Q Did you recommend Kroll for this</p> <p>3 investigation?</p> <p>4 A No, I did not. They came through – Gaidar</p> <p>5 brought them in. So they came through – my guess, they</p> <p>6 were proposed by Russian intelligence to Gaidar. Gaidar</p> <p>7 hired them and introduced me to them that I'm for –</p> <p>8 their job.</p> <p>9 Q Thank you again for responding to me in</p> <p>10 English.</p> <p>11 Can you turn to Exhibit 97, please. Or</p> <p>12 document 97.</p> <p>13 MR. LEVY: We'll call this Exhibit 52.</p> <p>14 (Exhibit Aven-52 marked for identification and</p> <p>15 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>16 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>17 Q This is an excerpt from Catherine Belton's</p> <p>18 book Putin's People.</p> <p>19 And at page 60 of this book, it's the second</p> <p>20 page in the PDF, it says, quote -- and this is a quote</p> <p>21 from you, sir -- they didn't find anything, unquote,</p> <p>22 said Petr Aven, the government minister whose initiative</p>	243	<p>1 Q Of page 19 of the Dawisha book, we're back to</p> <p>2 that (inaudible).</p> <p>3 A Uh-huh.</p> <p>4 Q The commission's report, she wrote, noted</p> <p>5 Kroll's efforts including, quote, widespread instances</p> <p>6 of bribery of officials, blackmail, and the illegal</p> <p>7 transfer of currency resources to foreign banks, with</p> <p>8 specific ministers sanctioned by name, including</p> <p>9 Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Petr Aven, end of</p> <p>10 quote.</p> <p>11 When did you learn that her book made this</p> <p>12 statement?</p> <p>13 A Somebody gave me her book when it was</p> <p>14 published, and then I saw it, of the book.</p> <p>15 Q Have you seen similar allegations published</p> <p>16 anywhere else?</p> <p>17 A No.</p> <p>18 Q Have you ever seen the commission's report?</p> <p>19 A What you think? I commissioned this report.</p> <p>20 I was responsible for that. How -- what do you say --</p> <p>21 of course, yes.</p> <p>22 Q Have you seen the Kroll report on which the</p>
242	<p>1 it was to bring in Kroll in the first place, unquote.</p> <p>2 Is that accurate?</p> <p>3 A No. It was not my initiative.</p> <p>4 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>5 A It was not my initiative.</p> <p>6 Q Turn to document 86, which we've marked as</p> <p>7 Exhibit 48.</p> <p>8 Thank you again for responding to me in</p> <p>9 English, Mr. Aven. It's really help --</p> <p>10 A Well, I'm just -- because -- well, I do, but</p> <p>11 he's tired. (Inaudible.) I would prefer to speak in</p> <p>12 Russian, definitely. But I guess we have to take care.</p> <p>13 He's about the same age as mine. So that's old enough</p> <p>14 for this. That's another 7:00 or 8 p.m.</p> <p>15 Q Well, I can understand you perfectly in</p> <p>16 English.</p> <p>17 A What's the number?</p> <p>18 INTERPRETER: (Speaking Russian.)</p> <p>19 A But I might go -- if anything unclear, I will</p> <p>20 go back to Russian.</p> <p>21 Q Well, your English is excellent.</p> <p>22 A Thanks a lot.</p>	244	<p>1 commission relied?</p> <p>2 A I have Kroll report at my home here in London.</p> <p>3 So what it says here is complete lie, from the first</p> <p>4 page to the last one. Everything about Kroll report is</p> <p>5 complete lie, because I have it, I own the report, is on</p> <p>6 my shelf at my home. I'm not mentioned there; Mr. Putin</p> <p>7 is not mentioned there. It's all complete lie.</p> <p>8 And basically that's a very good case for the</p> <p>9 court, because that can be easy to proved because I have</p> <p>10 the report, and that's going to be easy to show.</p> <p>11 (Inaudible) please.</p> <p>12 Q And you've said the Kroll report has concluded</p> <p>13 that this has nothing to do with you; is that right?</p> <p>14 A It's not just nothing to do. I paid -- we</p> <p>15 paid for this -- it was impossible for them. This was</p> <p>16 nothing to do with me at all. I'm not mentioned there.</p> <p>17 Q Any reason we wouldn't want to see that</p> <p>18 document?</p> <p>19 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Objection.</p> <p>20 Don't answer.</p> <p>21 If you have requests, you'll make them through</p> <p>22 counsel.</p>

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245	<p>1 A Because it's confidential. It was (inaudible) 2 confidential. There's some names -- I can explain. 3 It's names of former Soviet ministers who died already; 4 they were found, their accounts, outside, their family 5 members, nobody alive -- 6 (Reporter interruption.) 7 COURT REPORTER: If you speak slower -- 8 THE WITNESS: I will try. 9 A In this report -- this whole report I devoted 10 to some former Soviet Union bureaucrats. All of them 11 are dead already. They were former ministers, some 12 high-level bureaucrats, and Kroll have found some of the 13 accounts outside of the country. 14 To publish this -- it was confidential. To 15 show it, to publish, I guess, was morally wrong for 16 their families, for their people, and so on and so 17 forth. So I don't want to show it to anyone. And 18 that's -- basically was confidential. That's only 19 reason. 20 But I have it. And if some day I'll be able 21 to show you, that's no problem. Maybe we'll -- I don't 22 know what we'll do with this great book because it's</p>	247	<p>1 Mr. Gaidar -- all our team never were bribed, never, and 2 never had a single account outside the country. It's 3 complete, pure lie. 4 Q You were a Russian government minister, of 5 course, in the early '90s, yes? 6 A Yes. 7 Q In 1990 or 1991, did you introduce Vladimir 8 Putin to Boris Berezovsky? 9 A No. We met him simultaneously. We were 10 together with Berezovsky in St. Petersburg, and Putin 11 arranged our group to meet with Mr. Sobchak. 12 So that was not me. We were just -- jointly 13 went with Putin for the first time. It was all arranged 14 by Anatoly Chubais, another Russian bureaucrat. 15 Q You know Berezovsky said in his memoir that 16 you introduced him to Vladimir Putin, correct? 17 A It was not exactly the case. We came together 18 to St. Petersburg, and through -- and it was a meeting 19 organized by Chubais. So it was not introduction made. 20 We met him simultaneously, as I say. We met Putin for 21 the first time in the same moment, myself and 22 Berezovsky.</p>
246	<p>1 complete lie, not only here, but you know that's a -- 2 very clearly proved. If some part of it is complete 3 lie, how you can believe in the rest of the book? 4 Q Have you ever -- 5 A And it's the same. 6 Q Mr. Aven, have you ever sent a letter to Simon 7 & Schuster or to the author of this book telling them 8 that there's incorrect information in it? 9 A Maybe it was my mistake, but I did not. 10 Q If you look at page 20 of this book, it 11 states, quote, At an Aspen conference in St. Petersburg 12 in the early 1990s, I asked a high-ranking U.S. 13 government official, How many Russian government 14 ministers have bank accounts abroad in excess of \$1 15 million? The reply came back immediately and without 16 hesitation, quote, All of them. Every last one, end of 17 quote. 18 That would have included you, correct? 19 A Yeah, but it's, again, complete lie. I can 20 swear, I can, whatever, tell, I never had a single 21 dollar in foreign account when I was in the government. 22 And I'm pretty sure that all my friends, especially</p>	248	<p>1 So I didn't introduce him to. That's not 2 exactly the way. I didn't introduce him to Berezovsky. 3 (Reporter interruption.) 4 MR. LEVY: Let's use the translator. I don't 5 know if the -- 6 A (Through interpreter.) I did not introduce 7 Putin to Berezovsky. Berezovsky and I went to 8 St. Petersburg at the same time, and we met Putin at the 9 same time, concurrently. 10 Q Please turn to document 95. 11 MR. LEVY: We're going to call this Exhibit 12 53. 13 (Exhibit Aven-53 marked for identification and 14 attached to the transcript.) 15 BY MR. LEVY: 16 Q This is Boris Berezovsky's three volume 17 memoir, The Art of the Impossible. This is volume one 18 of that memoir. And you'll see that on page 19 (inaudible), the second full paragraph, it says, quote, 20 My attitude to Putin isn't based on our personal 21 relations. I have known him for a long time. We became 22 acquainted in 1995, through the person who always</p>

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249	<p>1 introduced me to important persons - Petr Aven, end of</p> <p>2 quote.</p> <p>3 Is Berezovsky incorrect?</p> <p>4 A Incorrect. Incorrect.</p> <p>5 (Through interpreter.) This is incorrect.</p> <p>6 Berezovsky is not right. It was in 1991. It would be</p> <p>7 wrong to describe this as an introduction. It was not</p> <p>8 an introduction in the sense that Chubais had sent us to</p> <p>9 St. Petersburg and we, Berezovsky and myself, met Putin</p> <p>10 there together at the same time. So it was not an</p> <p>11 introduction per se.</p> <p>12 (In English.) I organized the visit, so it</p> <p>13 could be regarded as some sort of introduction. But I</p> <p>14 never saw Putin before, the same as Berezovsky. So we</p> <p>15 met him simultaneously for the first time.</p> <p>16 So this incorrect statement.</p> <p>17 Q Did you introduce Berezovsky to other</p> <p>18 important persons?</p> <p>19 MR. LEWIS: Objection, vague. You know, who</p> <p>20 is important?</p> <p>21 Q Please answer.</p> <p>22 A Well, I introduce him to Mr. Gaidar, my best</p>	251	<p>1 political asylum in the United Kingdom?</p> <p>2 A Yes.</p> <p>3 Q Weren't there at least two reported attempts</p> <p>4 by the Russian government to assassinate him?</p> <p>5 A No idea.</p> <p>6 Q You've never opposed Putin in public, have</p> <p>7 you?</p> <p>8 MR. LEWIS: Objection. This has been asked</p> <p>9 and answered. You've gone over this already,</p> <p>10 repeatedly.</p> <p>11 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>12 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>13 A I can repeat once again. I have never opposed</p> <p>14 publicly Mr. Putin.</p> <p>15 Q Can you repeat that? And slowly --</p> <p>16 A I have never publicly opposed Mr. Putin, and</p> <p>17 never criticized him publicly. You're absolutely right.</p> <p>18 Q Did you run for political office in Russia?</p> <p>19 A I was one -- I was running for parliament once</p> <p>20 in their party of Yegor Gaidar. But -- because they</p> <p>21 wanted big names, and I was a big name at the time, more</p> <p>22 or less, for (inaudible) in Russia, and he asked me to</p>
250	<p>1 friend and our prime minister.</p> <p>2 Q Almost immediately after -- well, strike that.</p> <p>3 Before Mr. Berezovsky died, did you ask him to</p> <p>4 print a correction?</p> <p>5 A It's -- well, first of all, I didn't speak</p> <p>6 with Berezovsky for the last eight years of his life.</p> <p>7 We were not in touch. We didn't speak at all. We were</p> <p>8 basically -- we had broken our relations. That's number</p> <p>9 one.</p> <p>10 Number two, it's so unimportant. So I</p> <p>11 definitely didn't ask him to correct anything.</p> <p>12 Q Did you tell him he got this point wrong about</p> <p>13 you introducing him to Putin?</p> <p>14 A I guess it was published after we already had</p> <p>15 broken our relations.</p> <p>16 Q Almost immediately after Putin became</p> <p>17 president of Russia, Berezovsky vocally opposed Putin,</p> <p>18 correct?</p> <p>19 A Several months. Several months. Not</p> <p>20 immediately. Half a year after.</p> <p>21 Q Isn't it true that because of his opposition</p> <p>22 to Putin, Berezovsky had to flee Russia to gain</p>	252	<p>1 be part of the list, his party list. But I didn't plan</p> <p>2 to join the parliament.</p> <p>3 So immediately after elections, when the party</p> <p>4 received its share, I left.</p> <p>5 Q The parliament's called the Duma, D-U-M-A,</p> <p>6 in --</p> <p>7 A Yeah.</p> <p>8 Q You were elected to the Duma in 1993?</p> <p>9 A Mm-hmm, yes.</p> <p>10 Q When did you first meet anyone from Alfa?</p> <p>11 A I met first time spring 1993.</p> <p>12 Q Who was the first person from Alfa you met?</p> <p>13 A His name is unknown to you. His name is</p> <p>14 Dmitriy Vinogradov, who was --</p> <p>15 Q Is that spelled V-I-N-O-G-R-A-D-O-V?</p> <p>16 A Dmitriy Vinogradov, I don't know how.</p> <p>17 THE INTERPRETER: Dmitriy Vinogradov,</p> <p>18 V-I-N-O-G-R-A-D-O-V.</p> <p>19 A Who was deputy CEO.</p> <p>20 Q What were the circumstances of that meeting?</p> <p>21 A They came for me for advice, and they wanted</p> <p>22 to discuss some options, I guess some ideas. They have</p>

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253	<p>1 heard that I have some ideas to start to – some</p> <p>2 business ideas. And they came, we discussed these</p> <p>3 ideas. That's all.</p> <p>4 Q They wanted to discuss some options, didn't</p> <p>5 they?</p> <p>6 A No, they wanted to discuss some options, some</p> <p>7 banking ideas. Some investment banking ideas, I would</p> <p>8 say, they wanted to discuss.</p> <p>9 Q So you said --</p> <p>10 A They had money. I had told Dmitriy what –</p> <p>11 you can read in this book – I had no money at all after</p> <p>12 government service, so I wanted somebody with money, and</p> <p>13 I had ideas. They had money, and I had ideas. So then</p> <p>14 we met.</p> <p>15 Q And you had contacts in the government?</p> <p>16 A No. Contacts was the secondary thing. When</p> <p>17 we started, it was just pure trade issues. I met</p> <p>18 Fridman in, and several months after we made couple of</p> <p>19 successful deals with their money, they paid me advisory</p> <p>20 commission. And then Fridman came to me, and then we</p> <p>21 started to discuss more (indiscernible) calculation. We</p> <p>22 started not with their contacts at all.</p>	255	<p>1 with them as often as before. That's definitely a big,</p> <p>2 big change.</p> <p>3 Q That's outside of the three meetings you have</p> <p>4 with Vladimir Putin every year?</p> <p>5 A Yeah.</p> <p>6 Q How long were you president of Alfa-Bank?</p> <p>7 A I was the president for about 10, 11 years.</p> <p>8 Q As president of Alfa-Bank, did you have a good</p> <p>9 relationship with the press?</p> <p>10 A Basically, yes.</p> <p>11 Q As Alfa-Bank president, did you sit for</p> <p>12 interviews with the Western press?</p> <p>13 A Yes.</p> <p>14 Q Did you talk about economics, finance, how</p> <p>15 business works, among other things, when you were</p> <p>16 talking with the press?</p> <p>17 A I was -- I tried to speak only about</p> <p>18 economics, basically. I never allowed myself -- I never</p> <p>19 allowed myself to discuss politics, definitely. And</p> <p>20 basically, I was concentrated on banking, on our area of</p> <p>21 interest.</p> <p>22 Q Did you talk about Alfa business?</p>
254	<p>1 Q Did Mikhail Fridman tell you that he valued</p> <p>2 your government contacts?</p> <p>3 A Of course, yes, he did.</p> <p>4 Q Did he lack those contacts?</p> <p>5 A He had not contacts at all.</p> <p>6 Q Since that time, when you met Mr. Fridman for</p> <p>7 the first time, have you, on Alfa's behalf, maintained</p> <p>8 relationships with government officials in Russia?</p> <p>9 A Well, when I – when Fridman met me, there was</p> <p>10 my friends in the government still. But in couple of</p> <p>11 years, they've all disappeared. So basically it was not</p> <p>12 as valuable. We still have some connections, we had the</p> <p>13 biggest Russian group, but it's definitely much less</p> <p>14 personal than it was when we met.</p> <p>15 Q And so you've had to build and establish new</p> <p>16 relationships in the Russian government on behalf of</p> <p>17 Alfa?</p> <p>18 A Well, currently, to be frank, we almost have</p> <p>19 no relations whatsoever. And I even don't know the name</p> <p>20 of ministers. I did know. But now, we are – no, not</p> <p>21 anymore. They said you – the system has changed and</p> <p>22 people has changed. So basically – and we don't speak</p>	256	<p>1 A Yes.</p> <p>2 Q Did you talk about trade?</p> <p>3 A I could -- maybe I could as a foreign</p> <p>4 minister, but step by step I went further and further</p> <p>5 away from the WTO, for example, all these topics. In</p> <p>6 the beginning, maybe. Because they still -- those who</p> <p>7 spoke with me in '90s, they still did remember, because</p> <p>8 I was a minister. Nobody remembers anymore.</p> <p>9 Q At Alfa, you've participated in press</p> <p>10 conferences for the company, correct?</p> <p>11 A Yes.</p> <p>12 Q How often?</p> <p>13 A I don't remember, but often enough. I was the</p> <p>14 face of the bank.</p> <p>15 Q Does the Western press cover those press</p> <p>16 conferences?</p> <p>17 A Well, we had very friendly -- again, we</p> <p>18 were -- we believed that we were different type of</p> <p>19 organization, more friendly to the West, the Western</p> <p>20 type of government structure and so on. So basically we</p> <p>21 were always very friendly with foreign journalists in</p> <p>22 Moscow.</p>

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257	<p>1 Q Does that mean that the Western press covered</p> <p>2 those press conferences?</p> <p>3 A I don't remember. I guess for the Western</p> <p>4 press, it was -- our press conferences definitely were</p> <p>5 not important.</p> <p>6 Q Did you have a role at Alfa Capital?</p> <p>7 A No. I am a -- again, it's the same group, so</p> <p>8 I am a shareholder. But operationally, not involved at</p> <p>9 all.</p> <p>10 Q Do you know Mikhail Alexandrov?</p> <p>11 A No, not at all.</p> <p>12 Q Around when did Vladimir Putin move from St.</p> <p>13 Petersburg to Moscow?</p> <p>14 A I think -- it's around -- again, you have to</p> <p>15 check it with Internet. It's, again -- it's '97, I</p> <p>16 guess, somewhere around there.</p> <p>17 Q Did you introduce Putin to others in the</p> <p>18 Russian government?</p> <p>19 A No. To government, definitely not.</p> <p>20 Q Do you know Chrystia Freeland?</p> <p>21 A I do.</p> <p>22 Q She wrote the book, the Sale of the Century,</p>	259	<p>1 that?</p> <p>2 A Yes. I have a -- for that, for that, I have</p> <p>3 a -- Yeltsin sent letter for the support of the</p> <p>4 elections in 1996, yeah.</p> <p>5 Q What do the thank-you letters say?</p> <p>6 A Well, the participation of the campaign -- to</p> <p>7 the support of the campaign. It was legal in that time,</p> <p>8 so we could contribute money, and we contributed some</p> <p>9 money to the campaign. And so I received the letter</p> <p>10 sent for support. The same as you can have in the U.S.</p> <p>11 You donate something, you have a letter of, I guess,</p> <p>12 gratitude.</p> <p>13 Q Do you still have the letters?</p> <p>14 A Maybe yes; maybe not. I don't know. I don't</p> <p>15 recollect.</p> <p>16 Q What was the loan for shares program?</p> <p>17 A It was a huge, huge, huge, huge mistake which</p> <p>18 basically destroyed liberal idea in Russia.</p> <p>19 Q Do you deny having anything to do with it?</p> <p>20 A Yeah. I was very much against. And publicly.</p> <p>21 Q Can you turn to document 106.</p> <p>22 MR. LEVY: I don't believe we've made it an</p>
258	<p>1 correct?</p> <p>2 A Very good book. That's a very honest and good</p> <p>3 book.</p> <p>4 Q She interviewed you for that book?</p> <p>5 A I don't remember. Maybe yes.</p> <p>6 Q How long --</p> <p>7 A Maybe yes. She was more friendly with</p> <p>8 Mr. Fridman because they spoke Ukrainian.</p> <p>9 Q How long did she meet with you and Mr. Fridman</p> <p>10 for that book?</p> <p>11 A Well, she spent definitely much more time with</p> <p>12 Mr. Fridman, again, because she was from western</p> <p>13 Ukraine, they spoke Ukrainian, so it was much more</p> <p>14 natural contact than me.</p> <p>15 Q How long did she spend with you?</p> <p>16 A I don't remember. Several times I spoke. She</p> <p>17 was very good -- honest and good journalist. Complete</p> <p>18 contrary to what you -- the names you mentioned today.</p> <p>19 Q In 1996, did Alfa-Bank contribute money to</p> <p>20 Yeltsin's re-election effort?</p> <p>21 A Yes.</p> <p>22 Q Did Yeltsin send you thank-you letters for</p>	260	<p>1 exhibit yet. We'll call it Exhibit 54.</p> <p>2 (Exhibit Aven-54 marked for identification and</p> <p>3 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>4 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>5 Q This is an excerpt from Paul Klebnikov's book</p> <p>6 called Godfather of the Kremlin, The Decline of Russia</p> <p>7 and the Age of Gangster Capitalism.</p> <p>8 A Yeah. Um-hmm.</p> <p>9 Q And if you turn to this -- if you turn to this</p> <p>10 book, at page 271, it's the last --</p> <p>11 A I see it.</p> <p>12 Q -- page of this excerpt. According to this</p> <p>13 book at page 271, the Russian government, in November</p> <p>14 1996, ordered that Alfa Group be allowed to purchase 49</p> <p>15 percent of the telecom monopoly, Svyazinvest,</p> <p>16 S-V-Y-A-Z-I-N-V-E-S-T --</p> <p>17 A I see it.</p> <p>18 Q -- at a price determined by independent</p> <p>19 analysts, quote, as payback for the contributions of</p> <p>20 Alfa to the 1996 presidential campaign, end of quote.</p> <p>21 Is that correct?</p> <p>22 A No. It's completely lie. Complete lie.</p>

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66 (261 to 264)

261	<p>1 Completely untrue. We have never, never received</p> <p>2 anything in proposals as a gratitude for the elections.</p> <p>3 Basically, we didn't take part in loan for shares at</p> <p>4 all. We were not part of this. We were the only</p> <p>5 Russian big group which we are not part of loans for</p> <p>6 shares at all.</p> <p>7 With Svyazinvest, we had the calls from</p> <p>8 Berezovsky and Gusinsky to join them in this auction.</p> <p>9 We say, if you will, we shall. But we didn't take part</p> <p>10 seriously. Not at all. And then, as you know, we</p> <p>11 receive nothing.</p> <p>12 Q Did Alfa Group purchase a significant</p> <p>13 percentage of this telecom monopoly?</p> <p>14 A No. Zero. No. It was all -- this is</p> <p>15 complete lie. It was all grant to Mr. Potanin and</p> <p>16 Mr. Soros. Not to us at all. Zero. That's completely</p> <p>17 incorrect.</p> <p>18 Q In 1990 --</p> <p>19 A You can check it. You can go get the record</p> <p>20 and check yourself. It's easy.</p> <p>21 Q In 19 --</p> <p>22 A It's easy. It's easy. You have to prepare</p>	263	<p>1 A Yeah. Yeah.</p> <p>2 Q And Alfa acquired all the shares that were</p> <p>3 available at the time, correct?</p> <p>4 A Yeah.</p> <p>5 Q And in '97, Putin had become the deputy chief</p> <p>6 of the presidential staff, right?</p> <p>7 A Yeah.</p> <p>8 Q That's on the Internet, isn't it?</p> <p>9 A Yes, absolutely right.</p> <p>10 Q And in 1998 --</p> <p>11 A But here -- he had nothing to --</p> <p>12 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>13 Q In 1998, was Putin appointed first deputy</p> <p>14 chief of presidential staff for regions?</p> <p>15 A Maybe. Maybe that's true.</p> <p>16 Q Later in 1998 was he appointed head of the</p> <p>17 FSB?</p> <p>18 A Yeah.</p> <p>19 Q Didn't you meet with Putin when he was head of</p> <p>20 the FSB?</p> <p>21 A I don't think so. Maybe once or twice, but</p> <p>22 basically FSB I tried to avoid. It was definite not my</p>
262	<p>1 yourself. You have questions which can be easily</p> <p>2 checked. We had zero shares in this. We lost it. We</p> <p>3 were not prepared then. Go to the record and look at</p> <p>4 it. You have to prepare yourself. Not serious.</p> <p>5 Q In 1997, Alfa acquired 40 percent of TNK; is</p> <p>6 that right?</p> <p>7 A Yeah.</p> <p>8 Q Did I get that right?</p> <p>9 A Yeah, that's right.</p> <p>10 Q Is that on the Internet?</p> <p>11 A Yeah, we did. That's right.</p> <p>12 Q TNK was a Russian state-owned oil company,</p> <p>13 wasn't it?</p> <p>14 A No. In that time it was -- yeah, it was</p> <p>15 some -- that was complicated, but it was already</p> <p>16 privatized de facto. But big state wasn't (inaudible).</p> <p>17 That's right.</p> <p>18 Q Before you bought it, the Russian state owned</p> <p>19 it, correct?</p> <p>20 A Major, major part, I would say.</p> <p>21 Q Russia privatized a tender of its shares in</p> <p>22 TNK in '97, correct?</p>	264	<p>1 area of interest.</p> <p>2 So I met him in the administration. I met him</p> <p>3 when he became prime minister. And FSB, maybe there</p> <p>4 was -- but I don't think I met him one to one when he</p> <p>5 was (inaudible). I always tried to avoid contact with</p> <p>6 the special services.</p> <p>7 Q So you said a lot of contradictory things</p> <p>8 there. Did you meet with him once or twice when he was</p> <p>9 head of the FSB?</p> <p>10 A I just -- maybe when he was in FSB I could</p> <p>11 meet him once or twice. Maybe. I don't recall,</p> <p>12 basically. But basically we didn't have close contact</p> <p>13 at all.</p> <p>14 Q Do you not recall, or did you meet him once or</p> <p>15 twice when he was head of the FSB?</p> <p>16 A I believe I -- most probably I met him once or</p> <p>17 twice when he was -- because I knew him before, it</p> <p>18 looked like I could meet him once or twice when he was</p> <p>19 boss of FSB.</p> <p>20 Q In 1998, didn't Alfa become TNK's majority</p> <p>21 shareholder?</p> <p>22 A Yes.</p>

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67 (265 to 268)

265	<p>1 Q In May of --</p> <p>2 A Putin had nothing to do with privatization</p> <p>3 whatsoever --</p> <p>4 MR. LEVY: Not responsive --</p> <p>5 A -- at all. Not at all.</p> <p>6 Q In May of 1999, did you accompany Anatoly</p> <p>7 Chubais, C-H-U-B-A-I-S, on a trip to the United States</p> <p>8 where you met with Secretary of State Madeleine</p> <p>9 Albright, Strobe Talbott, Secretary of Treasury Larry</p> <p>10 Summers, and the head of the IMF, Stanley Fischer?</p> <p>11 A Yes.</p> <p>12 Q Did you make that trip at the Russian acting</p> <p>13 prime minister's request?</p> <p>14 A I was appointed. They proposed me to become</p> <p>15 deputy prime minister at that time. So I came with</p> <p>16 Chubais because Chubais introduced me as the next deputy</p> <p>17 prime minister of the country. And that was basically</p> <p>18 it. It was all cultivated with Yeltsin, so it was</p> <p>19 Yeltsin's idea.</p> <p>20 So I went with Chubais because Chubais</p> <p>21 wanted -- they wanted to introduce me to all these</p> <p>22 people who you mentioned as the next deputy prime</p>
266	<p>1 minister of the country. But when I came back, all</p> <p>2 plans were changed and unknown, and so they -- I was not</p> <p>3 appointed. That's all.</p> <p>4 Q I want to ask you to just speak a little bit</p> <p>5 more slowly for the court reporter.</p> <p>6 A Okay. I was -- I planned on become our deputy</p> <p>7 prime minister.</p> <p>8 THE WITNESS: That's fine? Okay.</p> <p>9 Q In the future, just speak slowly --</p> <p>10 A Okay.</p> <p>11 Q -- and clearly.</p> <p>12 Did the acting Russian prime minister appoint</p> <p>13 you to a new team where you would be responsible for</p> <p>14 relations with the IMF and other international financial</p> <p>15 organizations?</p> <p>16 A In end of the day I was not appointed. It was</p> <p>17 Stepashin, prime minister, who initially proposed me</p> <p>18 that. I went to U.S., but during our trip, there was</p> <p>19 some political games, which I was not completely aware</p> <p>20 of. And when I came back, I was not appointed. That's</p> <p>21 all.</p> <p>22 Q In August of 1999, Yeltsin appointed Putin as</p>
267	<p>1 prime minister, correct?</p> <p>2 A Yes.</p> <p>3 Q Who were the other prime minister candidates</p> <p>4 at the time?</p> <p>5 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>6 A I don't -- you mentioned names. Putin. Putin</p> <p>7 is easy, P-U-T-I-N.</p> <p>8 There was also the guy who was prime minister</p> <p>9 de facto who proposed me the job. And then at the end</p> <p>10 of the day, he didn't appoint me. And then I -- I was</p> <p>11 not looking for the job at all. They pushed me, Chubais</p> <p>12 and Stepashin, and I said yes.</p> <p>13 And then I went to U.S., I spent couple of</p> <p>14 days informally with Madeleine Albright, Strobe Talbott.</p> <p>15 It was very informal. It was not in the offices; it was</p> <p>16 in their private homes, nice discussions. I went back,</p> <p>17 and I was not appointed.</p> <p>18 And then, let's see, Stepashin was there.</p> <p>19 Putin became -- there was some other people -- I was not</p> <p>20 involved in these discussion at all, who would they</p> <p>21 discuss, who would be appointed. I was very far from</p> <p>22 this process.</p>
268	<p>1 Q Did you, Fridman, Khan, or Alfa back some or</p> <p>2 all of the prime minister candidates?</p> <p>3 A Never. We tried to be as far as possible.</p> <p>4 Q By December 1999, Putin became acting</p> <p>5 president of Russia, correct?</p> <p>6 A No. He became acting president of Russia</p> <p>7 December -- or 1st January to (indiscernible).</p> <p>8 Q That's when he became president?</p> <p>9 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>10 A No. I don't remember when --</p> <p>11 (Reporter interruption.)</p> <p>12 Q In December of 1999, The Economist wrote that</p> <p>13 British Petroleum claimed, quote, TNK squeezed out</p> <p>14 foreign debt-holders and intimidated judges and</p> <p>15 journalists, while a TNK-installed administrator</p> <p>16 plundered Chernogorneft -- C-H-E-R-N-O-G-O-R-N-E-F-T.</p> <p>17 End of quote.</p> <p>18 Was that true?</p> <p>19 A I am not aware. I was not involved in TNK and</p> <p>20 later on TNK/BP issue at all. Mr. Khan, as you know,</p> <p>21 and now Mr. Bishlov [ph] responsibilities is doing oil.</p> <p>22 I was absolutely out of that. I was responsible for our</p>

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68 (269 to 272)

269	<p>1 financial sector business. I was absolutely unaware of</p> <p>2 (inaudible), which you mentioned, or of TNK. I don't</p> <p>3 know. I don't know names; I don't know people. I'm</p> <p>4 absolutely not aware of anything of that.</p> <p>5 Q You said Mr. Khan would have knowledge of</p> <p>6 that, about that?</p> <p>7 A Of course. He was CEO of TNK for a while.</p> <p>8 Q During the period of 1996 through 1999, did</p> <p>9 you meet with Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>10 A Well, definitely, yes. Sometimes. Not often,</p> <p>11 but I met him, definitely.</p> <p>12 Q If you could go to document 82, which is</p> <p>13 Exhibit 49.</p> <p>14 A 82? Okay.</p> <p>15 Q And if you look at manuscript pages 45 to 46,</p> <p>16 this is your testimony in the Aven v. Orbis case in the</p> <p>17 UK. Line 22, it says that, quote, Yes, we saw him --</p> <p>18 Putin -- when he joined administration of president. He</p> <p>19 was responsible for foreign ownership. We saw him on</p> <p>20 some meetings once or twice. Then he moved to the</p> <p>21 administration of the president, and again we were</p> <p>22 dealing with -- I was dealing with the administration,</p>	271	<p>1 page 50?</p> <p>2 MR. LEVY: Yes.</p> <p>3 MR. LEWIS: Line 8 of page 50 is a question</p> <p>4 that says, The summer of '99 is the summer that is being</p> <p>5 referred to.</p> <p>6 MR. LEVY: No.</p> <p>7 MR. LEWIS: No?</p> <p>8 MR. LEVY: No. Page 50 is exactly what I</p> <p>9 read. And that quote continues --</p> <p>10 MR. LEWIS: Oh, I see. The page number is at</p> <p>11 the bottom. I see. I'm sorry.</p> <p>12 A I see. You're in the bottom.</p> <p>13 Q Yeah.</p> <p>14 A I see.</p> <p>15 Q And the quote continues where you say, We want</p> <p>16 to have good formal relations. That was our goal.</p> <p>17 End of quote.</p> <p>18 Is your testimony there accurate?</p> <p>19 A Absolutely.</p> <p>20 Q In the summer of 1999, did you host Putin for</p> <p>21 dinner at your house with Igor Malashenko?</p> <p>22 A Yes.</p>
270	<p>1 so I saw him -- somehow I saw him in business meetings.</p> <p>2 And we knew him. He had started to make a big career</p> <p>3 when he became first deputy -- chief of staff of</p> <p>4 Yeltsin.</p> <p>5 I met Putin with other businessmen. I</p> <p>6 remember one meeting, for example, with his boss when we</p> <p>7 discussed potentially Russian ownership outside, and</p> <p>8 basically if the bank can play any role, because they</p> <p>9 were seeing how to sell it or what to do with that.</p> <p>10 There was some sort of -- some meeting and he was</p> <p>11 present, end of quote.</p> <p>12 Is that testimony accurate, Mr. Aven?</p> <p>13 A Let me read it once again.</p> <p>14 Yeah, it's all true.</p> <p>15 Q And if you could turn to page 50 of the same</p> <p>16 document, you have testimony at line 8, where it says,</p> <p>17 quote, We had relationships when Putin was in</p> <p>18 administration. We had some relations when he was in</p> <p>19 administration of the president, and then when he was</p> <p>20 prime minister we had some relation. Certain relations</p> <p>21 we had.</p> <p>22 MR. LEWIS: I didn't see this on -- line 8 of</p>	272	<p>1 Q Was that at your dacha?</p> <p>2 A With what? Once again?</p> <p>3 Q At your dacha?</p> <p>4 A It was my dacha.</p> <p>5 MR. LEWIS: Objection, relevance to calling it</p> <p>6 a dacha. It's at his house.</p> <p>7 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>8 A In Russian it's "dacha," it's "house," yeah.</p> <p>9 Q "Dacha." Thank you for that (inaudible).</p> <p>10 A It's my house.</p> <p>11 Q It's your house. Did Leo Tolstoy live in that</p> <p>12 house?</p> <p>13 A No. I actually --</p> <p>14 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>15 MR. LEWIS: Objection, irrelevant.</p> <p>16 A It was another Tolstoy. Aleksey Tolstoy.</p> <p>17 It's a famous Soviet writer, not of the same scale as</p> <p>18 Leo Tolstoy, definitely.</p> <p>19 Q Okay. Different Tolstoy.</p> <p>20 A Yeah.</p> <p>21 Q Igor Malashenko was the founder of the NTV</p> <p>22 television channel and Yeltsin's 1996 campaign manager,</p>

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273	<p>1 correct?</p> <p>2 A Yeah.</p> <p>3 Q He was your friend at the time, right?</p> <p>4 A Very close.</p> <p>5 Q And Putin asked you to introduce him to</p> <p>6 Malashenko, correct?</p> <p>7 A Yes. And Malashenko also wanted to meet Putin</p> <p>8 some day.</p> <p>9 Q And did this dinner take place when Yeltsin</p> <p>10 was pushing Putin to succeed him as president of Russia?</p> <p>11 A I think yes, but we were not aware of</p> <p>12 Yeltsin's plans. But Putin was a rising star. That was</p> <p>13 clear.</p> <p>14 Q After Putin won the election in 1999, did Alfa</p> <p>15 Group supply several staff members to his new</p> <p>16 presidential administration?</p> <p>17 A We didn't supply anyone. And not to him. I</p> <p>18 guess his chief of staff, Voloshin, knew, Sokolov, who</p> <p>19 had worked for us, and Sokolov brought with him some</p> <p>20 other people. So that was -- it was definitely not</p> <p>21 because of Putin. Putin was not aware of that. That</p> <p>22 was all because of Chief of Staff Voloshin.</p>	275	<p>1 the translator and cross-talk that was not on our end.</p> <p>2 We'd ask to reserve the right to go to court to take</p> <p>3 more time, and in particular, to compel Mr. Aven to</p> <p>4 testify about the Mueller investigation to the extent</p> <p>5 that he hasn't already today in response to questions</p> <p>6 asked.</p> <p>7 MR. LEWIS: So we -- you knew in advance of</p> <p>8 today that there's a pending legal issue about -- that</p> <p>9 the Mueller -- that the information you've requested,</p> <p>10 it -- from him about the Mueller investigation, and we</p> <p>11 were quite clear to you that the fact that the Court</p> <p>12 hasn't adjudicated that and some other issues would not</p> <p>13 be something that would cause us to acquiesce in a</p> <p>14 request for additional time.</p> <p>15 You chose to take the deposition at a time</p> <p>16 when those issues are still pending, and that was your</p> <p>17 choice, but we certainly don't agree that there's any</p> <p>18 basis for seeking to extend the deposition.</p> <p>19 We've been involved in this now for -- it's</p> <p>20 been nine and a half hours since we began. I understand</p> <p>21 we've taken some breaks. But there can't be much time</p> <p>22 left on the amount of time that you have. So I think</p>
274	<p>1 Q You personally were identified as a key</p> <p>2 business supporter of Vladimir Putin during his first</p> <p>3 years as president of the Russian Federation; is that</p> <p>4 correct?</p> <p>5 A I don't know. That's --</p> <p>6 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>7 MR. LEWIS: Objection. Identified by who?</p> <p>8 A That's -- by who? Yeah. By whom? I was</p> <p>9 definitely not in the close circle of him any time. He</p> <p>10 has his much closer friends, and we had always very</p> <p>11 formal relations. So that's -- I really don't</p> <p>12 understand what you mean.</p> <p>13 Q Turn to document 107, please.</p> <p>14 MR. LEVY: And let's mark this Exhibit 55.</p> <p>15 (Exhibit Aven-55 marked for identification and</p> <p>16 attached to the transcript.)</p> <p>17 MR. LEWIS: Josh, I think we're -- we must be</p> <p>18 getting toward the end of the deposition, but I'll ask</p> <p>19 you. We could be close to the conclusion, but can you</p> <p>20 confirm that we are?</p> <p>21 MR. LEVY: We can go as long as the witness</p> <p>22 can. If -- we've had a lot of delays today because of</p>	276	<p>1 you should conclude it soon, and in our position, that</p> <p>2 will conclude his deposition.</p> <p>3 MR. LEVY: Just to correct the record, we've</p> <p>4 been on the record for eight hours, not nine and a half.</p> <p>5 And I don't even know if we've reached the eight-hour</p> <p>6 mark.</p> <p>7 (UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER): We have. Yeah.</p> <p>8 MR. LEVY: And I just want to make the record</p> <p>9 clear that we are not waiving our right and reserve the</p> <p>10 right to go to court to compel Mr. Aven to testify in</p> <p>11 response to questions about the Mueller investigation</p> <p>12 that he did not answer, notwithstanding your</p> <p>13 acquiescence to our request or not.</p> <p>14 I do want to ask a few more questions.</p> <p>15 BY MR. LEVY:</p> <p>16 Q In 107, this is Exhibit 55, this is an article</p> <p>17 from The Guardian from March 30, 2000. The headline is,</p> <p>18 Putin urged to apply the Pinochet stick.</p> <p>19 In this article at page 1, the second</p> <p>20 paragraph, it says, quote, Petr Aven, president of Alfa,</p> <p>21 Russia's biggest and most successful private bank, and a</p> <p>22 key business supporter of the newly elected president,</p>

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277	<p>1 said that Mr. Putin should model his regime on that of</p> <p>2 Augusto Pinochet of Chile, combining Reaganomics with</p> <p>3 dictatorial controls, end of quote.</p> <p>4 Mr. Aven, do you remember being interviewed</p> <p>5 for this story?</p> <p>6 A I don't know. It was 20 years ago.</p> <p>7 Q Did you seek a correction to anything in this</p> <p>8 story?</p> <p>9 A It's crucially simplification, of course. As</p> <p>10 usual with journalists. It's very silly simplification.</p> <p>11 But again, you didn't allow me to explain, and we have</p> <p>12 no time.</p> <p>13 So basically, I definitely believe that</p> <p>14 Pinochet could be partially, partially only, as an</p> <p>15 example for everyone. For many countries. He have many</p> <p>16 serious and successful economic policies. He changed</p> <p>17 his economy for the better, and Chile is the most</p> <p>18 successful South – Latin American country.</p> <p>19 So definitely certainly things of Pinochet</p> <p>20 that I would borrow. But that's definitely</p> <p>21 simplification.</p> <p>22 Q Did this story create a stir?</p>	279	<p>1 A What time of year?</p> <p>2 THE INTERPRETER: (Rendering interpretation.)</p> <p>3 A Well, you repeated the same question. Three</p> <p>4 or four times a year. It was all the same. There was</p> <p>5 no difference. Basically this (indiscernible) was --</p> <p>6 has been created there in that time.</p> <p>7 Q Do you remember being --</p> <p>8 A He's very, very conservative.</p> <p>9 Q Do you remember being interviewed by Ted</p> <p>10 Koppel in March of 2000 about your relationship with</p> <p>11 Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>12 A Do you remember your discussions 20 years ago?</p> <p>13 I don't know that. I'm 65 years old. I don't have</p> <p>14 (indiscernible) -- but basically to remember meetings 20</p> <p>15 years ago is basically impossible.</p> <p>16 Q Can you turn to document 30 which is Exhibit</p> <p>17 47. Page 155, line 5 --</p> <p>18 A Which one? Which page?</p> <p>19 Q 155.</p> <p>20 A Okay.</p> <p>21 Q This is your deposition in the CPI case, and</p> <p>22 the lawyer asked you, Were you interviewed in March of</p>
278	<p>1 A I'm sorry, what?</p> <p>2 Q Create a --</p> <p>3 THE INTERPRETER: (Rendering interpretation.)</p> <p>4 A Maybe. I don't know. Who can remember? 20</p> <p>5 years.</p> <p>6 Q Did you have to defend your words in this</p> <p>7 story to the press?</p> <p>8 A No. No. Again, that's simplification. But</p> <p>9 it's -- always happens with the journalists. You don't</p> <p>10 have to react every time. It's impossible.</p> <p>11 Q On the second page of the story, it quotes</p> <p>12 you. It says it's -- where you say, quote, Nobody</p> <p>13 follows the law in this country, end of quote, Aven</p> <p>14 said.</p> <p>15 A That's true.</p> <p>16 Q Do you recall telling the reporter that?</p> <p>17 A Yeah. And I agree with that. And I agree</p> <p>18 with that now. Law enforcement, sometimes you need to</p> <p>19 use force. That's right. That's right.</p> <p>20 Q While Putin was president of Russia from 2000</p> <p>21 to 2008, how many times a year would you meet with him</p> <p>22 one on one?</p>	280	<p>1 2000 by ABC's Nightline, Ted Koppel, for a broadcast</p> <p>2 from Moscow about Acting President Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>3 Answer: Maybe.</p> <p>4 Does that refresh your recollection?</p> <p>5 A No, I don't remember. Definitely I don't</p> <p>6 remember this interview.</p> <p>7 Q In 1999, did Vladimir Putin offer to shut down</p> <p>8 Gusinsky's NTV television channel after Gusinsky tried</p> <p>9 to blackmail you and the Russian government?</p> <p>10 MR. LEWIS: Objection (inaudible).</p> <p>11 (Cross-talk.)</p> <p>12 A Maybe, yeah. That was some story with</p> <p>13 Gusinsky and Putin.</p> <p>14 What's the question?</p> <p>15 Q Did you discuss other measures you or Putin</p> <p>16 could take against Gusinsky?</p> <p>17 A No. Not at all. Never. More than that, when</p> <p>18 Gusinsky was arrested, I guess we signed a letter to</p> <p>19 support Gusinsky, as you know. We arranged the pressure</p> <p>20 on Putin to allow Gusinsky to leave the jail. It was --</p> <p>21 the letter was basically prepared in Fridman's apartment</p> <p>22 in Moscow.</p>

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281	<p>1 Q Can you turn to page 154 in the same document.</p> <p>2 A Yeah.</p> <p>3 Q At line 16, you say -- I'm sorry, at line 14</p> <p>4 you were asked by the attorney, What was it that you</p> <p>5 told him -- Putin -- about free press?</p> <p>6 And your answer: Well, he -- Putin -- had a</p> <p>7 very personal feeling about Gusinsky because Gusinsky</p> <p>8 blackmailed not only us but he blackmailed the state.</p> <p>9 And he -- Putin -- told me that's wrong. And I agree</p> <p>10 that that's wrong, but that's -- I tried to say that</p> <p>11 that's not an argument to close NTV. It's not an</p> <p>12 argument to close a free -- independent media. You've</p> <p>13 got to do something not to allow them to blackmail, to</p> <p>14 go to the court against them, for example, as we tried</p> <p>15 to do with CPI.</p> <p>16 A Which page?</p> <p>17 (The witness and interpreter conferred in</p> <p>18 Russian.)</p> <p>19 A I don't recall. That's --</p> <p>20 Q Hold on. I'm not finished. I'm not finished.</p> <p>21 But just to close due to political reasons</p> <p>22 would be wrong. It would be a mistake, end of quote.</p>	283	<p>1 attack on Gusinsky, whether he's blackmail or not, is</p> <p>2 attack on free press. That's at the same time. That's</p> <p>3 for sure. And we supported Gusinsky when he was</p> <p>4 arrested.</p> <p>5 Q Throughout the 2000s, did Alfa-Bank provide</p> <p>6 financing to Atomstroyexport,</p> <p>7 A-T-O-M-S-T-R-O-Y-E-X-P-O-R-T, a Russian state-owned</p> <p>8 nuclear energy company?</p> <p>9 A It was our plan, yes.</p> <p>10 MR. LEVY: Nothing further.</p> <p>11 MR. LEWIS: Thanks. We'll just take five</p> <p>12 minutes and we'll come back. I may have three to five</p> <p>13 minutes of questions.</p> <p>14 MR. LEVY: Okay.</p> <p>15 (Recess from 5:46 p.m. until 5:56 p.m.)</p> <p>16 EXAMINATION</p> <p>17 BY MR. LEWIS:</p> <p>18 Q I just have a few very brief questions. Mr.</p> <p>19 Aven --</p> <p>20 MR. LEWIS: Of course, for the record, I'm</p> <p>21 Alan Lewis of Carter Ledyard & Milburn. We represent</p> <p>22 Mr. Aven.</p>
282	<p>1 Was your testimony here accurate? That's my</p> <p>2 question.</p> <p>3 A It definitely is accurate, but I don't</p> <p>4 remember all that. Currently, I don't remember anything</p> <p>5 here. I don't remember discussing this Putin/Gusinsky,</p> <p>6 but if I said that, it was true, of course.</p> <p>7 Q Yes or no, did Gusinsky wind up getting</p> <p>8 arrested shortly thereafter, around June 2000?</p> <p>9 A Gusinsky was arrested, that's true. And</p> <p>10 again, as your usual -- usual approach, you stopped</p> <p>11 here. You have to -- basically, you have to continue.</p> <p>12 Basically, we stated -- we started to defend Gusinsky,</p> <p>13 as you say, as here. And it was attack on free press.</p> <p>14 We understood that for sure.</p> <p>15 Q Did the Western press interview you about his</p> <p>16 arrest and the letter you co-signed?</p> <p>17 A I don't remember, again, I tell you. I don't</p> <p>18 recall. I don't recall. It's said here. If it's said</p> <p>19 here, it's okay. I would agree. I don't -- I didn't</p> <p>20 recall. And that time I don't recall now. It's 20</p> <p>21 years from now.</p> <p>22 But again, I have very clear position that</p>	284	<p>1 Q Mr. Aven, you testified earlier in response to</p> <p>2 some of Mr. Levy's questions about some electronic</p> <p>3 information that may have been automatically deleted.</p> <p>4 Do you remember that testimony?</p> <p>5 A I do.</p> <p>6 Q Mr. Aven, is it correct that everything that</p> <p>7 was automatically deleted from a device is backed up and</p> <p>8 so that nothing was permanently deleted; is that</p> <p>9 correct?</p> <p>10 MR. LEVY: Objection, form.</p> <p>11 A What?</p> <p>12 Q Go ahead. You may answer.</p> <p>13 A Okay. If anything is in Alfa and L1 file</p> <p>14 forever. So there's nothing deleted. It disappears</p> <p>15 from my telephone, but it's -- in Alfa files, Alfa</p> <p>16 backup is forever. Nothing disappears.</p> <p>17 Q Were any communications of yours permanently</p> <p>18 deleted?</p> <p>19 A Never. No, zero.</p> <p>20 Q Next question, Mr. Aven. With regard to your</p> <p>21 blood pressure, is it correct that you are not seeking</p> <p>22 economic damages related to your blood pressure such as</p>

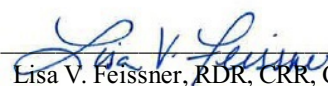
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285	<p>1 doctor's bills and costs of medicine?</p> <p>2 A Yes. I do not.</p> <p>3 Q But is it your testimony that your blood</p> <p>4 pressure increase was something that you believe was</p> <p>5 part of how your body reacted to the publication of the</p> <p>6 false statements in memorandum 112?</p> <p>7 A Absolutely. That's clear reflection of</p> <p>8 emotional status and emotional show. Absolutely.</p> <p>9 Q Mr. Aven, at any time before BuzzFeed</p> <p>10 published the Dossier on the Internet, had you ever</p> <p>11 heard of an allegation according to which in the 1990s</p> <p>12 Govorun delivered cash for you to Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>13 A Never, never, never. Never, ever.</p> <p>14 Q Mr. Aven, in 2016, did you become aware of</p> <p>15 media reports that there were allegations of attempted</p> <p>16 Russian efforts to influence the outcome of the U.S.</p> <p>17 election?</p> <p>18 A Yeah. I saw it.</p> <p>19 Q Mr. Aven, have you ever publicly expressed a</p> <p>20 point of view regarding this subject of alleged Russian</p> <p>21 efforts to influence the 2016 U.S. election?</p> <p>22 MR. LEVY: Objection, form.</p>	287	<p>1 we request on behalf of Mr. Aven a chance to review the</p> <p>2 transcript and make any corrections.</p> <p>3 When can we get the transcript, a rough?</p> <p>4 COURT REPORTER: So I was just going to ask --</p> <p>5 I understand that there's an order for a rough draft for</p> <p>6 Carter Ledyard, and that's the only information I have.</p> <p>7 So first let's talk -- Mr. Levy, do you need a</p> <p>8 rough draft?</p> <p>9 MR. LEVY: We'd like to see the rough draft,</p> <p>10 yes.</p> <p>11 COURT REPORTER: And when do you need the</p> <p>12 final transcript? Two weeks is normal delivery.</p> <p>13 MR. LEVY: Two weeks from today should be</p> <p>14 fine.</p> <p>15 COURT REPORTER: And I'm just thinking, is</p> <p>16 that, like, Christmas? I don't know where we are with</p> <p>17 the Christmas schedule. So I don't know if you need it</p> <p>18 before the holidays.</p> <p>19 MR. LEVY: The 23rd. That's fine.</p> <p>20 COURT REPORTER: Okay.</p> <p>21 And Mr. Lewis?</p> <p>22 MR. LEWIS: Yes.</p>
286	<p>1 A No.</p> <p>2 Q Mr. Aven, have you ever done anything to try</p> <p>3 to shape how the public views Vladimir Putin?</p> <p>4 MR. LEVY: Objection.</p> <p>5 A Never. Never.</p> <p>6 Q Mr. Aven, have you ever taken a public</p> <p>7 position on whether the so-called oligarchs as a group</p> <p>8 are beholden to Putin?</p> <p>9 A No. Never.</p> <p>10 MR. LEWIS: Thank you. We have no further</p> <p>11 questions.</p> <p>12 THE WITNESS: Thank you.</p> <p>13 MR. LEVY: We'd like to take a break for five</p> <p>14 minutes and come back to see if we have additional</p> <p>15 questions.</p> <p>16 MR. LEWIS: Okay.</p> <p>17 (Recess from 5:59 p.m. until 6:02 p.m.)</p> <p>18 MR. LEVY: Defendants have nothing further at</p> <p>19 this time, keeping the record open and reserving the</p> <p>20 right to go to court to compel testimony as we've</p> <p>21 discussed before. Thank you.</p> <p>22 MR. LEWIS: Just before we go off the record,</p>	288	<p>1 COURT REPORTER: You need a rough draft today?</p> <p>2 MR. LEWIS: If you can, today, tomorrow, sure.</p> <p>3 COURT REPORTER: And then when do you want the</p> <p>4 final transcript? Two --</p> <p>5 MR. LEWIS: That two-week time frame is fine</p> <p>6 for the final.</p> <p>7 COURT REPORTER: Terrific. That's all I need.</p> <p>8 Thank you so much.</p> <p>9 (Off the record at 6:04 p.m.)</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p>

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<div style="text-align: right; margin-bottom: 10px;">289</div> <p>1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DEPONENT</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 I, PETR AVEN, do hereby acknowledge that I</p> <p>4 have read and examined the foregoing testimony, and the</p> <p>5 same is a true, correct and complete transcription of</p> <p>6 the testimony given by me, and any corrections appear on</p> <p>7 the attached errata sheet signed by me.</p> <p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>10 _____</p> <p>11 (DATE) (SIGNATURE)</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p>	
<div style="text-align: right; margin-bottom: 10px;">290</div> <p>1 C E R T I F I C A T E</p> <p>2 I, Lisa V. Feissner, RDR, CRR, CLR, do hereby</p> <p>3 certify that the witness was first duly sworn by me and</p> <p>4 that I was authorized to and did report said</p> <p>5 proceedings.</p> <p>6 I further certify that the foregoing</p> <p>7 transcript is a true and correct record of the</p> <p>8 proceedings; that said proceedings were taken by me</p> <p>9 stenographically and thereafter reduced to typewriting</p> <p>10 under my supervision; that reading and signing was</p> <p>11 requested; and that I am neither attorney nor counsel</p> <p>12 for, nor related to or employed by, any of the parties</p> <p>13 to the action in which this deposition was taken; and</p> <p>14 that I have no interest, financial or otherwise, in this</p> <p>15 case.</p> <p>16 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my</p> <p>17 hand this 19th day of December, 2020.</p> <p>18</p> <p>19 </p> <p>20 Lisa V. Feissner, RDR, CRR, CLR</p> <p>21 (The foregoing certification of this</p> <p>22 transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the</p> <p>same by any means, unless under the direct control</p> <p>and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)</p>	

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