

1 statements I have heard, some of you on this committee appear to believe that Russia
2 and its security services did not conduct a campaign against our country and that
3 perhaps, somehow for some reason, Ukraine did. This is a fictional narrative that is
4 being perpetrated and propagated by the Russian security services themselves.

5 The unfortunate truth is that Russia was the foreign power that systematically
6 attacked our democratic institutions in 2016. This is the public conclusion of our
7 intelligence agencies confirmed in bipartisan and congressional reports. It is beyond
8 dispute, even if some of the underlying details must remain classified.

9 The impacts of the successful 2016 Russian campaign remains evident today.
10 Our Nation is being torn apart. Truth is questioned. Our highly professional, expert
11 career Foreign Service is being undermined. U.S. support for Ukraine which continues
12 to face armed Russian aggression is being politicized. The Russian Government's goal is
13 to weaken our country, to diminish America's global role, and to neutralize a perceived
14 U.S. threat to Russian interests.

15 President Putin and the Russian security services aim to counter U.S. foreign policy
16 objectives in Europe, including in Ukraine, where Moscow wishes to reassert political and
17 economic dominance. I say this not as an alarmist but as a realist. I do not think
18 long-term conflict with Russia is either desirable or inevitable. I continue to believe that
19 we need to seek ways of stabilizing our relationship with Moscow even as we counter
20 their efforts to harm us.

21 Right now, Russia's security services and their proxies have geared up to repeat
22 their interference in the 2020 election. We are running out of time to stop them.

23 In the course of this investigation, I would ask that you please not promote
24 politically-driven falsehoods that so clearly advance Russian interests. As Republicans
25 and Democrats have agreed for decades, Ukraine is a valued partner of the United States,