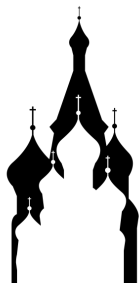


# CIA reportedly reaches “consensus view” that Russia intervened to sway the election in Trump’s favor

## An overview of the latest allegation

### CIA assessment

- According to the Washington Post, the CIA briefed top senators last week on the intelligence community’s “consensus view” that Russia acted with the intention of assisting President-elect Trump win the election
- U.S. intelligence agencies reportedly uncovered a link between the Russian government and the individuals who gave the compromised DNC e-mails to WikiLeaks, though there is not yet clear evidence indicating that the Kremlin instructed those operatives to hand over Democrats’ communications to Julian Assange’s organization



### FBI less certain

- In a separate briefing to the House Intelligence Committee, an FBI official was said to be more circumspect regarding the motives behind Russia’s election meddling, a difference likely stemming from the stricter standards the FBI must follow in pursuing criminal prosecutions



### Trump, Priebus push back

- Trump’s transition team released a statement denouncing the recent reports, saying in part, “these are the same people that said Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction”
- Reince Priebus also doubled down on a piece in the New York Times referring to intelligence agencies’ conclusion that Russia hacked the RNC in addition to Democratic Party groups. That the RNC was not subjected to the same destructive leaks as the DNC is said to have contributed to the CIA’s determination regarding Russia’s pro-Trump meddling. Priebus denied any breach at the RNC

### What’s next

- On Friday, President Obama ordered an intelligence review of 2016 election hacking, to be completed before the end of his term
- Congress is also preparing its own investigations when the new session convenes in 2017

Sources: Adam Entous, Ellen Nakashima and Greg Miller, “Secret CIA assessment says Russia was trying to help Trump win White House,” *The Washington Post*, December 9, 2016; Ellen Nakashima and Adam Entous, “FBI and CIA give differing accounts to lawmakers on Russia’s motives in 2016 hacks,” *The Washington Post*, December 10, 2016; David E. Sanger and Scott Shane, “Russian hackers acted to aid Trump in election, U.S. says,” *NYT*, December 9, 2016; Theodoric Meyer, “Priebus denies report RNC was hacked,” *Politico*, December 11, 2016; Images by Chris McDonnell, shashank singh and Lorie Shaull, *The Noun Project*, December 2016.