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## Russians Ridicule U.S. Charge That Kremlin Meddled to Help Trump

By ANDREW HIGGINS

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Alexey Pushkov, a member of the defense and security committee of the Russian Parliament's upper house, ridiculed the American report as akin to C.I.A. assertions that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Credit Ruben Sprich/Reuters

MOSCOW — Spies are usually thought of as bystanders who quietly steal secrets in the shadows. But the Russian versions, schooled in techniques used during the Cold War against the United States, have a more ambitious goal — shaping, not just snooping on, the politics of a nation that the Soviet-era K.G.B. targeted as the “main adversary.”

That at least is the conclusion of a declassified report released on Friday that outlines what America's top intelligence agencies view as an elaborate “influence campaign” ordered by President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia aimed at skewing the outcome of the 2016 presidential race.

But the absence of any concrete evidence in the report of meddling by the Kremlin was met with a storm of mockery on Saturday by Russian politicians and commentators, who took to social media to ridicule the report as a potpourri of baseless conjecture.

In a message posted on Twitter, Alexey Pushkov, a member of the defense and security committee of the upper house of the Russian Parliament, ridiculed the American report as akin to C.I.A. assertions that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction: “Mountain gave birth to a mouse: all accusations against Russia are based on ‘confidence’ and assumptions. US was sure about Hussein possessing WMD in the same way.”