

FBI

Agent who infiltrated campaign revealed

Woman was one of two 'honeypots'

By **KERRY PICKET**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

New whistleblower disclosures have identified a top agent in the New York field office as one of the FBI investigators assigned to infiltrate Donald Trump's presidential campaign in 2015 as part of FBI Director James B. Comey's "off-the-books" operation.

The disclosures show the female agent was involved in the attempt to have undercover agents target the Trump team.

The Washington Times reached out to the FBI and the agent for comment. The FBI has asked for the agent's identity to be shielded because disclosing her name could compromise "the safety of the agent."

FBI leadership appointed by Mr. Trump is starting an investigation into the origins of the agency's plan a decade ago to gain access to his campaign by using two female undercover "honeypot" agents.

An agency whistleblower revealed the off-the-books investigation in a protected disclosure to the House Judiciary Committee last year. The Times first reported on the investigation exclusively in October.

One or more FBI employees who were in a position to know the information sent the Senate Judiciary Committee protected disclosures Tuesday. The

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USAID

U.S. paid for dog collars, fashion show, terrorist aid

By **STEPHEN DINAN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Republicans piled on new evidence Wednesday in their battle to reel in USAID, pointing to millions of dollars that the foreign aid agency shipped to Ukraine to promote a dog collar manufacturer and send fashionistas to a show in London.

Sen. Joni Ernst, Iowa Republican, said the U.S. Agency for International Development paid \$1 million from American taxpayers to a Ukrainian carpet company, \$255,000 to an organic coffee and tea producer, and \$150,000 to a knitwear company.

House Republicans, meanwhile, heard testimony on how USAID funneled millions of dollars through a U.S. charity to the Nusra Front, a designated terrorist organization in Syria.

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, Georgia Republican, said USAID money ended up in the hands of the Taliban in Afghanistan and terrorists in Palestinian territories.

"Taxpayer funds have literally been used to undermine U.S. interests and counter American foreign policy goals under the guise of foreign aid," said Ms. Greene, chair of the House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee on delivering on government efficiency, also known as the DOGE panel.

The administration has moved to dismantle USAID and fired at least 1,600

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WHITE HOUSE

Trump backs Musk amid Cabinet gripes



ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOGRAPHS

HEAD-TURNER: Elon Musk took command of Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, the first of President Trump's second term. Mr. Trump urged his secretaries to "speak up" if they had issues with the public face of the Department of Government Efficiency.

FOREIGN POLICY

Trump predicts mineral deal with Ukraine

Zelensky insists on security pledge before trip to U.S.

By **JEFF MORDOCK**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

President Trump said Wednesday that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky will travel to Washington on Friday to sign a bilateral economic development and mineral-sharing pact.

Considerable uncertainty remains over the details and how the deal will affect Kyiv's 3-year-old war to stave off a Russian invasion.

Mr. Trump has pressed for an economic pact to give U.S. interests a claim on Ukraine's critical mineral sector. He describes it in part as "payback" for the tens of billions of dollars in U.S. military and development aid provided to Ukraine since Russia invaded in February 2022.

Earlier this month, Mr. Zelensky's government rejected an offer that Mr. Trump said would be worth \$500 billion to the United States. Ukraine said the



THE PITS: A pit mine in Ukraine's Kirovohrad region holds ilmenite deposits. Kyiv is balking at a proposed deal giving U.S. mining interests access to its rich reserves of rare earth and strategic minerals needed for high-tech applications.

price was too high, and Kyiv was seeking ironclad security guarantees from the U.S. in exchange for any economic deal.

"Ukraine President Zelensky is going to be coming on Friday. That's

now confirmed, and we're going to be signing an agreement, which will be a very big agreement," Mr. Trump said

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NEW JERSEY

Trump urged to block E-ZPass deal over ties with China

State senator raises security concerns on contract with Singapore company

By **SETH McLAUGHLIN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

A New Jersey state lawmaker is asking the Trump administration to halt a nearly \$2 billion deal for a Singapore-based company to operate the state turnpike's E-ZPass system because of alleged ties to the Chinese Communist Party, which the company denies.

Sen. Joseph Pennacchio, Montville Republican, said he plans to plead for help from Washington because Gov. Phil Murphy, a Democrat, and the New Jersey Turnpike Authority have failed to ease the security concerns he and others have raised about the TransCore contract.

"I would hope the administration could halt the deal and vet this company for personal and national security issues

that have been raised," Mr. Pennacchio, the deputy Republican leader of the state Senate, told The Washington Times.

TransCore said it has no link to China. It said the blowback is from a bitter competitor "focused on public fear-mongering rather than on improving the quality of its products and services."

Mr. Pennacchio said he trusts the Trump administration more than the Murphy or Biden administrations to conduct proper oversight.

President Trump issued an "American First Investment Policy" memorandum last week to restrict Chinese investments in the U.S.

Citing national security concerns, the policy says the "United States should not

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GREECE 2025

Investment and Residency



Vardikos & Vardikos: Advising Global Investors in Greece



Christos Vardikos, Attorney at Law - Managing Partner

With decades of expertise, Vardikos & Vardikos has been helping international investors navigate the financial opportunities that Greece offers. The Greek Golden Visa program stands out as a highly coveted residence-by-investment program in Europe, combining affordability, strategic investment, and lifestyle appeal. Real estate continues to be the most sought-after investment route for the Greek Golden Visa with demand surging from an array of international markets. "Apart from the Chinese, Turkish, Egyptian, and Indian buyers have stood out as significant investors over the past twelve months," shared Christos Vardikos, an Athens-based Attorney at Law, Member of the Athens Bar Association, accredited to the Supreme Court, and Managing Partner at Vardikos & Vardikos.

The Greek Golden Visa has gotten the attention of American and European markets where demand has soared. According to Vardikos, "high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) from these regions have had a considerable impact on the Greek luxury real estate market, purchasing properties along the Athens Riviera and across the Greek islands." Ultra HNWIs often spread their investment risk by acquiring multiple properties across different regions in Greece. "Liquidity is crucial for these investors," Vardikos noted, "so they frequently evaluate their financial goals, risk tolerance, and the long-term potential of their investments in Greece, often acquiring portfolios that exceed the minimum investment requirements for the Golden

Visa program."

The Golden Visa's investment thresholds were recently changed, applicants must now invest EUR 800,000 minimum for properties in high-demand areas with over 3,100 inhabitants (including Athens, Thessaloniki, Mykonos, and Santorini) or EUR 400,000 for properties elsewhere provided they exceed 120 square meters. Investors focusing on restoring historically or culturally significant properties, or converting commercial properties into residential ones, can invest from EUR 250,000. "Although the minimum thresholds have increased, the Greek Golden Visa remains a competitive residence-by-investment program in a country that offers an investor-friendly ecosystem," added Vardikos.

The Greek Golden Visa program has diversified further with the introduction of a start-up investment route designed to attract international entrepreneurs. Vardikos explained, "the criteria include a minimum investment of EUR 250,000 in startups listed on the National Register of Startups, a maximum equity participation of 33%, the creation of two or more jobs within the first year, and maintaining the workforce for at least five years."

Foreign investors are increasingly choosing to work with Vardikos & Vardikos, a boutique law firm with associated offices in Cyprus, Dominica, and Saint Lucia. The firm provides an accessible, diversified, and professionally managed pathway to participate in Greece's thriving Golden Visa program. "We have no exclusive agreements with local promoters, ensuring we can act as

independent advisers. This allows us to guide clients transparently, ensure they avoid projects with low capital appreciation prospects, and ultimately safeguard their interests," emphasized Vardikos.

Vardikos & Vardikos' comprehensive services include land registry searches, representation during acquisition contracts, tax advisory, and support throughout each step of the Golden Visa application process. Christos Vardikos, who leads the firm, is renowned for his expertise, he also serves as the Consul a.h. for the Commonwealth of Dominica in the Hellenic Republic and as Special Advisor to the Honorable Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica for Maritime Affairs. Many HNWIs that are keen to diversify their portfolios opt to combine the Greek Golden Visa with Caribbean citizenship-by-investment solutions. "As an Authorized Government Agent in Dominica and St. Lucia, we have assisted clients who wish to pair a Caribbean second citizenship with a European residence-by-investment permit," Vardikos highlighted.

In addition to the Golden Visa, Greece offers other incentives for ultra HNWIs, such as the Non-Dom regime and the Financially Independent or Retiree Program. The Greek Non-Dom regime imposes a flat tax of EUR 100,000 per annum on all foreign-sourced income for the main applicant and EUR 20,000 for any dependents, this tax regime has attracted over 8,000 applications since its inception. Interest in the program grew quite notably after Italy doubled its flat tax on foreign sourced income to EUR 200,000 and the UK abolished its Non-Dom regime. The Retiree Program, on the other hand, applies a uniform 7% tax on all foreign pensions, making it an appealing option for HNWIs that want to relocate to Greece to enjoy its socio-political stability, affordable cost-of-living, and high calibre of lifestyle. Greece offers a compelling destination for international investors seeking both investment and quality of life benefits.

To learn more about your options in Greece,

Visit: vardikos.com

Email: vardikos@protonmail.com