

ties with Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin since the early 2000s;

Whereas Yevgeniy Prigozhin is the presumed financier of the Wagner Group, also known as the Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner, a Russian mercenary organization staffed by current and former military and intelligence officers, and is the financier of the Internet Research Agency and other organizations engaged in online influence operations;

Whereas entities such as Wagner have been linked to the Government of the Russian Federation and are used to conduct military action, subversive operations, and disinformation campaigns on the Government's behalf while giving it an appearance of plausible deniability;

Whereas the Wagner Group was involved in the Russian Federation's military takeover and illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region in February and March 2014, and in the subsequent insurgencies in the eastern Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk;

Whereas the Wagner Group has been providing military support to the regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria since 2015, fighting alongside its forces and helping it recapture significant parts of the country;

Whereas, on February 7, 2018, the Wagner Group led an armed assault on United States troops near the city of Deir al-Zour in eastern Syria, prompting a United States counterattack, in what the Washington Post has described as "the deadliest United States-Russia clash since the Cold War";

Whereas the Wagner Group has sent mercenaries, artillery, tanks, drones, and ammunition to Libya in violation of a United Nations arms embargo;

Whereas a United Nations report made public on May 6, 2020, concluded that the Wagner Group has operated up to 1,200 military contractors in Libya, including snipers and specialized military teams, serving "as an effective force multiplier" for Khalifa Haftar's Libyan National Army;

Whereas Yevgeniy Prigozhin and his affiliated entities have been tied to influence operations on behalf of the Government of the Russian Federation in Africa, with entities associated with Prigozhin reportedly operating in at least 20 countries, including the Central African Republic, Madagascar, Mozambique, and Sudan;

Whereas about 235 Russian military and private security personnel have deployed to the Central African Republic since 2017, some of whom are reportedly employed by the Wagner Group, and some of whom provide personal security for President Faustin-Archange Touadéra;

Whereas Russian national Valery Zakharov, who is reportedly a former intelligence official, has served as a top national security advisor to Central African Republic President Faustin-Archange Touadéra since at least 2018;

Whereas, in July 2018, Russian journalists Orkhan Dzhemal, Kirill Radchenko, and Alexander Rastorguyev were murdered in the Central African Republic while working on a documentary about the activities of the Wagner Group in that country;

Whereas neither the Government of the Central African Republic nor the Government of the Russian Federation are conducting credible and thorough investigations into the murder of these 3 journalists;

Whereas, according to an investigation by the London-based Dossier Center, the journalists had been tracked by officers of the Central African Republic gendarmerie who were in close communication with Russian nationals with ties to Prigozhin, including Alexander Sotov, who in turn was reportedly in contact with Zakharov;

Whereas companies owned by Yevgeniy Prigozhin reportedly had made regular payments to senior Central African Republic officials, including the Police Chief and the Minister of National Security;

Whereas, on December 20, 2016, the Department of the Treasury designated Yevgeniy Prigozhin under Executive Order 13661, "Blocking Property of Additional Persons Contributing to the Situation in Ukraine," "for having materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services in support of, senior officials of the Russian Federation";

Whereas, on June 20, 2017, the Department of the Treasury designated the Wagner Group under Executive Order 13660, "Blocking Property of Certain Persons Contributing to the Situation in Ukraine," "for being responsible for or complicit in, or having engaged in, directly or indirectly, actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, stability, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of Ukraine";

Whereas, on March 15, 2018, the Department of the Treasury designated Yevgeniy Prigozhin, his affiliated entities, including the Internet Research Agency, and his subordinates under Executive Order 13694, "Blocking the Property of Certain Persons Engaging in Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities," for being "involved in interfering with [United States] election processes or institutions";

Whereas, on February 16, 2018, the Department of Justice announced the indictment of Yevgeniy Prigozhin and his affiliated entities, including the Internet Research Agency, for engaging in "operations to interfere with the United States political system, including the 2016 United States presidential election" and conducting "information warfare" against the United States;

Whereas, on September 20, 2018, the Department of State added Prigozhin, his affiliated entities, including the Internet Research Agency, and the Wagner Group to the list of persons identified as part of, or operating for or on behalf of, the defense or intelligence sectors of the Government of the Russian Federation under section 231 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9525);

Whereas, on September 30, 2019, under Executive Order 13848, the Department of the Treasury took additional steps to increase pressure on Prigozhin by designating physical assets—3 aircraft and a yacht—and 3 associated front companies of his;

Whereas, on February 15, 2019, Gavin Williamson, then-United Kingdom Defense Secretary, said that the "clandestine use of proxies, mercenary armies like the infamous and unaccountable Wagner Group, allows the Kremlin to get away with murder while denying the blood on their hands";

Whereas, on December 13, 2018, John Bolton, then-Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, affirmed that "the predatory practices pursued by China and Russia. . . in Africa. . . pose a significant threat to United States national security interests"; and

Whereas General Stephen J. Townsend, Commander of the United States Africa Command, on April 2, 2019, expressed great "concern" about the Wagner group, and, on January 30, 2020, noted that private military contractors such as Wagner, are "leading the fight in Libya against the UN-backed and U.S.-recognized Government of National Accord"; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the activities of Russian national Yevgeniy Prigozhin, his affiliated entities, and the Wagner Group pose a threat to the

national interests and national security of the United States allies and partners of the United States around the world; and

(2) the President, in addition to maintaining sanctions on Yevgeniy Prigozhin, his affiliated entities, and the Wagner Group, should—

(A) work with Congress to develop and execute a strategy drawing on the multiple instruments of United States national power available to the President, to counter the malign influence and activities of Prigozhin, the entities linked to him, and the Wagner Group; and

(B) coordinate that strategy with international partners, while exhorting them to strengthen sanctions against Prigozhin and his entities and explore new avenues for curbing his destabilizing activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 27—RELATIVE TO SENATE PROCEDURE IN THE 117TH CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 27

Resolved,

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, or any other provision of the Standing Rules or Standing Orders of the Senate—

(1) the committees of the Senate, including joint committees and special committees, for the 117th Congress shall be composed equally of members of both parties, to be appointed at a later time by the two Leaders;

(2) the budgets and office space for such committees, and all other subgroups, shall likewise be equal, with up to an additional 10 percent to be allocated for administrative expenses to be determined by the Committee on Rules and Administration, with the total administrative expenses allocation for all committees not to exceed historic levels; and

(3) the Chairman of a full committee may discharge a subcommittee of any Legislative or Executive Calendar item which has not been reported because of a tie vote and place it on the full committee's agenda.

SEC. 2. The committee ratios under section 1 shall remain in effect for the remainder of the 117th Congress, except that if at any time during the 117th Congress either party attains a majority of the whole number of Senators, then each committee ratio shall be adjusted to reflect the ratio of the parties in the Senate, and the provisions of this resolution shall have no further effect, except that the members who were first appointed by the two Leaders to such committees in the 117th Congress, pursuant to the authority in this resolution, shall no longer be members of the committees, and the committee chairmanships shall be held by the party which has attained a majority of the whole number of Senators.

SEC. 3. Pursuant to the provisions and exceptions described in sections 1 and 2, the following additional Standing Orders of the Senate shall be in effect for the 117th Congress:

(1) If a committee has not reported out a measure or matter because of a tie vote, then—

(A) the Chairman of the committee shall transmit a notice of a tie vote to the Secretary of the Senate and such notice shall be printed in the Record; and

(B) after such notice of a tie vote has been transmitted, the Majority Leader or the Minority Leader may, only after consultation with the Chairman and Ranking Member of the committee, make a motion to discharge such measure or matter, and time for debate

on such motion shall be limited to 4 hours, to be equally divided between the two Leaders or their designees, with no other motions, points of order, or amendments in order: *Provided*, That following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote on the motion to discharge, without any intervening action, motion, or debate, and if agreed to, the measure or matter be placed immediately on the appropriate Calendar.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, to ensure that any cloture motion shall be offered for the purpose of bringing to a close debate, in no case shall it be in order for any cloture motion to be presented on an amendable item during its first 12 hours of Senate debate: *Provided*, That all other provisions of rule XXII remain in status quo.

SEC. 4. It is the sense of the Senate that both Leaders shall seek to attain an equal balance of the interests of the two parties when scheduling and debating legislative and executive business generally, and in keeping with the present Senate precedents, a motion to proceed to any Legislative or Executive Calendar item shall continue to be considered the prerogative of the Majority Leader, although the Standing Rules of the Senate do not prohibit the right of the Republican Leader, or any other Senator, to move to proceed to any item.

SENATE RESOLUTION 28—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 28

Resolved, That pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 27, the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY: Ms. Stabenow (Chair), Mr. Leahy, Mr. Brown, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Bennet, Mrs. Gillibrand, Ms. Smith, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Booker, Mr. Luján, Mr. Warnock.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Leahy (Chair), Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Reed, Mr. Tester, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Coons, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Manchin, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Heinrich.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Reed (Chair), Mrs. Shaheen, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Kaine, Mr. King, Ms. Warren, Mr. Peters, Mr. Manchin, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Kelly.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Brown (Chair), Mr. Reed, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Tester, Mr. Warner, Ms. Warren, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith, Ms. Sinema, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Warnock.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION: Ms. Cantwell (Chair), Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Markey, Mr. Peters, Ms. Baldwin, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Tester, Ms. Sinema, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Luján, Mr. Hickenlooper, Mr. Warnock.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Manchin (Chair), Mr. Wyden, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Heinrich, Ms. Hirono, Mr. King, Ms. Cortez Masto, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Hickenlooper.

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Carper (Chair), Mr. Cardin, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Markey, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Padilla.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Wyden (Chair), Ms. Stabenow, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Menendez, Mr. Carper, Mr. Cardin, Mr. Brown, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Casey, Mr. Warner, Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Warren.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Menendez (Chair), Mr. Cardin, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Coons, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Markey, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Booker, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Van Hollen.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS: Mrs. Murray (Chair), Mr. Sanders, Mr. Casey, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Smith, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Luján, Mr. Hickenlooper.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Peters (Chair), Mr. Carper, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Sinema, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Ossoff.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Warner (Chair), Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. King, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Casey, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Reed (ex officio), Mr. Schumer (ex officio).

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Durbin (Chair), Mr. Leahy, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Coons, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Booker, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Ossoff.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Sanders (Chair), Mrs. Murray, Mr. Wyden, Ms. Stabenow, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Warner, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Luján, Mr. Padilla.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Ms. Klobuchar (Chair), Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Schumer, Mr. Warner, Mr. Leahy, Mr. King, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Ossoff.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Mr. Cardin (Chair), Ms. Cantwell, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Markey, Mr. Booker, Mr. Coons, Ms. Hirono, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Hickenlooper.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Tester (Chair), Mrs. Murray, Mr. Sanders, Mr. Brown, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Manchin, Ms. Sinema, Ms. Hassan.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING: Mr. Casey (Chair), Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Warren, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Warnock.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Mr. Heinrich (Chair), Ms. Klobuchar, Ms. Hassan, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Warnock.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Coons (Chair), Mr. Schatz, Mrs. Shaheen.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Schatz (Chair), Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Tester, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith, Mr. Luján.

SENATE RESOLUTION 29—ELECTING SONCERIA ANN BERRY AS SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 29

Resolved, That SONCERIA ANN BERRY of Maryland be, and she is hereby, elected Secretary of the Senate, effective March 1, 2021.

SENATE RESOLUTION 30—TO AMEND S. RES. 458 OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH CONGRESS, AS AMENDED

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 30

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PAY OF STAFF OF THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE AND THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE DISPLACED BY A CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP.

Section 6(a) of Senate Resolution 458 (98th Congress), agreed to October 4, 1984, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)(A)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “or” at the end;

(B) in clause (ii), by adding “or” at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) of—

“(I) the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, or

“(II) the Secretary of the Senate.”; and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end; and

(ii) in clause (ii), by striking “and” at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) in the case of employment described in paragraph (3)(A)(iii)(I), a change in the individual occupying the position of Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, or

“(iv) in the case of employment described in paragraph (3)(A)(iii)(II), a change in the individual occupying the position of Secretary of the Senate, and”;

(B) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “or the Senator” and inserting “the Senator”;

(ii) by inserting “the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, or the Secretary of the Senate,” after “expiring.”.

SENATE RESOLUTION 31—EXPRESSING THE SENATE'S OPPOSITION TO THE CURRENT, INEFFECTIVE JCPOA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. CRAMER, and Ms. ERNST) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 31

Whereas the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (referred to in this preamble as the “JCPOA”) was agreed to in July 2015 by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States, and 5 other major world powers, and was formally adopted in October 2015;

Whereas in October 2015, Iran conducted a ballistic missile test in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 (2015);

Whereas in November 2015, Iran tested 2 medium-range ballistic missile capable of carrying multiple warheads;

Whereas in March 2016, Iran launched 2 ballistic missiles;

Whereas in April 2018, Iran issued one of its many threats to annihilate Israel;

Whereas in May 2019, Iran, while still obligated to the terms of the JCPOA, announced that it will not be bound to limits on heavy water and enriched uranium stockpiles;

Whereas in July 2019—

(1) Iran exceeded limitations imposed by the JCPOA on its enriched uranium stockpile; and

(2) the International Atomic Energy Agency (referred to in this preamble as the “IAEA”) verified that Iran had stockpiled enriched uranium in excess of the 300 kilograms limit;

Whereas in September 2019—

(1) Iran announced that it will continue to advance centrifuges, which is a violation of the JCPOA; and