



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

January 30, 2019

The Honorable Jackie Speier
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Speier,

I write in response to your letter about the delisting of Rusal. While your letter is dated January 23, we only received it yesterday afternoon after reaching out to your office upon reading about your letter in BuzzFeed.

Your letter is premised on the existence of a supposed “transaction that took place between [Secretary Mnuchin] and Leonid Blavatnik.” No such transaction occurred. The Secretary did not sell any interest in any business to Mr. Blavatnik.

Your allegation appears to be based on an old, unsourced, uncorroborated rumor reported in the Hollywood Reporter. That publication wrote in mid-2017 that when the Secretary divested his ownership of RatPac-Dune Entertainment Holdings LLC (“RPDE”) as required by his Ethics Agreement, unnamed “sources” claimed Mr. Blavatnik purchased the Secretary’s stake. As you know, the Hollywood Reporter explained in the very same sentence that Mr. Blavatnik had refuted that rumor, saying “that neither he nor any of his companies bought out Mnuchin’s stake.”

To be clear, the Secretary did not sell his stake in RPDE to Mr. Blavatnik or his companies. The Secretary sold his stake in RPDE to a third party unconnected to Mr. Blavatnik.

According to publicly available information, the actual facts appear to be as follows: In mid-April 2017, a company owned by Mr. Blavatnik, Access Industries, acquired an interest in a motion picture production and financing company, RatPac Entertainment, that in turn owned a minority stake in RPDE. The Secretary was not a party to that transaction and in fact has never held any interest in RatPac Entertainment. Both Access Industries’ website and various news reports all reflect that Access Industries bought its interest in RatPac Entertainment from James Packer. Moreover, this reported investment in RatPac Entertainment was announced *after* the March 31 effective date of the Secretary’s divestiture of his stake in RPDE, shortly before that transaction closed. Since the closure of that transaction, the Secretary has been fully divested from RPDE.

In short, the transaction you describe never happened. Therefore, there is no “conflict of interest” and no basis even to consider recusal. And neither Mr. Blavatnik, nor his agent, nor any sanctioned individual contacted the Secretary in connection with Rusal’s delisting.

We note as well that although you call Mr. Blavatnik “a Ukrainian-born oligarch,” he is by all accounts a U.S. citizen. You also characterize him as a “sanctioned individual,” but he is not subject to any sanctions of which we are aware. It appears that Mr. Blavatnik emigrated from Ukraine to the United States more than 40 years ago, was educated at Columbia and Harvard, and was knighted by the Queen of England in 2017 “for services to Philanthropy.”

We are glad to have provided you with the facts and would have appreciated the opportunity to do so before these allegations about a fictitious transaction formed the basis of false news reports.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Bang
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Legislative Affairs