

From: [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI)
To: [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI) [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI)
Subject: Plasmic Echo - Summary ---
Date: Wednesday, June 01, 2022 9:53:51 AM

Classification: [REDACTED]

Classified By [REDACTED]
Derived From: FBI NSICG
Declassify On: 20471231

Please send this to the main file.
Thank you,

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI)
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2022 9:28 AM
To: [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI)
Cc: [REDACTED] (WF) (FBI)
Subject: Plasmic Echo - Summary ---

Classification: [REDACTED]

Classified By [REDACTED]
Derived From: FBI NSICG
Declassify On: 20471231

WFO is conducting a Mishandling of Classified or NDI Information investigation. WFO's investigative goals are to gather information and determine the circumstances surrounding [REDACTED]

WFO has copied all the documents contained in the boxes returned to NARA. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Of interest, in the responses to DOJ, the attorney outlined what is likely a defense strategy to a potential mishandling charge. Namely, that a President has absolute authority to declassify documents, and that Presidential action involving classified documents are not subject to criminal sanction. Another attorney has stated in the press that the former President declassified all these records. WFO anticipated this response and has repeatedly asked DOJ to reach out to White House Counsel for an opinion on this, but to date, and to WFO's knowledge, this discussion has not happened. Whether the attorney's interpretation of the President's authority is correct or not needs to be addressed, but no matter what, it bears on the former President's intent, as well as anyone operating under his direction, which is an element of any criminal charge currently being contemplated. DOJ has also been queried whether any charges are being contemplated, and who the subject(s) might be. WFO has not gotten that answer as of yet.

Per FBIHQ, any search warrants would be served after the former President departs Mar a Lago. That date is currently believed to be 6/3/2022. In the meantime, WFO has continued to conduct interviews in an effort to gain more information related to the goals of the case, as well as to provide additional information for a search warrant.

Even as we continue down the path towards a search warrant, WFO believes that a reasonable conversation with the former President's attorney, [REDACTED], ought not to be discounted. At a minimum, even if the former President's attorney is correct and that the documents were all declassified (or believed to be declassified), it can be reasonably argued that the documents remain sensitive and should be properly secured until the matter of classification is sorted out. This conversation could easily be accomplished at the same time that WFO presses forward with the investigation and continues building out the search warrant.

[REDACTED]
Assistant Special Agent in Charge

Counterintelligence | Branch II/Global

FBI Washington Field Office

[REDACTED] (Office) | [REDACTED] Cell)

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