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## **Trump Received Millions From Foreign Governments as President, Report Finds**

House Democrats released evidence that he took in at least \$7.8 million from foreign entities while in office, engaging in the kind of conduct the G.O.P. is grasping to pin on President Biden.

Two people holding an umbrella walk in front of a building, which has a sign that reads "Trump International Hotel."

The Trump International Hotel in Washington closed in 2022. Credit...Kenny Holston for The New York Times

By Luke Broadwater

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Donald J. Trump's businesses received at least \$7.8 million from 20 foreign governments during his presidency, according to new documents released by House Democrats on Thursday that show how much he received from overseas transactions while he was in the White House, most of it from China.

The transactions, detailed in a 156-page report called "White House For Sale" that was produced by Democrats on the House Oversight Committee, offer concrete evidence that the former president engaged in the kind of conduct that House Republicans have labored, so far unsuccessfully, to prove that President Biden did as they work to build an impeachment case against him.

Using documents produced through a court fight, the report describes how foreign governments and their controlled entities, including a top U.S. adversary, interacted with Trump businesses while he was president. They paid millions to the Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C.; Trump International Hotel in Las Vegas; Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue in New York; and Trump World Tower at 845 United Nations Plaza in New York.

The Constitution prohibits federal officeholders from accepting money, payments or gifts of any kind whatever from foreign governments and monarchs unless they obtain the consent of the Congress to do so. The report notes that Mr. Trump never went to Congress to seek consent.

House Democrats highlighted the transactions on Thursday as a

counterweight to Republicans' impeachment inquiry into Mr. Biden, which has sought to tie him to international business deals by his son Hunter Biden before his father became president in a bid to prove corruption or influence peddling. They have so far failed to show that President Biden was enriched in any way by any of those transactions.

By elevating his personal financial interests and the policy priorities of corrupt foreign powers over the American public interest, former President Trump violated both the clear commands of the Constitution and the careful precedent set and observed by every previous commander in chief, Representative Jamie Raskin of Maryland, the top Democrat on the Oversight Committee, wrote in a foreword to the report.

Among the countries patronizing Mr. Trump's properties, China made the largest total payment — \$5.5 million — to his business interests, the report found. Those payments included millions of dollars from China's Embassy in the United States, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and the Hainan Airlines Holding Company.

Saudi Arabia was the second-largest spender, shelling out more than \$615,000 at the Trump World Tower and Trump International Hotel.

Eric Trump, the former president's son, has long insisted that foreign interests did not influence his father's presidency and that any profit the company earned on the hotel stays was returned to the federal government through a voluntary annual payment to the Treasury Department.

But Mr. Raskin noted on Thursday that donating profits to the Treasury falls short of the constitutional requirements placed on a president.

On Thursday, Eric Trump said in an email that the Chinese bank mentioned in the report had signed a 20-year lease at Trump Tower in 2008, almost a decade before his father took office. And he argued it was clear that the former president had not allowed his personal business incentives to drive his official actions.

That narrative is insane, Eric Trump said of the Democrats' report. He added that there is no president in United States history who was tougher on China than Donald Trump, citing the substantial tariffs the former president imposed on the country's goods and services. He also said the Trump Organization did not have the ability or viability to stop someone from booking through third parties at the hotel.

House Republicans also dismissed the revelations, arguing that there

was nothing wrong with Mr. Trump receiving revenue from foreign governments while he was president but that Mr. Biden's family's business was corrupt.

Former President Trump has legitimate businesses, but the Bidens do not, Representative James R. Comer, Republican of Kentucky and the chairman of the oversight panel, said in a statement on Thursday. He charged that the Bidens had made more than three times as much as the new records show Mr. Trump had from foreign governments by cashing in on the Biden name, adding that, No goods or services were provided other than access to Joe Biden and the Biden network.

The Democrats' report acknowledges its own limitations. Democrats fought aggressively through years of litigation to gain access to only a portion of Mr. Trump's business records. After they won court rulings, Mazars USA, the longtime accounting firm for Mr. Trump that cut ties with him and his family business, began in 2022 turning over documents related to his financial dealings.

The development came after Mazars said it could no longer stand behind a decade of annual financial statements it had prepared for the Trump Organization.

But once Republicans won control of Congress, they dropped the effort to force Mazars to continue with its production of documents about Mr. Trump's business dealings.

Mr. Comer made clear he had abandoned any investigation into the former president's financial dealings and was instead focusing on whether Mr. Biden and members of his family were involved in an influence-peddling scheme.

Still, Democrats say they received key material before the investigation was shut down.

Critically, even this subset of documents reveals a stunning web of millions of dollars in payments made by foreign governments and their agents directly to Trump-owned businesses while President Trump was in the White House, the report states. These payments were made while these governments were promoting specific foreign policy goals with the Trump administration and even, at times, with President Trump himself, and as they were requesting specific actions from the United States to advance their own national policy objectives.

The report is the result of a multiyear investigation into Mr. Trump's receipt of payments from foreign-controlled entities while in office. The investigation began in 2016 under the leadership of Representative Elijah E. Cummings, Democrat of Maryland, who died in 2019.

It noted that Mr. Trump sometimes bragged about the wealth that foreign governments had provided him, including at a campaign rally in 2015, when he suggested that his personal financial incentives might influence his dealings with another government.

“Saudi Arabia, I get along great with all of them,” the report quotes him saying. “They buy apartments from me. They spend \$40 million, \$50 million. Am I supposed to dislike them? I like them very much!”

The report urges Congress to consider adopting new disclosure rules to help the legislative branch obtain information for proper oversight. It also recommends a more formal procedure for presidents and other officials to seek Congress’s permission when they receive and want to retain wealth from other countries.

Luke Broadwater covers Congress with a focus on congressional investigations. More about Luke Broadwater

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