

Keep up with the news by installing RT's extension for Chrome. Never miss a story with this clean and simple app that delivers the latest headlines to you.

QUESTION MORE

LIVE



21:28 GMT, May 31, 2020

[Home](#) / [World News](#) /

Anonymous blows lid off huge psyop in Europe and it's funded by UK & US

23 Nov, 2018 16:30 / Updated 1 year ago



© REUTERS/Mark Makela

2080

12

Follow RT on



Anonymous has published documents which it claims have unearthed a massive UK-led psyop to create a "large-scale information secret service" in Europe – all under the guise of countering "Russian propaganda."

Update: Following publication, a major Anonymous-linked account has denied the hacking group was behind the leak and the Integrity Initiative has confirmed receiving money from the British government.

Keep up with the news by installing RT's extension for Chrome.
Never miss a story with this clean and simple app that delivers the latest headlines to you.

Statecraft III 2019.

The main **objective** is *"to provide a coordinated Western response to Russian disinformation and other elements of hybrid warfare."* The Institute for Statecraft is affiliated with the NATO HQ Public Diplomacy Division and the Home Office-funded 'Prevent' program, so objectivity is, of course, at the forefront of their work.

ALSO ON RT.COM

Dirty little secret: 'Think tanks' are among top culprits in media disinformation crisis

Operating on a **budget** of £1.9 million (US\$2.4 million), the secretive Integrity Initiative consists of "clusters" of local politicians, journalists, military personnel, scientists and academics. The team is dedicated to searching for and publishing *"evidence"* of Russian interference in European affairs, while themselves influencing leadership behind the scenes, the documents claim.

The UK establishment appears to be conducting the very activities of which it and its allies have long-accused the Kremlin, with little or no corroborating evidence. The program also aims to *"change attitudes in Russia itself"* as well as influencing Russian speakers in the EU and North America, one of the leaked **documents** states.

Keep up with the news by installing RT's extension for Chrome.
Never miss a story with this clean and simple app that delivers the latest headlines to you.

there's more!

According to the Anonymous leak, major plans to expand the sphere of influence throughout eastern Europe, the US, and Canada, as well as the MENA region, are allegedly underway.

The clusters' work is apparently done under absolute secrecy via concealed contacts embedded throughout British embassies, the leak claims, some of which are listed as part of the documentation.

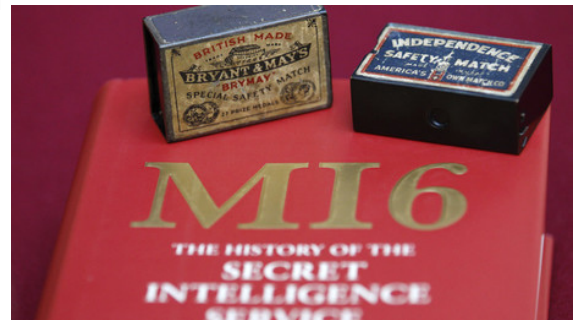
In the documents, the Integrity Initiative states that sharing analysis of alleged "*Russian attacks*" with other countries in the network at a governmental level would likely increase international "*collaboration and Alliance cohesion.*"

The initiative claims it is not a government body, of course, but does work with unnamed British "*government agencies.*" The initiative has received £168,000 in funding from HQ NATO Public Diplomacy and £250,000 from the [US State Department](#), the documents allege.

Some of its purported members include British MPs and high-profile "*independent*" journalists with a penchant for anti-Russian sentiment in their collective online oeuvre, as showcased by a brief glance at their Twitter feeds.

Edward Lucas, journalist for the Times.

READ MORE



UK spy chiefs up in arms over Trump making public Russiagate surveillance requests – report



Edward Lucas
@edwardlucas

Why did nobody in British govt — Cabinet Office, Home Office, Foreign Office, Justice Ministry — notice upcoming Russian coup at [@INTERPOL_HQ](#) ? [@Number10press](#) claims we (now) have seamless whole of govt approach to Russia and other hostile states

37 2:14 PM - Nov 20, 2018

[29 people are talking about this](#)

Keep up with the news by installing RT's extension for Chrome.
Never miss a story with this clean and simple app that delivers the latest headlines to you.



Bob Seely MP
@loWBobSeely

Please see my latest on [#Russia](#), sanctions and how oligarch cash funds Russia's political war against the [#West](#). My article accompanies hard-hitting [@CommonsForeign](#) report. Re [#sanctions](#), we need to say what we mean and mean what we say.conservativehome.com/platform/2018/...

Bob Seely: Kremlin-linked oligarchs' money...

Those who run Russia believe themselves to be in a 'political war' with the West. We need to treat the Kremlin as a threat rather than an irritant.
conservativehome.com

49 2:21 PM - May 21, 2018

[47 people are talking about this](#)

In one particular example given as a case study of the group's activities, the docs reveal how effective the strategy could be. According to the [documents](#), the 'Moncloa Campaign' was carried out by the group's Spanish cluster to prevent the appointment of Colonel Pedro Banos as director of Spain's Department of Homeland Security. And all it took was just a seven-and-a-half hour campaign, kicked off by several high-profile Spanish journalists affiliated with the secretive group.



Nacho Torreblanca
@jitorreblanca

Hilo: El Gobierno se dispone a nombrar al Coronel Baños, conocido por sus posiciones prorrusas y pro-Putin en los conflictos de Siria y Ucrania, Director del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DSN), un organismo clave situado en La Moncloa.

475 2:06 PM - Jun 7, 2018

[831 people are talking about this](#)

"The [Spanish] government is preparing to appoint Colonel Banos, known for his pro-Russian and pro-Putin positions in the Syrian and Ukrainian conflicts, as Director of the Department of Homeland Security, a key body located at the Moncloa," Nacho Torreblanca began in an extensive Twitter thread.

Keep up with the news by installing RT's extension for Chrome.
Never miss a story with this clean and simple app that delivers the latest headlines to you.

Este nombramiento revela ya sin duda que Sánchez está haciendo un Gobierno de famoseo. El señor Baños es a la geoestategia lo que un homeópata a la medicina. Eso sí, sale mucho en la tele. Lástima asignar cargos tan frívolamente en puestos tan vitales. politica.elpais.com/politica/2018/...

El candidato a director de la Seguridad Nacional es un defens...

Pedro Baños declaró "Rusia tiene de todo lo que carecemos nosotros"

elpais.com

204 2:34 PM - Jun 7, 2018

[236 people are talking about this](#)

Others joined in. Among them – according to the leaks – academic Miguel Ángel Quintana Paz, who wrote that *"Mr. Banos is to geopolitics as a homeopath is to medicine."* Appointing such a figure would be *"a shame."*

Keep up with the news by installing RT's extension for Chrome.
Never miss a story with this clean and simple app that delivers the latest headlines to you.

© www.cyberguerrilla.org

Spanish media, such as El Pais, then reported on these murmurings. Notably, members of the UK team, like MP Bob Seely, are also listed in the Banos op document. The latter lost out to Miguel Angel Ballesteros.



Bob Seely MP
@loWBobSeely

Interesting choice, possibly a concerning one. [#Spain's](#) New National Security man is perceived to be pro-Putin.
[twitter.com/InitIntegrity/...](https://twitter.com/InitIntegrity/)

Integrity Initiative @InitIntegrity
Spain preparing to appoint pro-Putin Pedro Baños as new Director of the National Security Department [twitter.com/jitorreblanca/...](https://twitter.com/jitorreblanca/)

6 7:42 PM - Jun 7, 2018

[See Bob Seely MP's other Tweets](#)

The case is being highlighted as one of the major examples, but similar operations can be carried out in numerous other EU states, Anonymous warns in their release.

RT has contacted the British Foreign Office and Statecraft, and is awaiting response. Commenting on the matter to RIA Novosti, a Foreign Office representative said that all the data about the project is available in open sources and they would appreciate it if people found out more about it.

Meanwhile, Moscow is not surprised by these activities, a diplomatic source told RT. The Foreign Ministry is studying and analyzing the leaked documents and will keep track of the issue, the source said.

RT has also reached out to some of the people named in the clusters. In a statement to the channel, Edward Lucas said that the documents prove nothing and he was not paid by the Institute for Statecraft, but he supports their work.

READ MORE

"I have not been paid by the Institute. But I applaud their work in dealing with the Chekist regime's pernicious information and influence

Keep up with the news by installing RT's extension for Chrome.
Never miss a story with this clean and simple app that delivers the latest headlines to you.

government of *“looting”* the nation, *“bullying neighboring countries and murdering its critics.”* **Cortez ‘a Russian tool’**

Meanwhile, Stephen Blank, Senior Fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council, called the leak *“utter nonsense.”*

Sharing one's own point of view is never a problem, unless it is a hidden campaign to manipulate public opinion, security analyst Charles Shoebridge said. He argues that the whole *“cover operation”* makes people believe they are seeing *“genuine popular feelings,”* but all of this is *“orchestrated by generous funding and important figures linked to, in this case, the UK government.”*

“What we've got here is a hidden influence. Actually, these are not genuine opinions, or if they are genuine opinions, they are being pushed and given prominence because they are backed including by funding from organizations such as the UK government,” Shoebridge told RT.

Subscribe to RT newsletter to get stories the mainstream media won't tell you.

2080

12

Trends: [Russia news](#) , [Russia-NATO relations news](#) , [Russia-UK news](#)



LIKE RT ON FACEBOOK

'Whoever leads in AI will rule the world': Putin to Russian children on Knowledge Day

Google will 'de-rank' RT articles to make them harder to find – Eric Schmidt