**BBC**

President Donald Trump's ex-national security adviser, Michael Flynn, wants immunity to testify on alleged Russian election meddling, his lawyer says. Robert Kelner says his client "has a story to tell", but needs to guard against "unfair prosecution". Congress is investigating the allegations, with one senator warning of Kremlin "propaganda on steroids". Mr Flynn was sacked in February after misleading the White House about his conversations with a Russian envoy. His links to Russia are being scrutinised by the FBI and the House and Senate Intelligence Committees, as part of wider investigations into claims Moscow sought to help Donald Trump win the US presidential election, and into contacts between Russia and members of President Trump's campaign team. "General Flynn certainly has a story to tell, and he very much wants to tell it, should the circumstances permit," said his attorney, Robert Kelner, in a written statement. He said he would not comment on his discussions with congressional panels conducting the investigation. The lawyer said the media was awash with "unfounded allegations, outrageous claims of treason, and vicious innuendo". "No reasonable person, who has the benefit of advice from counsel, would submit to questioning in such a highly politicized, witch-hunt environment without assurances against unfair prosecution," he said. Three other former Trump aides, former campaign chief Paul Manafort and former advisers Roger Stone and Carter Page, have offered to testify without requesting immunity. The Senate Intelligence Committee opened its hearing on Thursday with one member saying Moscow had sought to "hijack" the US election. Democrat Mark Warner said Russia may have used technology to spread disinformation, including fake news for voters in key states, such as Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. "This Russian 'propaganda on steroids' was designed to poison the national conversation in America," Senator Warner said. Panel chairman Richard Burr, a Republican, warned: "We are all targets of a sophisticated and capable adversary."

Russian President Putin has again dismissed the US claims as "nonsense" Mr Burr also confirmed there had been "conversations" about interviewing Mr Flynn, but his appearance had not been confirmed. The Trump presidency has faced continued allegations that members of its team colluded with Russian officials during the election campaign. The president regularly dismisses the claims as "fake news" and Russia has also ridiculed the allegations. President Putin did so again on Thursday at an Arctic forum, describing them as "nonsense" and "irresponsible".

**Guardian**

Donald Trump’s former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, has all but confirmed that he offered to testify before the FBI and congressional committees about potential links between the Trump campaign and Russia in exchange for immunity.

Flynn, who was ousted from his post in February for misleading the White House about discussions he held with the Russian ambassador to the US, released a statement on Thursday through his lawyer declaring that he had a story to tell – but was first seeking “assurances against unfair prosecution”. The Wall Street Journal first reported on Flynn’s offer to cut a deal with the FBI and Senate and House intelligence committees. “General Flynn certainly has a story to tell, and he very much wants to tell it, should the circumstances permit,” Flynn’s counsel, Robert Kelner, wrote in the statement. Kelner declined to comment on the details of Flynn’s conversations with the federal and congressional officials who are conducting separate inquiries into Russian interference in the US election. But he noted Flynn was “the target of unsubstantiated public demands by Members of Congress and other political critics that he be criminally investigated”. “No reasonable person, who has the benefit of advice from counsel, would submit to questioning in such a highly politicized, witch hunt environment without assurances against unfair prosecution.” But contrary to the assertion by Flynn’s lawyers that discussions with the relevant committees were already underway, top aides on the House intelligence committee disputed the claim. Jack Langer, a spokesman for the House intelligence committee chairman Devin Nunes, said no such offer had been made by Flynn in exchange for immunity. A Democratic committee aide also said members of his party had not been presented with an offer from Flynn. A spokeswoman for the Department of Justice declined to comment. Flynn was forced to resign from the Trump administration earlier this year after it was revealed he lied to Mike Pence about the nature of his conversations with Sergei Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the US. Flynn spoke with the ambassador on multiple occasions during the transition process. One of those discussions pertained to US sanctions against Russia and occurred on 29 December – the same day Barack Obama levied more sanctions against Russian officials as an act of retribution toward its government for meddling in the election. Flynn was also paid nearly $68,000 in fees and expenses by Russian-linked companies in 2015, the majority of which came from the Russian government-backed television network RT. Immunity is typically sought to avoid penalty for breaking the law. Flynn agreed with the characterization while discussing the partial immunity granted to an aide to Hillary Clinton amid the federal government’s investigation of the former secretary of state’s use of a private email server at the state department. Speaking to NBC’s Meet the Press in September, two months before the election, Flynn stated: “When you are given immunity, that means you have probably committed a crime.”

**Telegraph**

Mike Flynn, President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, is in talks with the House and Senate intelligence committees about giving testimony in their investigations of potential ties between the Trump campaign and Russia, his lawyer said on Thursday.

Mr Flynn, who was fired in February for failing to disclose talks with Russia's ambassador before Mr Trump took office, had sought immunity from the FBI and the Congressional committees in exchange for his testimony, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing officials with knowledge of the matter. The newspaper said he had so far found no takers. Robert Kelner, Mr Flynn's lawyer, confirmed his client had held discussions with the House and Senate intelligence committees, but he did not mention the FBI. He said no "reasonable person" with legal counsel would answer questions without assurances. "General Flynn certainly has a story to tell, and he very much wants to tell it, should the circumstances permit," Mr Kelner said. "The media are awash with unfounded allegations, outrageous claims of treason, and vicious innuendo directed against him. "He is now the target of unsubstantiated public demands by members of Congress and other political critics that he be criminally investigated. "No reasonable person, who has the benefit of advice from counsel, would submit to questioning in such a highly politicised, witch hunt environment without assurances against unfair prosecution." The House of Representatives panel denied the Journal report. "Michael Flynn has not offered to testify to HPSCI in exchange for immunity," Jack Langer, the committee spokesman, said in a statement. The FBI declined to comment. The Senate committee did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The FBI and the House and Senate intelligence committees are investigating allegations that Russians hacked Democratic Party computers and publicly disclosed the information in a bid to tip the November presidential election in favour of Mr Trump. They are also looking into possible links between the Trump campaign and Russians. Independent Senator Angus King, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told CNN he could not confirm the Journal report, but "if that turns out to be the case, that's a significant development I believe because it indicates that he has something important to say." Leading one of the investigations is Devin Nunes, the House intelligence committee chairman. The White House refused on Thursday to say whether it secretly fed intelligence reports to Mr Nunes, fuelling concerns about political interference in the investigation. Fending off the growing criticism, the administration invited lawmakers from both parties to view classified material it said relates to surveillance of the president's associates. The invitation came as The New York Times reported that two White House officials - including an aide whose job was recently saved by Mr Trump - secretly helped Mr Nunes examine intelligence information. Last week Mr Nunes revealed he had seen intelligence reports showing Mr Trump was the subject of "incidental surveillance" by US agencies, and refused to reveal his source. Meanwhile, the Senate intelligence committee held its own hearing on Thursday, during which it was told that Vladimir Putin personally ordered a campaign to steal the presidential election from Hillary Clinton. Democratic Senator Mark Warner, vice-chairman of the Senate committee, said: "Vladimir Putin ordered a deliberate campaign carefully constructed to undermine our election. There were paid internet trolls working out of a facility in Russia. "This Russian 'propaganda on steroids' was designed to poison the national conversation in America." On whether there were links between Russia and Mr Trump's campaign Mr Warner said: "We are seeking to determine whether there is an actual fire, but there is a great, great deal of smoke." Mr Putin issued his most emphatic denial so far on Thursday, calling the accusations he meddled in the US election “nonsense, endless, and groundless”.

**Daily Mail**

President Donald Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn is reportedly willing to testify about the Trump campaign's ties to Russia in exchange for immunity from prosecution. Flynn, who resigned as Trump's security adviser after just 24 days, has sent the request to both the FBI and the House and Senate intelligence committees, the Wall Street Journal reports. The agencies have not yet taken Flynn up on his offer, according to officials with knowledge of the matter. 'General Flynn certainly has a story to tell, and he very much wants to tell it, should the circumstances permit,' said Flynn's attorney, Robert Kelner.

President Donald Trump's former national security adviser Michael Flynn is reportedly willing to testify about the Trump campaign's ties to Russia in exchange for immunity

Kelner said no 'reasonable person' with legal counsel would answer questions without assurances that he would not be prosecuted, given calls from some members of Congress that the retired lieutenant general should face criminal charges. Flynn's ties to Russia have been scrutinized by the FBI and are under investigation by the House and Senate intelligence committees. Both committees are looking into Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election and any ties between Trump associates and the Kremlin. His decision comes after he told NBC's Chuck Todd last year that anyone who seeks immunity has 'probably committed a crime'. He made the comments in relation to former Hillary Clinton staffers being granted immunity as the FBI investigated her use of her server when she was secretary of state. 'The very last thing that John Podesta (Clinton's campaign chairman) just said is no individual too big to jail, that should include people like Hillary Clinton,' he said.

'I mean, five people around her have had, have been given immunity, to include her former Chief of Staff. When you are given immunity, that means that you have probably committed a crime.' Flynn's resignation in February came after reports emerged that he misled White House staff on his interactions with Russia and discussed sanctions with the Russian ambassador prior to the inauguration. Since July, the FBI has been conducting a counterintelligence investigation into Russia's interference in the election and possible coordination with Trump associates. Flynn's resignation in February came after reports emerged that he misled White House staff on his interactions with Russia and discussed sanctions with the Russian ambassador. The Justice Department had warned the Trump administration about Flynn's contacts with Russia weeks before he was forced out.

Government officials supposedly informed the White House because they were concerned Flynn could be vulnerable to blackmail by the Kremlin. The top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee said on Wednesday that the panel 'will get to the bottom' of Russia's interference in the 2016 election. Sen. Mark Warner, the Virginia Democrat and vice chairman, and Sen. Richard Burr, the committee's Republican chairman, addressed reporters ahead of their panel's first hearing on Russia. The stakes for the Senate investigation have been heightened given the disarray in the House investigation into Russia. Democrats have called on Rep. Devin Nunes, the Republican chair of the House committee, to recuse himself over his close relationship with the Trump White House.

Burr says the Senate committee has contacted 20 individuals about sitting for interviews. Among them is Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser, who has acknowledged meetings with Russians during the transition.

**Summarisation – First phase**

President Donald Trump's ex-national security adviser, Michael Flynn, wants immunity to testify on alleged Russian election meddling, his lawyer says. The newspaper said he had so far found no takers. Robert Kelner says his client "has a story to tell", but needs to guard against "unfair prosecution". Congress is investigating the allegations, with one senator warning of Kremlin "propaganda on steroids". Mr Flynn was sacked in February after misleading the White House about his conversations with a Russian envoy. "The media are awash with unfounded allegations, outrageous claims of treason, and vicious innuendo directed against him. His links to Russia are being scrutinised by the FBI and the House and Senate Intelligence Committees, as part of wider investigations into claims Moscow sought to help Donald Trump win the US presidential election, and into contacts between Russia and members of President Trump's campaign team. "General Flynn certainly has a story to tell, and he very much wants to tell it, should the circumstances permit," said his attorney, Robert Kelner, in a written statement. He said he would not comment on his discussions with congressional panels conducting the investigation. The lawyer said the media was awash with "unfounded allegations, outrageous claims of treason, and vicious innuendo". "No reasonable person, who has the benefit of advice from counsel, would submit to questioning in such a highly politicized, witch-hunt environment without assurances against unfair prosecution," he said. Three other former Trump aides, former campaign chief Paul Manafort and former advisers Roger Stone and Carter Page, have offered to testify without requesting immunity. A spokeswoman for the Department of Justice declined to comment. The Senate Intelligence Committee opened its hearing on Thursday with one member saying Moscow had sought to "hijack" the US election. Democrat Mark Warner said Russia may have used technology to spread disinformation, including fake news for voters in key states, such as Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. "This Russian 'propaganda on steroids' was designed to poison the national conversation in America," Senator Warner said. Panel chairman Richard Burr, a Republican, warned: "We are all targets of a sophisticated and capable adversary."Russian President Putin has again dismissed the US claims as "nonsense" Mr Burr also confirmed there had been "conversations" about interviewing Mr Flynn, but his appearance had not been confirmed. The Trump presidency has faced continued allegations that members of its team colluded with Russian officials during the election campaign. "This Russian 'propaganda on steroids' was designed to poison the national conversation in America."

**Removing Redundancies**

President Donald Trump's ex-national security adviser, Michael Flynn, wants immunity to testify on alleged Russian election meddling, his lawyer says. The newspaper said he had so far found no takers. Robert Kelner says his client "has a story to tell", but needs to guard against "unfair prosecution". Congress is investigating the allegations, with one senator warning of Kremlin "propaganda on steroids". Mr Flynn was sacked in February after misleading the White House about his conversations with a Russian envoy. "The media are awash with unfounded allegations, outrageous claims of treason, and vicious innuendo directed against him. His links to Russia are being scrutinised by the FBI and the House and Senate Intelligence Committees, as part of wider investigations into claims Moscow sought to help Donald Trump win the US presidential election, and into contacts between Russia and members of President Trump's campaign team. He said he would not comment on his discussions with congressional panels conducting the investigation. "No reasonable person, who has the benefit of advice from counsel, would submit to questioning in such a highly politicized, witch-hunt environment without assurances against unfair prosecution," he said. Three other former Trump aides, former campaign chief Paul Manafort and former advisers Roger Stone and Carter Page, have offered to testify without requesting immunity. A spokeswoman for the Department of Justice declined to comment. The Senate Intelligence Committee opened its hearing on Thursday with one member saying Moscow had sought to "hijack" the US election. Democrat Mark Warner said Russia may have used technology to spread disinformation, including fake news for voters in key states, such as Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania. Panel chairman Richard Burr, a Republican, warned: "We are all targets of a sophisticated and capable adversary."Russian President Putin has again dismissed the US claims as "nonsense" Mr Burr also confirmed there had been "conversations" about interviewing Mr Flynn, but his appearance had not been confirmed. The Trump presidency has faced continued allegations that members of its team colluded with Russian officials during the election campaign. "This Russian 'propaganda on steroids' was designed to poison the national conversation in America."