

Blackwater founder met secretly in Seychelles to establish Trump-Putin back channel

The United Arab Emirates arranged the secret meeting — nine days before Donald Trump's inauguration — between Blackwater founder Erik Prince and a Russian close to President Vladimir Putin as part of an apparent effort to establish a back-channel line of communication between Moscow and the president-elect, according to U.S., European and Arab officials. The White House said it was not aware of any meetings and Prince had no role in the transition.

By Adam Entous, Greg Miller, Kevin Sieff and Karen DeYoung

Graphic: Here's what we know so far about Team Trump's ties to Russian interests

Democrats secure enough votes to block Gorsuch, setting stage for 'nuclear option'

Four more Senate Democrats confirmed they will support a filibuster, giving the minority party the requisite 41 votes to maintain their procedural roadblock. The rules change known as the 'nuclear option' would allow Republicans to proceed with this and potentially future Supreme Court nominations on a simple majority vote, upending a long-standing Senate tradition that forces the governing party to seek bipartisan support.

By Elise Viebeck and Ed O'Keefe

Graphic: See which Democrats have signed on for the filibuster

The Fix: Democrats just took the filibuster off life support

The Fix: How Republicans can break the Democratic filibuster

Explosive device kills at least 11 on train in St. Petersburg, Russian official says

A large blast tore apart a train as it traveled between two central St. Petersburg metro stations, injuring dozens, officials said. The area's subway system was shut down as a precaution, and security was boosted in the city, where Russian President Vladimir Putin was holding talks. A second explosive device was found at another station but did not detonate.

By Andrew Roth and David Filipov

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Video: The scene in St. Petersburg



(Video: Sarah Parnass/Post; wire photos)



(AP and Library of Congress)

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Called to arms by the sinking of neutral ships and by German provocations, hundreds of thousands of Americans crossed the Atlantic to fight in World War I. Tens of thousands never came home. Those who did — such as a doughboy from Iowa and a nurse from Wisconsin, whose stories were recorded for posterity — would never be the same.

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In places such as Durant, Okla. — a town of 16,000 where federal funds are vital for programs that serve the poor and working class — excitement for Trump's presidency has been dulled by confusion over an agenda that seems aimed at hurting their community more than helping it.

By Jenna Johnson



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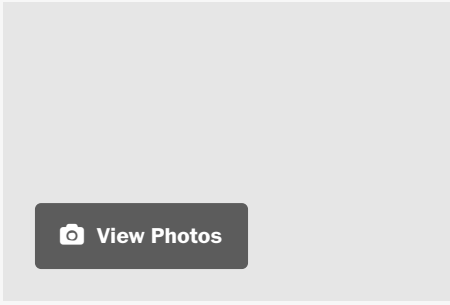
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