

CBS Mornings

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Report: Phone Hack Exposed Kushner's Bank Accounts]

NATE BURLESON: Alright, this morning, Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of President Trump, is strongly bushing back on a new report involving hacked iPhones, international spies, [and] a billion-dollar bank transfer from foreign governments. An upcoming new book claims Kushner was given more than \$2 billion in slush funds from Middle Eastern leaders. Nicole Sganga is following all of this for us. Nicole, good morning.

NICOLE SGANGA: Good morning, Nate. The excerpt released yesterday details allegations spanning Kushner's time serving as a senior White House adviser during the first Trump administration, which included U.S. policy in the Middle East. Now, last night, Kushner and his legal team released fiery statements denying all accusations against him, calling them, "totally false and defamatory."

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP [in 2017]: If you cannot produce peace in the Middle East, nobody can.

SGANGA: From Israel and Iran to China and Russia, Jared Kushner had a major hand in negotiating key foreign policy deals under his father-in-law, Donald Trump.

TRUMP [in 2018]: Jared has done an outstanding job and I think he's been treated very unfairly. He's a high-quality person.

SGANGA: But now explosive allegations. In the new book *Princes and Thieves: Jared Kushner and Mohamad bin Zayed's Secret Plot to Remake the Middle East*, allege Kushner had access to billions of dollars in undisclosed foreign bank accounts intended to pay for "influence within the U.S. government." According to the excerpt from the book published in *Vanity Fair* but not independently verified by CBS News, Dutch intelligence agents learned the Russians had hacked Kushner's phone in 2017, after flipping a Russian spy and began accessing Kushner's phone as well. According to the report, "when Kushner used the phone they could see his screen." "Almost as soon as they got inside, the intelligence service began capturing every image of Kushner's screen as he cruised it." The report alleges Dutch spies watched him log into a United Arab Emirates account that allegedly "had received hundreds of millions of dollars from a bank in Azerbaijan" and claims the leader of Saudi Arabia and the UAE "put at least \$2 billion into two bank accounts" linked to Kushner, including an account with Israel's central bank. According to the book excerpt, the money was often disguised as official government funding or charities, but was actually intended for off-the-books, diplomatic objectives, such as striking a deal to end

the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The report also claims the crown prince put roughly \$1 billion into at least one other account for Kushner, citing a “person with knowledge of the money,” saying “its allocation was for Kushner’s personal benefit.” Late yesterday, Kushner forcefully denied the accusations in the *Vanity Fair* excerpt, writing in part: “The allegations made by this author are completely insane and never happened. We denied every one of these claims on the record, yet the author failed to provide a single shred of evidence to substantiate any of them. No bank statements, wire transfer records, account numbers, transaction dates, or other verifiable details were provided to support these extraordinary accusations.” Kushner’s attorney said they “intend to pursue legal action against those responsible,” but did not specify exactly who, Gayle.

GAYLE KING: Nicole, thank you.