



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 26, 2021

Case No. FL-2021-00033

Gary Ruskin
4096 Piedmont Ave. #963
Oakland, CA 94611

Dear Mr. Ruskin:

As we noted in our letter dated June 24, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified an additional eight responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined that seven records may be released in part and one record must be withheld in its entirety. The processing of your request is ongoing.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. The record withheld in full is exempt from release pursuant to FOIA Exemption 5, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Laurel Lum, Trial Attorney, at laurel.h.lum@usdoj.gov or (202) 305-8177. Please refer to the case number, FL-2021-00033, and the civil action number, 20-cv-08415, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From: SMART Archive
Sent: Tue, 17 Nov 2020 15:51:05 GMT
To: SMART Core
Subject: CORRECTED VERSION Liberia: GHSA FY 2020 End of Year Report and FY 2021 Workplan Submission
Attachments: Liberia FY2020_End-of-Year_Report.docx, Liberia_FY2021_GHSA_Workplan.xlsx

UNCLASSIFIED
SBU



MRN: 20 MONROVIA 770
Date/DTG: Nov 17, 2020 / 171550Z NOV 20
From: AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: SHLH, KGHI, HHS, NIH, CDC, SENV, TBIO, EAID, KHIV, LR
Captions: AIDAC, SENSITIVE
Reference: 20 STATE 92894
Subject: CORRECTED VERSION Liberia: GHSA FY 2020 End of Year Report and FY 2021 Workplan Submission

1. (U) U.S. Embassy Monrovia submits the attached Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Fiscal Year 2020 End of Year Report and 2021 Workplan with contributions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Department of Defense (DOD), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the Department of State.

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Signature: GRUNDER

Drafted By: MONROVIA: (b)(6)
Cleared By: EXEC (b)(6)
 MGT: (b)(6)
 Pol-Econ (b)(6)
 ECON (b)(6)
 Director's Office (b)(6) (MONROVIA/DIR)
 Health Development Office (b)(6)
 Health Development Office: (b)(6)
 (b)(6) (Monrovia)

DOD/DSC: (b)(6)

HRSA: (b)(6) (HRSA)

EXEC: (b)(6)

MONROVIA: (b)(6)

Approved By:

Released By:

Attachments:

Liberia FY2020_End-of-Year_Report.docx,
Liberia_FY2021_GHSA_Workplan.xlsx

Dissemination Rule:

Archive Copy

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SBU~~

Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)

From: SMART Archive
Sent: Fri, 24 Apr 2020 10:42:06 GMT
To: SMART Core
Subject: Denmark COVID-19: Update on Re-opening; 394 Deaths, 8,408 Cases

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SBU~~



MRN: 20 COPENHAGEN 286
Date/DTG: Apr 24, 2020 / 241041Z APR 20
From: AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *IMMEDIATE*
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: ECON, PGOV, PREL, SHLH, DK, CDC, HHS, NIH, KNCV, SENV, KPAO, KFLU, KHLS, KSCA, GL, CASC, CMGT, AEMR, AMED, FO, MASS
Captions: SENSITIVE
Reference: A) 20 Copenhagen 280
 B) 20 Copenhagen 274
 C) 20 Copenhagen 272
 D) 20 Copenhagen 264
 E) 20 Copenhagen 254
 F) 20 Copenhagen 252
 G) 20 Copenhagen 244
 H) 20 Copenhagen 242
 I) 20 Copenhagen 240
 J) 20 Copenhagen 236
 K) 20 Copenhagen 154
Subject: Denmark COVID-19: Update on Re-opening; 394 Deaths, 8,408 Cases

Outbreak Update: 8,408 cases; 394 deaths (U)

(as of April 24, 11:00 a.m. local time)

1. ~~(SBU)~~ **Summary:**

- Denmark's gradual re-opening started on April 15. Business at hairdressers was up 40% year-on-year after their re-opening, and Danish consumption rebounded over the past week, which saw the re-opening of several sectors.
- No change to Embassy Copenhagen operations since March 23. Post remains at maximum telework status. (b)(6)
- As of April 24, 394 COVID-19 deaths have been confirmed, while confirmed cases rose

to 8,408 across the Kingdom of Denmark. Danish cases increased to 8,210. Cases in Greenland remained at 11 and in the Faroes at 187. Within Denmark, 319 patients are hospitalized, including 74 in intensive care and 61 on ventilators.

- The Danish border is closed until May 10. Public sector employees, including in the MFA, remain at home, except for “critical functions.”
- Consular continues to provide only emergency services. Flights to the U.S. remain available, but limited, with connections in Frankfurt and Amsterdam. **End Summary.**

Re-Opening Update: Re-Opened Sectors Feed Sharp Consumption Rebound

2. (U) Danske Bank's latest figures for card payments and Mobilepay through Wednesday, April 22, showed a sharp rebound in total consumption over the past week, with year-on-year totals now at 90-95 percent of the previous year, excluding groceries, *Berlingske* reported on April 24. "It looks somewhat better than a month ago," when consumption stood at only 80 percent year-on-year, noted Danske Bank economist Louise Aggerstrøm Hansen. "Danes' hair-styling consumption at the beginning of this week was about 40 percent higher," she reported. "It is good news for the economy that Danes are ready to spend money in businesses that open."

3. (U) Consumption of other retail items, such as clothing, also increased in recent days. Consumption is now more in line with last year's sales, after halving at the end of March. Figures also show Danish consumption of groceries, electronics, do-it-yourself materials and health care products is higher than usual at this time of year. Hansen cautioned there are still major problems, with entertainment spending at zero in many areas such as cinemas. "Restaurants are also under pressure, and we still spend 60 to 70 percent less on going out than at the same time last year. The fall is not greater only because the Danes increasingly make use of takeaway opportunities," she added.

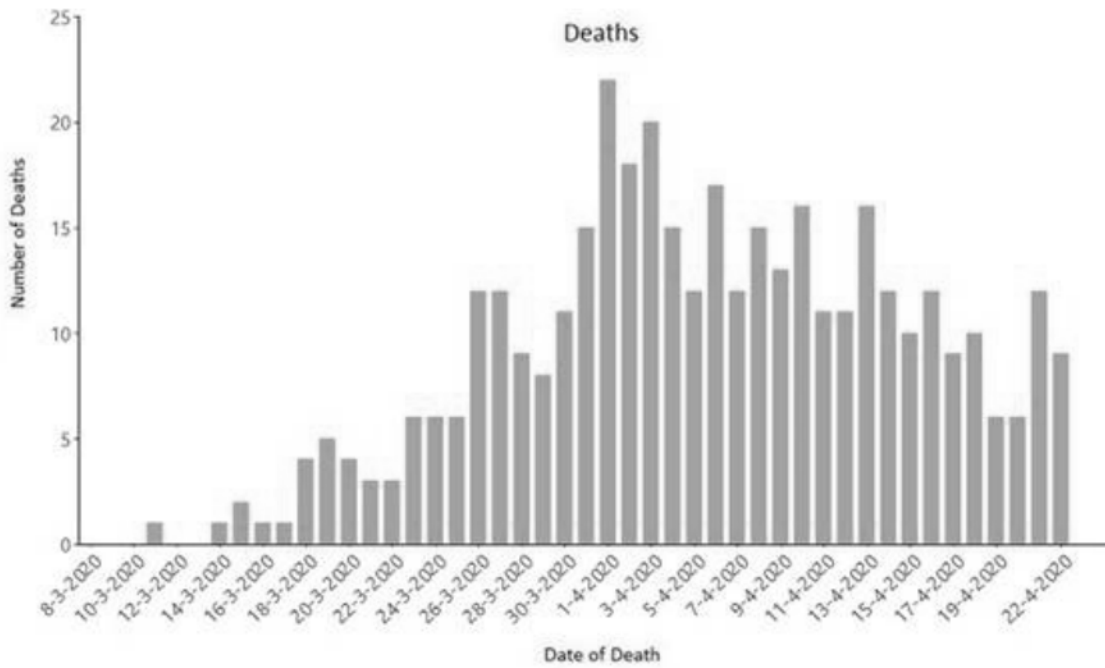
Business Ministry Reports Salary Support Package Money Flowing to Firms

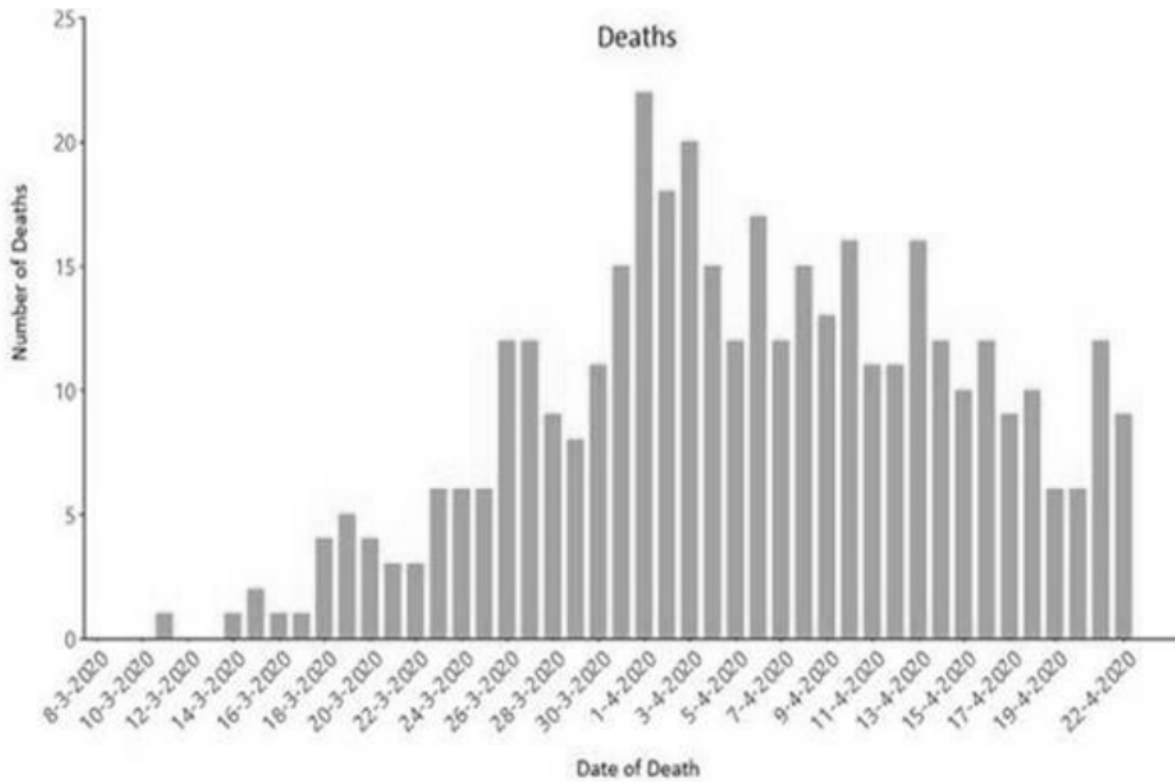
4. ~~(SBU)~~ Minister of Business Simon Kollerup reported on April 23 that more than half of all Danish businesses who have applied for government support for the workers' salaries have already received the money. "More than 150,000 Danes have been sent home on salary compensation and have retained their full-time job," Kollerup said. Slightly more than 25,000 companies have applied for wage compensation, and about 14,500 have either been paid out or will receive the money within the next few days. In all, \$389 million (2.7 billion DKK) has been spent on the salary compensation scheme.

	New	Total	Increase
Danish Cases	137	8210	1.7%
Hospitalization	-5	319	-1.5%
In ICU	-6	74	-7.5%
On ventilator	-7	61	-10.3%
Deaths	10	394	2.6%
Greenland Cases	0	11	0%
Faroes Cases	0	187	0.0%

COVID-19 Deaths Up to 394; Cases in Denmark hit 8,210

5. (U) As of April 24 at 11:00 AM CET, the official number of deaths due to COVID-19 increased to 394. Confirmed COVID-19 cases in Denmark (excluding the Faroe Islands and Greenland) increased to 8,210, up from 8,073 on April 23. 319 patients were hospitalized, a decrease of 11, with 74 in intensive care and 61 on ventilators. Over 125,000 have been tested for COVID-19 in Denmark.





Greenland: Increase in Local Business Projected, Tourism to Remain Moribund, Wage Compensation Rate Increased for Furloughed Employees

7. (U) No new confirmed cases in Greenland have been reported since late March and all 11 individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 have fully recovered. The scheduled lifting of restrictions April 25 on restaurants, cafes, bars, and hairdressers is expected to be met with strong local demand, press reported. The extended ban on commercial trans-Atlantic flights to and from Greenland and Iceland or Denmark will continue to devastate Greenland’s tourism industry, however. Minister for Business, Energy, and Research Jess Svane stated April 23 that the Greenlandic government would, in cooperation with local companies, increase wage compensation benefits from 75 to 90 percent of an employee’s salary if furloughed (as opposed to laid off) due to the pandemic. The maximum monthly wage compensation per employee would remain capped, however, at approximately \$3,000 (20,190 Danish Kroner) per month, Svane continued.

Faroese Report No New Cases

8. (U) The Faroe Islands reported no new cases, and 187 total. 178 Faroese have recovered from COVID-19. Faroese authorities have tested 6,458, twelve percent of the islands’ population. Faroese authorities reported on April 23 that both new cases reported that day were from recent travelers to the islands who remained under their 14 day arrival quarantine.

Media and Public Reaction to COVID-19

9. (U) A survey by the audit and consulting firm PwC of more than 800 CFOs from 21 countries showed Danes see a much higher risk of layoffs than average, *Børsen* reported on April 24. 49 percent of Danish CFOs see layoffs as likely, compared to the average of 28 percent. "This is very new to Denmark, and I don't think we have seen the start of layoffs at all," stated PwC CEO Mogens Nørgaard Mogensen. "We are totally dependent on large markets like the US, China and Germany getting back on track," he insisted. Mogensen saw a danger for layoffs particularly in the fall, should current relief packages not be extended. Søren Lauritsen, CFO of DK Company, a clothing firm which has already laid off 100 workers, noted the great uncertainty looking ahead. "Obviously, there are black clouds out in the future. But we're starting to see countries and stores open up. If we get re-openings around the world during May, the future looks a little brighter."

10. (SBU) *TV2 online* carried a story about past U.S.-funding of the Wuhan Institute of Virology and past joint scientific research projects, leading some readers to promote conspiracy theories about U.S. involvement in the COVID-19 pandemic. On social media, debates continued about the pace of re-opening Denmark and the casual disregard of social distancing measures among the public. The Chinese embassy continues to tweet about the reopening of Wuhan and innovative ways for business to deliver products to customer safely. Reaction to these posts are limited.

Embassy on Maximum Telework; (b)(6)

11. (SBU) The Embassy moved to maximum telework on March 22.

(b)(6)

Consular Providing Emergency Services Only; Commercial Flights Remain Limited but Available; AIDAdiva Cruise Ship Plans to Move from Denmark to Hamburg, Germany

12. (SBU) Minimal in-office staff continue to provide only emergency consular services. There are two options for commercial travel to the United States from Denmark: one daily flight to Amsterdam on KLM and twice daily flights to Frankfurt on Lufthansa; both locations have connecting flights to the U.S. Consular is tracking and assisting (b)(6) onboard the German cruise ship AIDAdiva which has been in port (without passengers, only crew) in Skagen, Denmark since late March. The cruise line is making arrangements to send all crew (b)(6) home. The HR Director told Post on April 23 that the cruise line will sail the ship to Hamburg, Germany between April 24 and 26 and make arrangements for remaining crew to return home via commercial flights departing from Frankfurt, rather than send remaining crew home from Denmark.

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Signature: Sands

Drafted By: COPENHAGEN: (b)(6)

Cleared By:

(b)(6)

POL-ECON: (b)(6)

MGT/HRO: (b)(6)

ECON: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

CONS: (b)(6)

EXEC/LEG: (b)(6)

Approved By:

Released By:

Info:

EXEC/LEG: (b)(6)

COPENHAGEN: (b)(6)

ATLANTA GA, CDC *ROUTINE*; DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON
 DC *ROUTINE*; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON
 DC *ROUTINE*; EUR-NBA-DL *IMMEDIATE*; EUR-Coronavirus-DL *IMMEDIATE*

Dissemination Rule:

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~~SBU~~

From: SMART Archive
Sent: Fri, 31 Jan 2020 09:39:31 GMT
To: SMART Core
Subject: China Coronavirus: Mission China Coordinates Authorized Departure, Wuhan Evacuation and Relief

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~~SBU~~



MRN: 20 BEIJING 234
Date/DTG: Jan 31, 2020 / 310938Z JAN 20
From: AMEMBASSY BEIJING
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: SHLH, CDC, HHS, NIH, CN, PGOV, SENV, PREL, CASC, AMGT, AMED, KPAO, KMDR, ASEC, AID, KHIV
Captions: SENSITIVE
Reference: A) 20 BEIJING 226
B) 20 BEIJING 222
C) 20 BEIJING 218
D) 20 BEIJING 216
E) 20 BEIJING 214
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M) 20 BEIJING 174
N) 20 BEIJING 172
O) 20 BEIJING 166
P) 20 BEIJING 164
Q) 20 BEIJING 142
R) 20 BEIJING 122
S) 20 BEIJING 108
T) 20 BEIJING 74
U) 19 WUHAN 112
V) 20 STATE 9544
Subject: China Coronavirus: Mission China Coordinates Authorized Departure, Wuhan Evacuation and Relief

1. ~~(SBU)~~ **Summary:** Mission China continued authorized departure of family members and non-emergency U.S. government employees January 31. The Mission China Task Force

January 31 coordinated evacuation flights for U.S. citizens in Wuhan and the delivery of relief supplies on the incoming aircraft. Mission China will be closed for non-emergency services until February 9. The Mission China Task Force will continue to meet and focus fully on the response to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. **End Summary.**

Assistance to AmCits and Relief Coordination for Wuhan

2. ~~(SBU)~~ Embassy Beijing continued January 31 to coordinate with the Department on assistance to and evacuation of U.S. citizens who remain in Wuhan. The Mission China Wuhan Relief Group continued to coordinate with the Department on placement aboard the evacuation aircraft – and receipt in Wuhan – of relief supplies and donations.

3. ~~(SBU)~~ Ambassador Branstad fielded several calls from other ambassadors in Beijing to update on U.S. progress in securing four additional planes to evacuate citizens from Wuhan. The other ambassadors expressed their appreciation for U.S. assistance and information.

CDC Experts at the Ready

4. ~~(SBU)~~ Following NHC's signaling their welcome of CDC participation in the 2019-nCoV response through WHO, CDC China country office immediately engaged with the WHO China Country Office to establish a framework for adding CDC technical experts to the WHO China Country Team. One Beijing-based CDC expert is positioned to engage immediately and additional CDC headquarters experts are being identified and prepared for deployment.

5. ~~(SBU)~~ On January 31 Ambassador Branstad and HHS Secretary Azar had a phone call to discuss the situation on the ground in China. Secretary Azar noted the importance of U.S. experts being part of a WHO response team to China but also emphasized the need for more information to be provided by the Chinese government, especially related to the incubation period of the virus and human-to-human transmission data and any evidence of asymptomatic transmission. The Ambassador reiterated his continued dedication to raising these issues at the highest levels of the Chinese government and his focus on protecting the health and safety of all Mission China staff and American citizens in China.

Effectiveness of Transport Restrictions on Spread of Virus "Will Become Apparent"

6. ~~(SBU)~~ China CDC's chief epidemiologist, Wu Zunyou, said in a TV news appearance on January 30, "The effectiveness of transport restrictions will become apparent in the next few days" ([link](#)). According to Dr. Wu, "Traffic restrictions have built a screen shielding healthy people from the source of infections and blocking the transmission of the virus." Dr. Wu further speculated that if traffic restrictions had not been imposed, "There might be many 'Wuhans' around the country," and case numbers would be in the many tens of thousands already. Dr. Wu also noted that most deaths have occurred among elderly patients.

Further Delays in Resumption of Some Government Functions

7. ~~(SBU)~~ The National Tax Bureau pushed back the February deadline for submitting taxes to

February 24, with “additional appropriate extensions” for taxpayers in Hubei ([link](#)). The Ministry of Civil Affairs (MCA) issued a notice on January 30 recommending that local offices cancel marriage registrations scheduled for February 2 and requesting that all daily functions by marriage offices be shifted to appointment only until further notice ([link](#)). MCA further instructed social service agencies (halfway houses, centers for people with disabilities, etc.) to step up temperature checks, health screenings, and food and safety inspections, while continuing to provide most essential services.

Emerging Signs of “Acute” Shortages in Medical Supplies and Equipment

8. ~~(SBU)~~ China’s State Council issued an emergency notice on January 30 calling for all local governments to “take swift measures” to restore full production of medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE). Among the items of urgent need listed by the State Council were protective suits for healthcare workers, N95 respirators, protective goggles, negative-pressure ambulances, and “relevant medicines” ([link](#)).

9. ~~(SBU)~~ Hubei’s Economy and Information Technology Department announced that as of noon on January 30, the Hubei Society of the Red Cross, Hubei General Charity Association, and Hubei Youth Development Foundation had received donations of 6.15 million pieces of medical equipment, including 26,600 personal protective suits for healthcare workers, 479,000 N95 respirators, 1.729 million surgical masks, and 39,300 pairs of protective goggles ([link](#)).

10. ~~(SBU)~~ Despite the influx of donations, Hubei Vice-Governor Cao Guangjing acknowledged at a press conference that his government had “not solved the acute imbalance between supply and demand” of medical supplies in Hubei. Cao added, “We sincerely accept the criticism from all parts of society, especially that from medical professionals” ([link](#)). Areas outside Hubei have also indicated severe shortages of basic medical supplies and PPE, including in Henan province (*People’s Daily*).

Beijing

11. ~~(SBU)~~ Beijing City Health Commissioner Lei Haichao said at a press conference that as of the morning of January 30, there were no reported cases of sustained person-to-person transmission in the city. So far, the infected patients have all come from outside the city or had close contact with those traveling from outside the city ([link](#)).

12. ~~(SBU)~~ At least three of the residential compounds housing CM personnel in Beijing have begun mandatory temperature checks for all persons entering. CM personnel in Diplomatic Residential Compound (DRC) facilities received a notice January 31 to fill out a health survey, informing DRC management of detailed travel history and any symptoms or illnesses currently experienced.

13. ~~(SBU)~~ In Beijing city, ESTH observed January 31 that subways, buses, taxis, and rideshare apps continued to function as normal. According to Beijing Metro, temperature checks by public health workers in PPE are currently being implemented at all subway stations within the network. Beijing Metro announced that it was installing thermal imaging systems at all stations

to conduct temperature checks in order to handle the influx of passengers returning to Beijing after the Spring Festival holiday ([link](#)). At one station visited by ESTHOFF on January 31, temperature checks were being performed by security guards in with safety glasses and N95 respirators. The guards told ESTHOFF they would send passengers with high temperature readings to an "isolation area", a corner away from the entrance where the passengers would wait to for several minutes to have their temperatures taken two more times with different instruments. Passengers with fever would then be sent to the hospital on an ambulance.

14. ~~(SBU)~~ ESTHOFF visited three grocery stores in Beijing on January 31. All were fully stocked with fresh produce, meat, and dry goods (including instant noodles). Crowds were minimal, and no abnormal purchasing behavior or hoarding among shoppers was observed. Prices had not visibly increased. Incoming shoppers did not have to undergo temperature checks or screenings. Two of the stores had limited mask purchases to one per customer and still had some masks in stock (the third is an import grocer that does not normally sell masks.) Temperature checks for all customers were observed at another nearby vegetable market, however.



(SBU) Figure 1: Shoppers in Beijing grocery store

15. ~~(SBU)~~ Several pharmacies visited by ESTHOFF continue to have their doors locked to incoming customers, providing service through a special after-hours window only. The pharmacies were completely sold out of masks and disinfectant.

16. ~~(SBU)~~ Beijing city FAO issued a Chinese-language letter to "foreign friends" on January 31 informing them of the public health emergency currently being experienced and providing them with a 24-hour hotline for the FAO. The FAO letter did not stipule mandatory self-quarantine for travelers returning from out of town, although did suggest it for those coming "from areas with high rates of infection." Tianjin city government also issued an open letter "to all foreign friends" on January 30 (in English) assuring that the government would "fulfill its international obligations and respond to concerns by foreign citizens in Tianjin with a responsible attitude." Like Beijing, the Tianjin FAO has set up a 24-hour hotline for foreigners to call ([link](#)).

17. ~~(SBU)~~ The Hebei province government in northern China issued a notice on January 30 requiring that industries remain closed until midnight on February 9, with exceptions for public utilities and manufacturers of medical supplies, food products, and other daily necessities ([link](#)). [Note: Hebei is a base of heavy industry, producing 26 percent of domestic steel output in 2018, for example. End note.]

Chengdu

18. ~~(SBU)~~ The Australian Consulate in Chengdu has informed us that all their dependents have departed Chengdu. However, most of their staff remain.

19. ~~(SBU)~~ Thai LionAir is suspending all flights to Mainland China (affecting Chongqing and Chengdu). India's IndiGo is suspending its flights to and from Chengdu. Cathay Pacific and Qatar Airways continue to operate out of Chongqing. KLM is suspending all airlines going to and from Chengdu and Hangzhou from January 30-February 29.

20. ~~(SBU)~~ An Amcit reported that upon arrival at Chengdu's International airport on the evening of January 30, passengers were instructed to remain in their assigned seats while the plane waited on the tarmac. Two fully kitted health inspectors boarded the plane and removed two individuals to a separate bus for additional procedures. Flight attendants informed passengers they were not allowed to take pictures of the inspectors. While the reason the two individuals were removed is unknown, before take-off the flight crew repeatedly asked that two named passengers present themselves to staff if aboard, and warned all passengers that they must proactively report if they had traveled to Wuhan in the last 14 days. Otherwise, the AmCit reported that additional screening procedures included filling out a health form inquiring about symptoms and travel to Hubei, which is the same as reported by earlier travelers.

21. (U) According to local press reporting, authorities have set up 31 quarantine stations to screen all automobile and bus passengers entering Chengdu via highway. At the quarantine stations, authorities will perform temperature checks and register information regarding all passengers and automobiles. If an individual exhibits an abnormally high temperature, they will be "dealt with according to relevant regulations and procedures," the media report stated.

22. ~~(SBU)~~ Chongqing residents are concerned that the city could become another epicenter for coronavirus infection, based on the significant flow of people between Chongqing and Wuhan. Chongqing's population is also densely concentrated, compared to other cities in Southwest China. The Deputy Director of the Chongqing branch of China's Centre for Disease Control and Prevention was quoted on January 28 as saying that some 210,000 people had 'recently' travelled from Wuhan to Chongqing prior to the implementation of movement controls in Hubei province. Because of the large number of individuals with recent travel to quarantined areas, authorities have begun a widespread grid search campaign to identify people in Chongqing who have arrived recently from Wuhan. A widely circulated article from Chinese current affairs magazine Caixin quoted the dean of the University of Hong Kong's medical school as saying that Chongqing might be the next city seriously affected.

23. (U) The Chongqing Leading Group for Epidemic Prevention issued a notice on January 30

telling municipal residents who had spent time in Hubei during the Spring Festival not to return to Chongqing until further notice.

24. (U) Deputy Director of Chongqing Drug Administration Bai Chaoshi announced on 30 January that all pharmacies in the city should register the details of individuals purchasing fever and cough related medicines. Deputy Director of Chongqing Municipal Health Committee Zhou Lin noted during a press conference that all cases of coronavirus must be registered with authorities via an online report within two hours of diagnosis.

25. (U) The Chongqing Municipal Government Information Office issued a public statement on January 30 saying that Chongqing mask manufacturers had resumed production, and that the city had sufficient capacity to produce 2.16 million medical masks per day. Authorities noted that as of January 29, Chongqing's stock of protective equipment included: 88,400 sets of "protective medical clothing"; 30,000 N95 masks; 50,000 medical masks; 3 million disposal medical masks; 31,000 goggles; 40,000 pairs of nitrile gloves; and 10,000 coronavirus detection kits.

26. (U) Chongqing announced the creation of a special working group to maximize output of medical masks, protective clothing, and thermometers. While output is reportedly steadily increasing, Chongqing does not have the raw materials necessary to produce large volumes of goggles, which are currently being imported from Shandong, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang provinces. Raw materials are being purchased from South Korea, Germany, Japan, Russia, the United States and Australia.

27. (U) Chongqing's Foreign Economic and Trade Group is engaging with distributors from the United States, France, Germany, Italy South Korea and Malaysia to secure other medical materials.

28. (U) On 30 January, the special working group announced medical gloves procured from Thailand, as well as unspecified items from the United States, had arrived in Chongqing.

29. (U) On 30 January, authorities designated the Chongqing Municipal Health Commission as the institution which would accept charitable donations on behalf of Chongqing's medical institutions, including hospitals.

Guangzhou

30. ~~(SBU)~~ China Southern, the main carrier out of Guangzhou (code share Delta, AA) told CG Guangzhou on January 30 it continued to operate daily Guangzhou flights to JFK, LAX, and SFO. ConGen staff is currently mainly routing via third locations (Narita, etc) on other airlines. City pair flights are sold out. As of 13:30, most flights compliant with Fly America are sold out. ConGen Guangzhou is seeking Embassy permission to use 3rd party carriers.

31. ~~(SBU)~~ CG Guangzhou's Nurse Practitioner (NP) assisted with the Wuhan evacuation and is now in the United States; he has been told by PRC officials January 30 he is unable to return to China given his Wuhan visit. A sustained NP absence would significantly affect CG

Guangzhou's access to health assistance. Post's health unit is normally staffed by the NP and two LES nurses.

32. ~~(SBU)~~ UK Consulate contacts said a decision on possible staff departures was expected the afternoon of January 31.

33. ~~(SBU)~~ ConGen observed January 30 five nCoV-designated hospitals. The emergency rooms were uncrowded, there were no lines, and security posture was normal. Guangdong General Hospital continued to have relatively more intake/screening facilities and personnel in higher levels of Personal Protective Equipment than the other hospitals.

34. ~~(SBU)~~ Post's residential bottled water supplier is expected to resume deliveries February 3 at the earliest, a delay of several days from the original post-holiday resumption date. USDH residential buildings can fill the gap as needed.

35. ~~(SBU)~~ Guangzhou officials announced January 30 that the city's food supply is stable and sufficient despite earlier consumer buying rushes, with nearly 70 percent of wet markets and supermarkets open; that the government is helping stabilize supply chains inside and outside the province to respond to rising market demand; and that the government will punish hoarding.

36. ~~(SBU)~~ As of January 31, grocery stores surveyed by Consulate staff were well and continuously stocked, with relatively few shoppers, short lines, and a calm atmosphere.

37. ~~(SBU)~~ Guangdong and Guangzhou authorities announced enhanced temperature checks and sanitation of inbound vehicles. For taxis and ride-hailing services, masks are mandatory but temperature checks are "optional." ConGenOffs have not reported optional temperature checks on DiDi.

38. ~~(SBU)~~ Authorities expect holiday return traffic to be "substantially" lighter than last year.

39. ~~(SBU)~~ Guangxi province suspended all inter-provincial bus services (inbound and outbound) on January 29 until further notice. Guangxi's Qinzhou suspended all public transport, including bus, taxis, and ride-hailing services, until further notice.

40. ~~(SBU)~~ CG Guangzhou CONS reported half of U.S. passport applicants scheduled for January 30 cancelled or were no-shows.

41. ~~(SBU)~~ Dow Chemical told Post its China employees would not return to production plants until the week of February 10, in line with the government's policy. Dow has no Amcit employees in Guangdong. For now, all Dow domestic travel must be approved by its Greater China managers and all international travel must be approved by its Asia Pacific managers.

42. ~~(SBU)~~ Ericsson told Post its China offices are currently closed, and re-openings likely will be in line with provincial government policies. The company has suspended most travel to/from China, but has not yet decided on evacuating expat employees. Ericsson has staff in Wuhan and other cities to support telecom infrastructure, and the company's focus is on keeping workers

safe and mobile networks running.

Shanghai

43. ~~(SBU)~~ Shanghai's American business community is assessing the effect of the WHO's designation of the coronavirus as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and the raising of the Department's travel advisory to Level 4. Firms we contacted anticipated a significant effect on the number of international staff who will travel to Shanghai or remain in country, but most were still assessing the longer-term impact on their operations and supply chain. Several diplomatic missions in Shanghai report that they have implemented measures to reduce staffing or are actively contemplating doing so. We are monitoring flight cancellations and will report them separately.

44. ~~(SBU)~~ On the ground, Shanghai still does not exhibit signs of significant disruption to local transportation, food distribution, or medical services. The Shanghai consular district accounts for about 11 percent of total confirmed cases, with approximately half of those in Zhejiang Province. Confirmed cases in Shanghai – currently around 130 - remain low both in absolute terms and relative to the size of the population. CG Shanghai has seen no visible signs of stress to the local healthcare system. Local hospitals resumed normal out-patient services on January 31 and eight leading public hospitals are offering online consultations via mobile phone apps and WeChat accounts. Except for a small health clinic, private hospitals that serve international clients, including the official American community, are operating normally. Most international schools which Consulate EFMs attend continue to plan on reopening Feb. 17, and local authorities have not indicated that they will instruct schools to remain closed after that date.

45. ~~(SBU)~~ ACS reports three American citizens in Shanghai and two in Hangzhou, Zhejiang have been asked to self-quarantine after exhibiting signs of fever or recent travel to Hubei. There is no indication they have tested positive for 2019-nCoV. Qingpu Prison authorities notified ACS that they are suspending consular prison visits for the month of February, citing public health reasons. Despite an approximate 50 percent cancellation of ACS appointments in the past two days, ACS will remain open this weekend to provide emergency consular services. Anhui, Jiangsu, and Zhejiang Foreign Affairs Offices (FAO), as well as the FAOs of various cities in these provinces, have issued statements directed toward foreigners with resources on where they can get additional information and how to protect oneself from catching coronavirus.

46. ~~(SBU)~~ Members of the Consulate community continue to find grocery stores accessible and well stocked, though supplies of some products are occasionally in short supply in some stores. The Shanghai municipal government is cracking down on price gouging of essential items, including at grocery stores. A Shanghai branch of Carrefour, a supermarket chain popular in the Consulate community, was fined RMB 2 million (USD 288,000) January 30 for inflating the prices of various vegetables.

47. ~~(SBU)~~ Though ridership on public transportation is very low, the subway network continues to operate as normal. The Didi ride hailing service also continues to operate, though Didi is requiring all passengers and drivers to wear protective masks. The airport and high-speed rail service continue to operate, though both face reduced or discontinued service on certain routes.

As of January 30, all Shanghai railway stations set up temperature checks for arrivals and departures. Media reports rail authorities suspended trains from Shanghai to Beijing and cities in Guangdong, Henan, and Fujian provinces on January 30 to prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV. The suspension is expected to last until late-February. A number of airlines, including some U.S. carriers, have reduced or discontinued service to Shanghai from overseas, or have announced plans to do so in coming weeks. Some of these airlines have explicitly cited public health reasons as the main factor in their decision while others have pointed to reduced demand as the main driver. We anticipate the WHO announcement could result in fewer international flights being available.

48. (U) Tesla announced via its Sina Weibo social media feed on January 30 that it will donate RMB 5 million (USD 720, 500) to China CDC efforts to combat 2019-nCoV, as well as an additional RMB 5 million subsidize the energy costs of car charging stations during outbreak.
Shenyang

49. ~~(SBU)~~ There is no significant change to the situation in Shenyang city. There was marked increase in traffic over the last 24 hours as people began returning to the city in preparation for the opening of business on Monday February 3rd Public transportation and taxis are operating. Public hospitals in Shenyang are not under-staffed and have not experienced overcrowding, based on a visit to three hospitals by MED unit staff and ESTHOff on January 28th. Of the five international schools that work with Consulate Shenyang, four will offer online instruction instead of regular classes. Quality Schools International (QSI), Transformation Academy, Canadian International School and the Montessori school are either suspending classes indefinitely or planning to conduct part of the semester online. The French International School will begin as scheduled on February 17th. Shenyang government is now requesting a daily report from all international schools on where students are located and where they have traveled. Shenyang Airport continues to operate normally with reduced flights. While China Southern's direct flight from Shenyang to Los Angeles continues to operate three times a week, flights to Korea, Thailand and Japan have been reduced. The reason for cancelling flights out of Shenyang is attributed to the lack of passengers since the Chinese Government's tour group travel ban was enacted, said contacts at China Southern Airlines.

50. ~~(SBU)~~ Some cities in NE China have enacted stringent measures to prevent cases of coronavirus from entering the city limits. For example, Yanji city, near the North Korean border has suspended all public transportation and hotels will no longer accept non-residents. These "Isolation management" may also impact American citizens. ACS reports that an American citizen was refused freedom of movement within WangQing County, part of Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture. He was traveling between BaiCao Village and another county location when he was caught between both areas. After significant effort on his own, he was allowed back to BaoCai. In addition, one U.S. media outlet reported on a group of 70 Americans in Kuandian County, near the border of North Korea, that were trying to leave from China. According to the one local U.S. media report, some of the Americans are now being quarantined in a hospital in Shenyang. Consulate Shenyang has reached out to the group to provide assistance. In addition, Heilongjiang Province has announced that businesses should wait until February 9 to reopen.

51. ~~(SBU)~~ French, German, Japanese, Korean and Russian consulates in Shenyang will return to normal status after the Lunar New Year and do not intend to minimize operations, said our contacts at each of the respective consulates. The Australian Consulate is planning to announce "assisted departure" for family members of their staff. The German Consul General is in Wuhan assisting with the evacuation of German citizens. The Liaoning Foreign Affairs Office will hold a video conference for all consulates on Saturday, February 1.

52. ~~(SBU)~~ Consulate Shenyang held an EAC meeting on January 30th and will hold a town hall meeting for all employees on Monday February 3, the first day LES are expected back to work after the extended holidays. Shenyang's next EAC meeting will be Saturday, February 1st.

Media/Social Media

53. (U) Xinhua and factual news reported on the WHO declaring the novel coronavirus outbreak a global health emergency, but that China disfavors travel and trade restrictions. Articles quote WHO DG Tedros Ghebreyesus that he believes that China will effectively contain and eventually defeat the epidemic, adding that China's efforts to combat the disease deserve respect and appreciation, and are worth learning. Wu Zunyou, chief epidemiologist of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said that the PHEIC declaration is a standard practice of the WHO. "China's current prevention and control measures are the strictest and very effective. We are confident that we can effectively contain the epidemic and finally overcome it," Wu said. Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's remarks on WHO Declaring Pneumonia Outbreak Caused by Novel Coronavirus Public Health Emergency of International Concern were also widely amplified. Xinhua continued to report on cases, with 9,692 confirmed cases of novel coronavirus pneumonia, 213 deaths as of the end of Thursday. Other news focused on an interview with experts on the "wise decision" to close Wuhan, and the CPC allocating 108 million RMB (about 15.57 million USD) for coronavirus control as well as the CPC organization departments urged to play active role in fighting novel coronavirus. Other news amplified the Premier Li Keqiang urging vaccine, medicine development against epidemic. While China Daily said China is expected to witness its railway passenger trips slump nearly 75 percent to 3.2 million on Thursday, the sixth day of the lunar new year, from the equivalent day last year, according to the country's top railway operator. Global Times interviewed Zeng Guang, chief epidemiologist of the China Center for Disease Control and Prevention, saying China "must avoid losses caused by fear, overreaction: top epidemiologist.

54. (U) People's Daily continued to call the epidemic a battlefield and noted that China will "resolutely win this hard battle." The editorials says the total number of confirmed and suspected cases is still rising, far from the time of relief. To win this hard battle and rely on the people closely means to weave a large network of joint defense and control with greater strength, and to build a strong defense. Grid management should be carried out to ensure that the prevention and control measures are effectively implemented and no blind angle is and we should further mobilize all sectors of society and the people to participate in this hard battle to stimulate energy and gather strength. Global Times said in an editorial that China must "firmly grasp the principle of controlling epidemic spread." Continuing, "in the face of a turbulent epidemic, this is an important part of forming real solidarity. We have paid for our local and national negligence of the initial outbreak. But currently, the most important thing is not to

calculate responsibilities. The fight continues and the battlefield expands. The situation may become more severe. When a public health crisis occurs, there is bound to be some social panic. But this doesn't mean the public has lost confidence. The majority of the Chinese people believe China can withstand this crisis and that the government can undertake various measures to ensure public safety.”

Nationwide and International Cases

55. ~~(SBU)~~ China’s National Health Commission (NHC) reported 1,982 newly confirmed cases on January 30 as of 24:00, raising the total number of confirmed cases to 9,692 ([link](#)). Total deaths reached 213, with 43 new deaths on January 30 (42 in Hubei and one in Heilongjiang). Of the total confirmed cases, 1,527 are in serious or critical condition. The number of people in isolation under medical observation increased by 25 percent over the previous day, now at 102,427, with 15,238 currently suspected cases.

Table 1: Total Confirmed Cases in Mainland China as of End of January 30

Province/City/Region	Total confirmed cases to date	New confirmed cases	Total deaths to date	New deaths reported
Anhui	237	37	--	--
Beijing	132	21	1	--
Chongqing	206	41	--	--
Fujian	120	19	--	--
Gansu	29	3	--	--
Guangdong	393	82	--	--
Guangxi	87	9	--	--
Guizhou	15	3	--	--
Hainan	49	3	1	--
Hebei	82	17	1	--
Heilongjiang	59	16	2	1
Henan	352	74	2	--
Hubei	5806	1220	204	42
Hunan	332	55	--	--
Inner Mongolia	20	2	--	--
Jiangsu	168	39	--	--
Jiangxi	240	78	--	--
Jilin	14	0	--	--
Liaoning	45	6	--	--
Ningxia	21	4	--	--
Qinghai	8	2	--	--
Shaanxi	87	31	--	--

Shandong	178	33	--	--
Shanghai	128	27	1	--
Shanxi	35	**	--	--
Sichuan	177	35	1	--
Tianjin	30	3	--	--
Tibet	1	**	--	--
Xinjiang	17	3	--	--
Yunnan	80	10	--	--
Zhejiang	537	109	--	--
TOTAL (NHC Reported)	9692	1982	213	43
TOTAL (From Provinces)	9685	1982	213	43

Notes: Data are from public case reports issued as of 16:00 on January 31; ** no new report available; -- zero cases. Source: NHC, provincial health commissions, and state media.

Table: Confirmed Cases in Other Countries and Regions as of January 31

Country/Region	Total Confirmed Cases	New Confirmed Cases
Thailand	14	0
Hong Kong	12	2
Japan	11	1
Singapore	10	0
Taiwan	9	1
Australia	9	2
Malaysia	8	1
Macau	7	0
United States	6	1
France	5	0
Germany	5	1
South Korea	4	0
United Arab Emirates	4	3
Canada	3	0
Vietnam	2	0
Nepal	1	0
Cambodia	1	0
Sri Lanka	1	0
Finland	1	0

India	1	1
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Notes: As of 15:50 on January 31. Source: Ding Xiang Yuan, <http://www.dxy.cn/>

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Signature: Branstad

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RSO: (b)(6)
CONS: (b)(6)
POL: (b)(6)
INFO: (b)(6)
MGT: (b)(6)
PD: (b)(6)
HHS/CDC/IRD: (b)(6)
ESTH: (b)(6)
INFO: (b)(6)
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Info: SEOUL, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; TAIPEI, AIT *ROUTINE*; HANOI, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; SINGAPORE, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; ULAANBAATAR, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; PHNOM PENH, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; BANGKOK, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; HONG KONG, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; MANILA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; PARIS, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; VLADIVOSTOK, AMCONSUL *ROUTINE*; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; ATLANTA GA, CDC *ROUTINE*; DIA WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; CIA WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; PACOM IDHS HONOLULU HI *ROUTINE*; CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*; ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*

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From: SMART Archive
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Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: SHLH, CDC, HHS, NIH, CN, PGOV, SENV, PREL, CASC, AMGT, AMED, KPAO, KMDR, ASEC
Captions: SENSITIVE
Reference: A) 20 BEIJING 218
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K) 20 BEIJING 166
L) 20 BEIJING 164
M) 20 BEIJING 142
N) 20 BEIJING 122
O) 20 BEIJING 108
P) 20 BEIJING 74
Q) 19 WUHAN 112
Subject: China Coronavirus: Mission China Prepares for Authorized Departure, Holds Town Hall

1. ~~(SBU)~~ **Summary:** Mission China held a Town Hall January 30 led by Ambassador Branstad to discuss authorized departure and posture in response to the novel coronavirus. The PRC coronavirus response group led by Premier Li Keqiang called for the delayed return to work of some Chinese government personnel. Mission China is scheduled to reopen February 3 to focus fully on the response to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. The Mission China Task Force will continue to meet daily and report on the 2019-nCoV outbreak. **End Summary.**

Mission China Town Hall

2. ~~(SBU)~~ Embassy Beijing held a Town Hall January 30 led by Ambassador Branstad to discuss Mission China's authorized departure of family members and all non-emergency U.S. government employees, along with Mission posture in response to the coronavirus outbreak. Staff and family member from the Consulates also participated.

Assistance to AmCits and Relief Coordination for Wuhan

3. ~~(SBU)~~ Embassy Beijing continues to coordinate with the Department on assistance to and the possible evacuation of U.S. citizens who remain in Wuhan. The Mission China Wuhan Relief Group is coordinating with the Department to place relief supplies and donations aboard any aircraft that may travel to Wuhan to evacuate U.S. citizens.

Central Government Leaders Call for Delayed Return of Some Government Personnel

4. ~~(SBU)~~ The PRC's Central Leading Group for the 2019-nCoV Response convened a meeting on January 29, chaired by Premier Li Keqiang. The group noted that "the epidemic is still in the phase of spreading" and called on public agencies and entities to allow non-critical personnel traveling from areas with "high rates of infection" to delay their return to work. With the permission of the State Council, Hubei Province and other highly affected areas may delay the reopening of public offices, businesses, and schools, "as appropriate."

Triage Procedures at Beijing Hospitals Observed; No Reported Stresses on Healthcare Systems

5. ~~(SBU)~~ Embassy Beijing received a notice January 29 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) directing diplomatic personnel in Beijing with fevers to go to one of two hospitals: Ditan Hospital and You'an Hospital. On January 30, Embassy Beijing ESTHoff and a CDC Officer visited Ditan Hospital and two other hospitals with locally designated fever clinics: Beijing United Family Hospital (BJU) and Huaxin Hospital. BJU is frequented by Embassy personnel.

6. ~~(SBU)~~ At the hospitals, the CDC Officer conducted a rapid on-the-spot assessment of: (1) procedures for funneling individuals entering the hospital to one entry point where a triage nurse was set up; (2) screening and triaging patients at the entry point, including through temperature checks, symptom screen, and basic risk assessment (e.g., asking about recent travel history); (3) use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by healthcare workers (HCW) and training on PPE; (4) procedures for isolating individuals with a fever from the general hospital population and directing those with fever to the fever clinic; (5) presence of functioning negative-pressure isolation rooms on site; (6) lab testing capacity for 2019-nCoV on site in the fever clinics; and (7) existing protocols for HCW who may have been exposed. The expert assessed that all three hospitals had adequate capacity and procedures in place, to varying degrees. Among the three, BJU was superior in their triage procedures.

7. ~~(SBU)~~ At BJU, ESTH was told that BJU's fever clinic had reopened at 11:00 AM on January

30. The CDC Officer observed that the triage nurse was wearing a face shield, mask, gloves, and a gown. The assigned security personnel escorting patients to the fever clinic were wearing masks and face shields. Adult patients with temperatures above 37.3°C (99.1°F) are escorted to the fever clinic; children are escorted to a pediatric fever clinic, and all accompanying family members are immediately masked (if not already) and screened by staff. A BJU triage nurse said that BJU can test for 2019-nCoV in-house, and that the fever clinic has fully functioning negative-pressure isolation rooms. Patients who test positive for the virus are sent to one of the city's designated treatment hospitals. The triage nurse further indicated that BJU has established protocols for HCW who are exposed and has conducted training with all staff on the proper use of PPE.

8. ~~(SBU)~~ At Ditan hospital, ESTHOff spoke with a hospital administrator and asked about the MFA notice directing diplomatic personnel in Beijing with fevers to its facility. The administrator said she was not aware of the MFA notice and told ESTHOff the hospital did not have any special procedures or services for the intake of diplomatic personnel. The administrator suggested that Embassy staff and family just go to the nearest locally designated fever clinic or treatment hospital. [Note: Beijing city government has a published list of 101 fever clinics and 21 designated treatment hospitals in the city. End note.]

9. ~~(SBU)~~ CGs Shanghai and Guangzhou report no visible signs of stress to the local healthcare system. In Shanghai, private hospitals that serve international clients, including the official American community, appear to be operating as normal. In Guangzhou, there have been no reported changes to hospital conditions or wait times since the ConGenOffs' January 28 survey of facilities.

10. ~~(SBU)~~ According to contacts, as of today, Sichuan province has dedicated more than 2,273 beds in hospitals across the region, in addition to 30 backup hospitals, to treat patients infected with the virus. Sichuan currently has 54 quarantine sites, with an additional 249 backup sites. As of yesterday, 2,011 fever clinics at hospitals across Sichuan have screened over 75,000 patients for the virus.

11. ~~(SBU)~~ To ease the pressure on major hospitals in Chengdu, the provincial health commission has installed a new community-based early screening and referral system. Individuals with fever and other possible symptoms are urged to first contact their community health center for primary screenings. Symptomatic patients are then referred to fever clinics or placed under house quarantine for further monitoring. There are 197 hospitals with fever clinics in Chengdu, which are mandated to transfer confirmed cases to 17 designated treatment hospitals. Major hospitals in the city center, including Huaxi Hospital -- Sichuan's main provincial hospital and the primary hospital for CG Chengdu's community -- have not been designated as nCoV treatment hospitals. However, as noted in prior CG Chengdu reporting, Huaxi and other Chengdu hospitals have setup diagnostic and fever tents.

International Schools

12. ~~(SBU)~~ The PRC Ministry of Education January 27 suspended all classes at schools until further instructions from local authorities. International schools in Beijing said January 29 the

Beijing Municipal Education Commission (BMEC) announced that the reopening of schools shall now be determined by BMEC. The Western Academy of Beijing (WAB), International School of Beijing (ISB), and the British School of Beijing (BSB) said they will implement online learning starting February 3. American International School of Guangzhou (AISG), where all ConGen children study, still plans to re-open February 17 and sent instructions for on-line classes beginning February 3. Shanghai international schools attended by Consulate EFMs continue to plan on reopening February 17.

Beijing

13. ~~(SBU)~~ In Beijing, there are no reports of road closures or traffic restrictions from Beijing's transport authority and city police. Public buses and subway lines within the city continue to operate as normal. Grocery stores appear well-stocked. The DiDi ride-hailing app (similar to Uber) was functioning again on January 30. [Note: Didi announced January 29 that it was suspending most services by private drivers in Beijing "in response to local authorities' requirement." There was no announced reason why the service had resumed. End note.]

14. ~~(SBU)~~ China's Ministry of Transport (MOT) issued a notice on January 30 forbidding local transport authorities from closing highways or inter-province roadways in response to 2019-nCoV ([link](#)). MOT also published a notice on January 30 that vehicles carrying emergency supplies should receive free passage across provinces and would be exempt from any tolls or fees ([link](#)).

15. ~~(SBU)~~ The Hilton Beijing hotel, where many TDY and official visitors to Beijing stay, told an Embassy CDC officer January 29 that their procedure following any guests identified with a fever is to call the police/ambulance to take the guest to a hospital. Hilton staff said they would ensure the guest had a mask on and was set aside until the police arrived.



Figure: Hilton Beijing staff conducting temperature checks of hotel guests

Chengdu

16. ~~(SBU)~~ As of January 30, Sichuan province reported 142 cases of individuals infected with the nCoV virus. On January 30 Chengdu reported its first death, an 86-year-old woman with a history of prior illness. In Western Sichuan's remote Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, local authorities announced that two individuals were confirmed as having the virus, bringing the total number of cases in Ganzi to five. Another 29 individuals in Ganzi suspected of suffering from the virus remain under quarantine. One contact speculated that these individuals may have been tourists from Wuhan who had chosen to spend their New Year sightseeing in the area. Tibetan contacts speculated that the number of individuals infected with the virus in Western Sichuan might be higher, with one Tibetan telling us he was forced to depart Chengdu in a hurry to take care of his parents after "several" individuals in their village fell ill.

17. ~~(SBU)~~ As of January 30, China's ride sharing application, DiDi, pushed a message to its English-speaking users, indicating the company would no longer provide "inter-city services" between Chengdu and other cities. Post confirmed all travel within Chengdu and to the local international airport remains available.

18. ~~(SBU)~~ United Airlines, Hainan Airlines, and other international airlines continue to operate flights out of Chengdu. Consulate employees transiting Chengdu's Shuangliu International Airport have reported inconsistent levels of arrival and departure health checks. Upon departure

or arrival, all travelers are required to undergo a "health check" which entails filling out a form indicating recent travel and any potential symptoms.

19. ~~(SBU)~~ Controls on movement within Chengdu extend to the lowest levels of governance, contacts say. One contact reports local police in residential areas of Chengdu checking the home registration (户口) for all individuals entering a given neighborhood, saying that authorities have been turning away anyone whose registration shows that they do not reside in that neighborhood, even if they are registered elsewhere in Chengdu. In rural areas of the province, contacts report authorities are searching all vehicles to ascertain if any passengers have recently arrived from Wuhan, while in city areas, police are stopping all cars with license plates from Hubei, of which Wuhan is the provincial capital. According to contacts, Sichuan has designated hotels to quarantine individuals with recent travel to Hubei, while some private hotels are refusing to admit any person with registration there.

20. ~~(SBU)~~ Despite February 17 being the official start date for schools, some universities have begun to hedge on when students and faculty should return, with the Southwest Minorities University in Chengdu publishing a notice that "all individuals should wait until further instructions at a later date before planning their return."

21. ~~(SBU)~~ Likeminded diplomatic colleagues based in Chongqing believe the next 5-8 days will be crucial for the municipality to contain the virus. On January 28, the first confirmed coronavirus case was reported in the municipality's Yuzhong district, where many of the foreign consulates are located. This appears to have triggered a more stringent set of public health measures, with mandatory temperature checks observed at residential compounds, gas stations, malls, and car routes. Contacts noted there remains a lot of concern, locally that Chongqing could become another epicentre for coronavirus infection based on the significant flow of people between Chongqing and Wuhan. On January 28, the Deputy Director of Chongqing's Center for Disease Control and Prevention was quoted as saying that some 210,000 people had 'recently' travelled from Wuhan to Chongqing prior to movement controls being implemented in Hubei Province. This has triggered a widespread grid search campaign by authorities to identify people in Chongqing coming from Wuhan and those with whom they have been in contact.

22. ~~(SBU)~~ According to diplomatic contacts, Chongqing has ordered non-essential businesses to stay closed until February 9th. Schools are to remain closed until February 17. As of January 28, Chongqing's one international hospital, Raffles Medical, still offers fever screening and blood test and directs patients to a designated public hospital if they test positive for the virus. English service at Raffles Hospital is reportedly inconsistent, and our diplomatic contacts said they have been unable to assess the availability/quality of foreign language services at the two hospitals designated for foreigners suspected of coronavirus infection.

23. ~~(SBU)~~ On January 28, Chongqing municipal government held a press conference, stating it had implemented containment measures, including setting up checkpoints at airports, train stations, highway exits, and piers to identify vehicles and passengers coming from Hubei Province. Starting on the morning of January 26, Chongqing's municipal metro system began operating on a reduced schedule. Chongqing has also stopped all interprovincial bus services.

Our contacts reported no indication that flights and trains have or would be disrupted. In addition, Chongqing FAO has suspended all activities with foreign countries until the end of February and has requested the city's consulates general do the same.

24. ~~(SBU)~~ Contacts also reported that masks remain difficult to procure locally. Chongqing FAO has circulated an updated list of supplies that the government needs for its response, which mainly consist of personal protective equipment. Authorities are asking foreign company contacts that are cleared to sell these supplies in China to increase their imports of such products. Chongqing is also willing to accept donations from private organizations and sub-national governments.

Guangzhou

25. ~~(SBU)~~ USDH and EFMs participated in Mission China's townhall January 30, followed by a ConGen Guangzhou Q&A session on authorized departure. CG Guangzhou will conduct an EAC January 30.

26. ~~(SBU)~~ Guangdong's provincial FAO, health commission, and information bureau held a briefing January 30 for the consular corps. The officials sought to calm anxiety in the consulate community by reiterating the province's pledge not to resort to lock down measures, to maintain normal transportation, and to quickly resolve supply shortages of face masks. Guangdong FAO officials told the consular corps there was "no need to withdraw" foreign nationals from Guangdong.

27. ~~(SBU)~~ CG Guangzhou RSO issued a security notice with guidance for responding to mandatory temperature checks, instructing USDH and EFMs to contact RSO if at any point they encounter forcible attempts to bring personnel to a fever hospital for further testing. At the January 30 briefing by FAO, provincial officials told the consular corps the protocol for foreign diplomats would be at-home quarantine.

28. ~~(SBU)~~ As of January 30, all regularly scheduled flights to the United States from Guangzhou and Shenzhen are operating normally. According to the FAO, the main carrier out of Guangzhou, China Southern (code share Delta, AA), has not cancelled any international routes.

29. ~~(SBU)~~ In Guangdong, provincial and municipal governments resumed normal operations as of January 30. Banks are scheduled to re-open February 3.

30. ~~(SBU)~~ CG Guangzhou reported that as of COB January 29, the New Zealand Consulate is working with minimal staff and LES working from home if needed. Some Consulate staff, including New Zealand Police, have voluntarily left China, although a Consulate contact reported Foreign Affairs had not yet decided to repatriate non-essential staff and their dependents. The UK Consulate is running with minimal staff and has offered voluntary departure to its staff. The Canadian Consulate has drawn down to minimal staff through at least February 3 and is offering essential consular services only. The Canadian Consulate has set up a screening station outside the Consulate entrance. Canadian Consulate leadership is actively

discussing evacuating dependents from Guangzhou.

31. ~~(SBU)~~ As of January 30, grocery stores surveyed by Consulate Guangzhou staff were well stocked and appeared to be increasing the availability of meat and produce. Water deliveries to Consulate personnel remain available through the Consulate's supplier, though delivery times were constrained through the extended holiday.

32. ~~(SBU)~~ Guangzhou public transportation remains open. ConGenOffs observed metro and bus ridership seemed to be up compared to previous days. Checkpoints have been stood-up at key freeway junctures to screen all inter-provincial inbound car traffic.

33. ~~(SBU)~~ High speed rail link suspension for mainland trains to Hong Kong went into effect at 12:00 AM January 30. ConGenOff observed at one Guangzhou train station that as many as one-third of overall rail frequencies in an out of the city are cancelled the evening of January 29, while no cancellations were evident at a second station.

34. ~~(SBU)~~ Foot traffic is light at inter-city bus terminals and plenty of tickets available to most mid-range destinations, according to ConGenOff observations. Staff confirmed bus service to Hong Kong Airport was suspended.

Shanghai

35. ~~(SBU)~~ CG Shanghai reported January 30 Shanghai has not yet seen signs of significant disruption to local transportation, food distribution, or medical services. The Shanghai consular district accounts for about 11 percent of total confirmed cases, with approximately half of those in Zhejiang Province. Confirmed cases in Shanghai – currently around 100 - remain low both in absolute terms and relative to the size of the population. Members of the Consulate community continue to find grocery stores accessible and well stocked, though supplies of some products – especially fresh vegetables and pork – are in short supply in some stores some of time. The Shanghai municipal government has acknowledged that demand for these items is higher than normal, attributing the increase in demand to decreased travel outside of the city and more residents cooking at home rather than eating out. While many restaurants remain closed, meal and grocery delivery services are operating as normal.

36. ~~(SBU)~~ The Shanghai subway network and the Didi ride hailing service continue to operate as normal. The ride-hailing app Didi is requiring all passengers and drivers to wear protective masks. The airport and high-speed rail service continue to operate, although a number of airlines have reduced or discontinued service to Shanghai from overseas. Some of these airlines have explicitly cited public health reasons as the main factor in their decision while others have pointed to reduced demand as the main driver.

37. ~~(SBU)~~ Calls into CG Shanghai ACS regarding the crisis have risen steeply in the last 24 hours. The Consulate's public mailbox had over 300 inquiries with questions about evacuations and guidance on the coronavirus. More than 700 U.S. citizens have enrolled in the STEP program since Friday.

38. ~~(SBU)~~ Google's General Counsel for China told CG Shanghai's Consul General January 30 that Google is not closed and has no plans to do so. The General Counsel said the company had merely delayed post-holiday reopening by a week to comply with a request from local authorities. Google offices will reopen and function normally from February 10.

39. ~~(SBU)~~ Health inspection sites on highways between Shanghai and other cities remain in place. A Consulate EFM January 29 observed four health inspection sites on the highway between Shanghai and Kunshan. Despite light traffic on the highway, long queues were present at inspection sites, where temperatures of all drivers and passengers were being checked.



Figure: Health inspection site on highway between Shanghai and Kunshan.

Shenyang

40. ~~(SBU)~~ CG Shenyang reported January 30 that the situation remains stable with increased monitoring measures. Shenyang city is quiet with most residents heeding the government's call to stay home. Public transportation is operating, albeit on a reduced schedule. Taxis are available. There have been no significant changes to transportation within Shenyang since our last update. Transportation service between cities has been reduced. As reported in previous updates, intercity bus service was suspended in Liaoning province and some high-speed trains will skip Shenyang. While transportation is available, individual districts within the city have begun announcing measures to isolate neighborhoods and track residents down to the city block level. For example, Tiexi district, a district within Shenyang city, announced "isolation management" measures on January 29 that require people entering Tiexi district to have their temperatures checked. Only residents in Tiexi can enter and leave freely while visitors will

need to register so that the local officials can maintain accountability of them. While Tiexi was the first district to announce these "isolation measures" publicly, consulate staff report that these procedures are being expanded to cover all districts in Shenyang. One Consulate staff reported residents of his neighborhood who traveled out of town for the Lunar New Year holiday were contacted and told they could not return home once the neighborhood went into "isolation management." Within NE China, Chinese media have reported that some cities have enacted stringent measures to prevent cases of coronavirus from entering the city limits. For example, Yanji city, near the North Korean border, has reported no cases of coronavirus. The city has suspended all public transportation within the city as well long-distance transportation. Hotels in Yanji cannot accept outsiders.

41. ~~(SBU)~~ Shenyang Airport is operating normally with temperature check stations for passengers in vehicles leaving and arriving at the airport. China Southern's direct flight from Shenyang to Los Angeles operates three times a week and remains in operation, according to contacts at the Shenyang Airport. Data shared by CG Shenyang contacts show that outbound flights to Los Angeles are at almost full capacity. Tuesday's flight from Shenyang to Los Angeles had 20 empty seats and Thursday's flight has 10 empty seats out of a maximum capacity of 286 seats. In comparison, contacts noted that the inbound flight from Los Angeles to Shenyang has fewer passengers but is still within an acceptable range. Thursday's flight from Los Angeles to Shenyang had 170 passengers out of 286 seats. Contacts noted that both inbound and outbound flights are normally at full capacity during the Lunar New Year because of students studying in the United States. The China Southern flight is NE China's only direct international flight to the United States.

42. ~~(SBU)~~ Consulate Shenyang held an EAC meeting and joined the Ambassador's town hall meeting for AMCIT employees and family members on January 30. Shenyang will also hold an LE staff town hall meeting on the first workday after the extended holiday on February 3. Over the last 24 hours, the total number of patients with confirmed coronavirus in NE China increased by 16. Chinese media reported that two patients in Jilin and Liaoning province has recovered from the coronavirus and were released. These are the first reported cases of patients being fully cured and released from quarantine in NE China.

Media/Social Media

43. (U) People's Daily continued to publish new stories about how China will "definitely win the battle against the epidemic." People's Daily cited statements by international personages in support of China's efforts against the epidemic, including the tweet by U.S. President Trump which appreciated China for its efforts in preventing and controlling pneumonia caused by the new coronavirus. As well as Alex Azar, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services appreciated China's prior disclosure of gene sequence information of new coronavirus, and emphasized that this is helpful for the development of virus diagnosis methods. Xinhua and widely amplified by all media including CCTV prime time is an order from Xi Jinping to the Chinese military to "keep its mission firmly in mind and shoulder responsibility to make contributions to winning the battle against the novel coronavirus epidemic." The military resolutely implemented the decisions and arrangements of the CPC Central Committee after the novel coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan of Hubei Province, Xi said, adding that the armed forces

rapidly initiated the joint prevention and control mechanism and sent elite medical teams to combat the epidemic at the frontline. Xi said the epidemic prevention and control “remained grim and complex and demanded the armed forces shoulder their responsibility, fight the hard battle and actively assist local authorities in fighting the epidemic.” [Xinhua](#) and CCTV also featured Li Keqiang and officials emphasizing the treatment of patients and the supply of medical resources. The piece said that prevention and control efforts are in full swing and have been intensified, but the epidemic keeps spreading, with a rapid rising trend in some regions. The meeting also stressed efforts of epidemic prevention and control amid the return trips of people after the Lunar New Year holiday, adding that proper postponement of return should be allowed. Delays in business operation and school opening should be applied. [Chinese outlets](#) also report over 7,700 confirmed cases of coronavirus in China, 170 deaths, and 128 recovered patients. [Xinhua](#) amplified a health official in Beijing that “early reporting, isolation, diagnosis is the best way to contain coronavirus.” [Xinhua](#) and other outlets also covered work by the Wuhan Institute of Virology to screen new coronavirus drugs that can inhibit coronavirus. Another article in [Global Times](#) praised Wuhan residents for “whistle-blowing” on virus outbreak. A top epidemiologist at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CCDC) on Wednesday commended eight residents, who were detained in early January for spreading “rumors” about the outbreak of the novel coronavirus. Zeng Guang, Chief epidemiologist at the CCDC, said those eight residents should be highly regarded as they turned out to be correct about the viral outbreak, even though the information they spread “lacked scientific evidence.” Zeng’s comment followed an article from the Supreme People’s Court of China (SPC) on Tuesday, in which the top court said that the eight Wuhan residents should be “tolerated” and their act of spreading the information, if taken seriously, would have done much good to the public. [China Daily](#) reports on efforts to guarantee key supply items and featured promises by various businesses including Wumart and Alibaba.

44. (U) In commentary [Xinhua](#) said China’s virus battle unites people and protects the world. [Xinhua](#) said, accusations that the massive city lockdown in Wuhan is a violation of human rights emerged, but the citizens of Wuhan disagree. Since the lockdown was put in place, they have been staying indoors and practicing quarantine measures with the utmost respect for the government’s guidance and their hallmark perseverance and optimism. They have a sober understanding that while inconveniences may emerge, the historic quarantine serves their health, safety and overall interests. Social cohesion binds the people of Wuhan at this critical moment. [Xinhua](#) concludes, time will prove that China has made wise decisions and will emerge even stronger after coming through the epidemic. [Messages](#) to CPC members continued to “stand up in time of crisis--resolutely winning the battle of prevention and control of epidemic.” [Global Times](#) comments that Provincial Governor Wang Xiaodong himself made a mistake in that press conference about the annual production capacity of masks in Hubei Province, which attracted fierce criticism from the public. But after that, the leading cadres in Hubei province did not shrink back, and Wang Xiaodong attended the press conference for the second time to communicate with the media and the public. At last night’s press conference, Governor Wang Xiaodong first expressed “understanding and appreciation” for the public’s supervision and criticism of the work of Hubei Province since the outbreak. He praised and bowed to medical staffs as a tribute at the press conference. Many people who watched last night’s press conference felt that the governor’s behavior was very sincere, says [Global Times](#).

45. (U) Social media continued to track and monitor the virus. One of the most popular related topics is the first case confirmed in Tibet. The top story on Weibo is a 100 second [video](#) that went viral with Zhang Wenhong, the infectious disease expert tasked with managing Shanghai's response to the novel coronavirus. In the video, Mr. Zhang said he asked all CCP members of his hospital, to replace those who already has been combating the coronavirus for a long time. "You cannot bully obedient people" said Mr. Zhang. Other popular topics include the live streaming of the construction of the two field hospitals in Wuhan - every vehicle and machine has been nicknamed by netizens. Top three hashtags have received 76 million views: 1. Hubei governor responded to criticism of netizens; 2. The epidemic is still in spreading process; 3. Pets need to be isolated if they touch virus. Other popular posts showed factory production of masks and protective gear, profiles of doctors and medical providers working to protect others, and other stories on numbers of cases.

All 31 Provincial-Level Territories at Highest Level of Alert

46. ~~(SBU)~~ The Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) decided to raise its public health alert to Level 1 on January 29, the highest level. All 31 provincial-level territories have now declared Level-1 emergencies (*People's Daily*).

Nationwide Cases: All 31 Provincial-Level Territories with Confirmed Cases

47. ~~(SBU)~~ China's National Health Commission (NHC) reported 1,737 newly confirmed cases on January 29 as of 24:00, as total confirmed cases rose to 7,711, including 1,370 cases in serious or critical condition ([link](#)). Among the new cases is the first confirmed case in the TAR. NHC further reported 38 new deaths on January 29, including 37 in Hubei and one in Sichuan. The number of patients treated and released rose to 124. A total of 12,167 cases are currently suspected, with 81,947 close contacts in isolation under medical observation.

Table: Confirmed Cases in Mainland China as of January 29

Province/City/Region	Total confirmed cases to date	New confirmed cases	Total deaths to date	New deaths reported
Anhui	200	48	--	--
Beijing	111	20	1	--
Chongqing	165	18	--	--
Fujian	101	17	--	--
Gansu	26	2	--	--
Guangdong	311	70	--	--
Guangxi	78	20	--	--
Guizhou	12	3	--	--
Hainan	46	3	1	--
Hebei	65	17	1	--

Heilongjiang	43	6	1	--
Henan	278	72	2	--
Hubei	4,586	1,032	162	37
Hunan	277	56	--	--
Inner Mongolia	18	2	--	--
Jiangsu	129	30	--	--
Jiangxi	162	53	--	--
Jilin	14	5	--	--
Liaoning	39	1	--	--
Ningxia	17	5	--	--
Qinghai	6	--	--	--
Shaanxi	56	10	--	--
Shandong	145	24	--	--
Shanghai	101	21	1	--
Shanxi	35	8	--	--
Sichuan	142	34	1	1
Tianjin	27	3	--	--
Tibet	1	1	--	--
Xinjiang	14	1	--	--
Yunnan	70	19	--	--
Zhejiang	428	132	--	--
TOTAL (NHC Reported)	7,711	1,737	170	38
TOTAL (From Provinces)	7,703	1,733	170	38

-- zero cases. Source: NHC,

provincial health commissions, and state media.

Table: Confirmed Cases in Other Countries and Regions as of Mid-Day January 30

Country/Region	Total Cases	New Confirmed Cases
Thailand	14	--
Hong Kong	10	2
Singapore	10	5
Japan	10	3
Taiwan	8	--
Macau	7	--
Australia	7	2

Malaysia	7	4
United States	5	--
France	5	1
South Korea	4	--
Germany	4	--
Canada	3	2
Vietnam	2	--
Nepal	1	--
Cambodia	1	--
Sri Lanka	1	--
United Arab Emirates	1	1
Finland	1	1
Total	101	21

Notes: As of 10:30 AM on January 30. Source: Ding Xiang Yuan, <http://www.dxy.cn/>

More Confirmed Cases of Third-Country Nationals in China, But No Amcits

48. ~~(SBU)~~ Guangdong authorities confirmed January 29 in a press conference that one Pakistani and two Australians had contracted the virus, the first cases involving foreigners in the province. According CG Guangzhou contacts, the Australians were students in Wuhan and have recovered. Health authorities reiterated to the Guangzhou consular corps January 30 there have been no fatalities in Guangdong and the preponderance of cases had a direct tie to Hubei, or a very close contact with someone with Hubei travel. No cases of Amcits currently in China have been confirmed and reported by PRC authorities.

Evacuation of Third-Country Nationals

49. ~~(SBU)~~ Nine of the 210 Japanese citizens evacuated from Wuhan to Tokyo on a second chartered aircraft on January 30 are reportedly symptomatic, with cough or fever. Two other Japanese passengers with fever or cough had been stopped from boarding at a pre-flight health screening in Wuhan (CCTV). Earlier, three of the 206 Japanese citizens that were evacuated from Wuhan to Tokyo on January 29 on the first chartered aircraft were diagnosed with 2019-nCoV (CCTV). Five of the passengers on the January 29 flight reportedly had fevers before they arrived in Tokyo.

Public Spending on 2019-nCoV Response

50. ~~(SBU)~~ China's national and local governments have reportedly spent RMB 27.3 billion (US\$ 3.9 billion) in public funds on the 2019-nCoV response as of 1700 on January 29 (CCTV). The Organization Department of the Communist Party announced on January 30 that it would release RMB 108 billion from CCP member dues to assist local governments (The Paper).

Mask Shortages – Daily Production in China Currently at 40-Percent Capacity

51. ~~(SBU)~~ Officials from China’s Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) have estimated the country’s maximum daily production capacity for masks at around 20 million per day, about half the global total ([link](#)). According to the officials, current production is at around 8 million masks per day due to the holiday. MIIT has called on enterprises to increase shifts and resume their normal production levels, though officials noted difficulties faced by producers. As one official said, “Most workers have returned home, supplies of raw materials have stopped, and logistics are at a halt.” Officials also noted disruptions in inter-province rail service and trucking routes as a factor. Guangdong authorities told the consular corps January 30 that 27 of the 29 manufacturers in the province have resumed operation and estimated local shortages should ease within days.

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Signature: Branstad

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 (b)(6)

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Subject: China Opens First Bio Safety Level 4 Laboratory

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Reference: 17 WUHAN 48
Subject: China Opens First Bio Safety Level 4 Laboratory

1. ~~(SBU)~~ **Summary and Comment:** The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has recently established what is reportedly China's first Biosafety Level 4 (BSL-4) laboratory in Wuhan. This state-of-the-art facility is designed for prevention and control research on diseases that require the highest level of biosafety and biosecurity containment. Ultimately, scientists hope the lab will contribute to the development of new antiviral drugs and vaccines, but its current productivity is limited by a shortage of the highly trained technicians and investigators required to safely operate a BSL-4 laboratory and a lack of clarity in related Chinese government policies and guidelines. China must invest in the development of the technical and scientific expertise needed to safely and efficiently operate this facility if it wishes to become a fully-engaged and collaborative global partner in infectious disease research and control. In addition, government BSL research decision-making processes need to be more transparent so that international partners and Chinese scientists are confident that the government is providing informed oversight that meets the highest global standards. To achieve full operation of this facility, China is likely to need additional technical assistance and advice from the international community. **End Summary and Comment.**

China Investing in Infectious Disease Control

2. (U) Between November 2002 and July 2003, China faced an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which, according to the World Health Organization, resulting in 8,098 cases and leading to 774 deaths reported in 37 countries. A majority of cases occurred in

China, where the fatality rate was 9.6%. This incident convinced China to prioritize international cooperation for infectious disease control. An aspect of this prioritization was China's work with the Jean Merieux BSL-4 Laboratory in Lyon, France, to build China's first high containment laboratory at Wuhan's Institute of Virology (WIV), an institute under the auspices of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). Construction took 11 years and \$44 million USD, and construction on the facility was completed on January 31, 2015. Following two years of effort, which is not unusual for such facilities, the WIV lab was accredited in February 2017 by the China National Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment. It occupies four floors and consists of over 32,000 square feet. WIV leadership now considers the lab operational and ready for research on class-four pathogens (P4), among which are the most virulent viruses that pose a high risk of aerosolized person-to-person transmission.

Unclear Guidelines on Virus Access and a Lack of Trained Talent Impede Research

3. ~~(SBU)~~ In addition to accreditation, the lab must also receive permission from the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFP) to initiate research on specific highly contagious pathogens. According to some WIV scientists, it is unclear how NHFP determines what viruses can or cannot be studied in the new laboratory. To date, WIV has obtained permission for research on three viruses: Ebola virus, Nipah virus, and Xinjiang hemorrhagic fever virus (a strain of Crimean Congo hemorrhagic fever found in China's Xinjiang Province). Despite this permission, however, the Chinese government has not allowed the WIV to import Ebola viruses for study in the BSL-4 lab. Therefore, WIV scientists are frustrated and have pointed out that they won't be able to conduct research project with Ebola viruses at the new BSL-4 lab despite of the permission.

4. ~~(SBU)~~ Professor Zhengli Shi, one of the few Chinese scientists with BSL-4 lab training, commented that NHFP's decision-making process regarding virus research permission is not transparent. Dr. Shi primarily studies coronaviruses including SARS and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). As a result, WIV requested permission to work on SARS in the new lab. NHFP denied this request without providing a clear reason, according to Professor Zheng. Thus, while the BSL-4 lab is ostensibly fully accredited, its utilization is limited by lack of access to specific organisms and by opaque government review and approval processes. As long as this situation continues, Beijing's commitment to prioritizing infectious disease control - on the regional and international level, especially in relation to highly pathogenic viruses, remains in doubt.

5. ~~(SBU)~~ During interactions with scientists at the WIV laboratory, they noted that the new lab has a serious shortage of appropriately trained technicians and investigators needed to safely operate this high-containment laboratory. University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston (UTMB), which has one of several well-established BSL-4 labs in the United States (supported by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID of NIH)), has scientific collaborations with WIV, which may help alleviate this talent gap over time. Reportedly, researchers from UTMB are helping train technicians who work in the WIV BSL-4 lab. Despite this, technicians at the WIV lab stated that they would welcome more help from U.S. and international organizations as they establish "gold standard" operating procedures and training courses for the first time in China. As China is building more BSL-4 labs, including one in

Harbin Veterinary Research Institute subordinated to the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) for veterinary research use (according to WIV scientists), the training for technicians and investigators working on dangerous pathogens will certainly be in demand.

Despite Limitations, WIV Researchers Produce SARS Discoveries

6. ~~(SBU)~~ The ability of WIV scientists to undertake productive research despite limitations on the use of the new BSL-4 facility is demonstrated by a recent publication on the origins of SARS. Over a five-year study, Drs. Shi and Cui Jie (and their research team) widely sampled bats in Yunnan province with funding support from NIAID/NIH, USAID, and several Chinese funding agencies. The study results were published in PLoS Pathogens online on Nov. 30, 2017 (1), and it demonstrated that a SARS-like coronaviruses isolated from horseshoe bats in a single cave contain all the building blocks of the pandemic SARS-coronavirus genome that caused the human outbreak. These results strongly suggest that the highly pathogenic SARS-coronavirus originated in this bat population. Most importantly, the researchers also showed that various SARS-like coronaviruses can interact with ACE2, the human receptor identified for SARS-coronavirus. This finding strongly suggests that SARS-like coronaviruses from bats can be transmitted to humans to cause SARS-like disease. From a public health perspective, this makes the continued surveillance of SARS-like coronaviruses in bats and study of the animal-human interface critical to future emerging coronavirus outbreak prediction and prevention. It is interesting that WIV scientists are allowed to study the SARS-like coronaviruses isolated from bats while they are precluded from studying human-disease causing SARS coronavirus in their new BSL-4 lab until permission for such work is granted by the NHFCP.

- 1. Hu B, Zeng L-P, Yang X-L, Ge X-Y, Zhang W, Li B, et al. (2017) Discovery of a rich gene pool of bat SARS-related coronaviruses provides new insights into the origin of SARS coronavirus. PLoS Pathog 13(11): e1006698. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.ppat.1006698>

Signature: BRANSTAD

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Participant Approval for FY17 IVLP MRP 'Global Health: Building Country Capacity' (E/VM-2017-0047), 3/20/17-4/7/17.

1. ECA/PE/VM is pleased to share the following approvals for participation in Global Health: Building Country Capacity (E/VM-2017-0047) subject to the availability of funds.

After confirming the status of your candidate, please proceed to paragraph 2 for important project information and action items.

Approved as of 2/24/17

PAS ABUJA

Belinda	UBA	Field Coordinator, National Stop Transmission of Polio (STOP), Abuja, Funding Country Nigeria
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PAS ADDIS ABABA

Fethia Keder	BUSER	HIV case team officer, Federal Ministry of Health, Funding Country Ethiopia
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PAS BEIJING

	(b)(6)	(b)(6)
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PAS BISHKEK

Baktygul	BOZGORPOEVA	Director, NGO "Kyrgyz Family Planning Alliance", Funding Country Kyrgyzstan
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PAS DHAKA

Ahmad Raihan	SHARIF	Medical Officer, IEDCR, Funding Country Bangladesh
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PAS FREETOWN

Asad	NAVEED	Junior Doctor, PCMH, Ministry of Health and Sanitation Sierra Leone, Funding Country Sierra Leone
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PAS GABORONE

Obed	JACOB	Principal Medical Laboratory Technician, Central Medical Stores , Funding Country Botswana
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**PAS HARARE**

Solomon	MUKUNGUNUGW A	Medical Doctor, Zimbabwe	Ministry of Health and Child Care, Funding Country
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PAS JERUSALEM

Mahmoud	ALHALABI	Projects and Logistics Assistant, World Health Organization, , Funding Country West Bank
Mahmoud	ELAYYAN	Administrative Director, Red Crescent Society Hospital, Funding Country West Bank

PAS KABUL

Abdul Mateen	SAHAK	Program officer, for Sharana programs UNICEF- Afghanistan, Funding Country Afghanistan
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PAS KOLKATA

Soma	MUKHOPADHYAY	Special Correspondent, Anandabazar Patrika , Funding Country India
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PAS MANILA

Dayang Carlsum	JUMAIDE	Assistant Secretary for Administration and Finance , Department of Health- Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Funding Country Philippines
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PAS MASERU

Palesa	MATSASA	Executive Secretary, Lesotho Country Coordinating Mechanism (LCCM) Secretariat, Funding Country Lesotho
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PAS MOSCOW

Olga	SAGALOVA	Head of the Department of Infectious Disease, South Ural State Medical University, Funding Country Russia
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PAS NAIROBI

Paul Wekesa	AGUNGA	Chief Executive Officer, Center for Health Solutions - Kenya, Funding Country Kenya
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PAS PODGORICA

Vladimir	DOBRICANIN	Medical Director, Clinical Center of Montenegro, Funding Country Montenegro
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PAS PORT-OF-SPAIN

Avery Quincy Joel	HINDS	Senior Technical Officer, Communicable Disease and Emergency Response, Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Funding Country Trinidad and Tobago
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PAS RIYADH

Saud	ALMOTRAFI	General Surgery Senior Resident, Minsitry of Health, Funding Country Saudi Arabia
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PAS SOFIA

Stanimir Galinov	HASARDZHIEV	Secretary, Bulgarian Partnership for Health , Funding Country Bulgaria
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PAS ULAANBAATAR

Bayasgalan	TUMENBAYAR	Head of Internal Medicine Department, School of Medicine, Mongolian National University of Medical Science , Funding Country Mongolia
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PAS VIENTIANE

Bouaphanh	KHAMPHAPHON GPHANE	Head of Epidemiology Section, National Center for Laboratory and Epidemiology (NCLE) , Ministry of Health, Funding Country Laos
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Waitlisted candidates and candidates we could not accommodate in this project are listed at the end of this document. Please work with the IVLP Country Portfolio Manager in Washington to determine course of action for this/these nominees.

2. The project will take place from 3/20/17-4/7/17. Participants should arrive on 3/18/17 and will depart on 4/8/17. The full itinerary for this project is TBD. Additional details will be provided in an 'Executive Summary' document at least 2 weeks before the start of the program.

3. Meridian International Center will implement this project. Department of State assigned Interpreters or International Visitor Liaisons will accompany the participant(s).

4. The EVDB project number is E/VM-2017-0047. All future cables or emails concerning this project must include the project name and number.

5. In order to ensure DS2019 accuracy and to begin visa processing, please immediately forward a passport scan with the following information to the ECA program team:

- The name exactly as it is listed in the machine readable portion of the passport
- Date of birth
- City of birth
- Passport number
- Issue date
- Expiration date



6. Missions are authorized to use IVLP fiscal data to issue Invitational Travel Authorizations to IVLP Division participants as they have been determined to be providing a direct-service to the USG. Please ensure that you have handled the following international travel responsibilities at least 3 weeks before the start date of the IVLP project.

- Book the round-trip international ticket and pay international baggage fee
- Enter all legs of international flight information into Post EVDBweb
- Enter itemized international flight costs and related fees into Post EVDBweb
- Disburse to the participant(s) applicable funds in accordance with guidance in the yearly fiscal data cable for your region, and report actual costs to the program team listed below

7. All multi-regional projects and some regional projects require fluency in English. In such cases, posts should verify that their candidate speaks English sufficiently well to participate in professional and social activities without the assistance of an interpreter.

Participants unable to communicate with interlocutors and fellow participants may be subject to early termination of their participation.

8. Please send all correspondence regarding this project to the attention of the program team:

(b)(6)
Program Officer, East Asia and Pacific Branch, IVLP Division

(b)(6)
(b)(6)

(b)(6)
Program Specialist

(b)(6)
(b)(6)

9. For detailed pre-departure briefing materials and other information that will facilitate Mission's IVLP operations, please visit the IVLP Intranet at this link: <http://eca.r.state.sbu/sites/IV> and refer to the 'Mission Reference' resource center. Please note the 'International Airport Arrival and Departure Programs' document outlining the airport arrival meet services we offer at specific U.S. airports.

10. Thanks and regards, ECA/PE/V/M



Waitlisted

PAS Jerusalem

(b)(6)

PAS Kabul

Unable to Accommodate

PAS Podgorica

(b)(6)

From: SMART Archive
Sent: Mon, 22 Sep 2014 07:21:34 -0400
To: WASHDC, SECSTATE;svcSMARTBTSP06
Cc: CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE;NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON
DC;GENEVA, USMISSION;FREETOWN, AMEMBASSY;CONAKRY, AMEMBASSY;MONROVIA,
AMEMBASSY;ABUJA, AMEMBASSY;PRETORIA, AMEMBASSY
Subject: China/Ebola: Engaging China on Enhanced Ebola Assistance

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SBU~~



MRN: 14 BEIJING 3720
Date/DTG: Sep 22, 2014 / 221121Z SEP 14
From: AMEMBASSY BEIJING
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: SHLH, EAID, WHO, CH, XY
Captions: SENSITIVE
Reference: A) 14 BEIJING 775
B) 14 STATE 106346
C) 14 STATE 110802
D) 14 STATE 112062
Subject: China/Ebola: Engaging China on Enhanced Ebola Assistance

1. ~~(SBU)~~ SUMMARY: China's response to the Ebola crisis in West Africa thus far has been measured and has increased gradually, with the most recent tranche of RMB 200 million (approximately USD 32 million) in assistance announced September 12. Although China has dispatched 174 health workers and related staff to affected countries, none of those staff have yet participated in the direct treatment of Ebola patients. Rather, Chinese personnel are reportedly providing Ebola triage, longer-term assistance, clinical care for non-Ebola patients, and staffing laboratory facilities. China appears to take the Ebola crisis seriously, and top-level leaders have called on the international community to do more to support Ebola relief. China, however, has historically been reluctant to respond to U.S. calls to work bilaterally in third countries on disaster and development assistance, preferring instead to work through multilateral organizations, like the World Health Organization (WHO), or in direct response to requests from affected countries. COMMENT: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

END

SUMMARY AND COMMENT.

China's Contributions to Date in Fighting Ebola

2. ~~(SBU)~~ China has provided three tranches of aid to West Africa since April, according to the website of the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC), China's health ministry. First, in April, the Chinese Red Cross delivered emergency medical supplies worth roughly RMB 1 million (approximately USD 163,000) each to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. In early August, China provided to each of the three countries an additional RMB 10 million (USD 1.6 million) in medical supplies as well as a 19-person medical team. Most recently, on September 12, China announced new aid worth RMB 200 million (approximately USD 32 million) for the affected countries. MFA officials told Post on September 17 that China would use these funds to provide Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone each a USD 1 million grant for direct budgetary support and USD 2 million through the UN World Food Program. Funds from this allocation would also go to support a new 59-member Chinese medical team dispatched to Sierra Leone on September 17.

3. ~~(SBU)~~ The new Chinese medical team reportedly will be based at the China-Sierra Leone Friendship hospital in Freetown. Staff members will include four public health and epidemiological experts, 25 lab staff for a mobile biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) laboratory, and 30 clinicians, including doctors and nurses, from the People's Liberation Army 302 Military Hospital, a unit specializing in infectious diseases established after the 2002 SARS outbreak, according to NHFPC. They will join 33 previously dispatched Chinese medical workers who are still in the region. Since the beginning of the current epidemic, China has sent a total of 174 medical workers to Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea, including the new team of 59 to Sierra Leone. Of note, none of the medical personnel dispatched to date have been involved in the direct care of Ebola patients. Rather, Chinese personnel are providing Ebola triage, longer-term assistance, clinical care for non-Ebola patients, and staffing laboratory facilities.

~~(b)(6)~~ Sierra Leone requested China to dispatch staff to treat Ebola patients. China reportedly has not yet agreed to this request.

4. ~~(SBU)~~ All of China's assistance to date, except the USD 6 million sent through the UN World Food Program, appears to have gone through bilateral channels rather than through the WHO or the UN. ~~(b)(6)~~ China selected Sierra Leone as its target country based on a variety of factors, including information provided by the WHO; discussions with the governments of the affected countries; information gathered by the first three-person Chinese teams deployed to each country; and China Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention (CCDC) Director Wang Yu's own investigative visit. China and Sierra Leone are currently working on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to govern China's operations in country. The Sierra Leone government requested this assistance through the Chinese Embassy in Freetown.

Understanding the Agencies Involved

5. ~~(SBU)~~ China's bureaucratic framework for public health and aid to foreign countries may present challenges for U.S. efforts to encourage China to increase its assistance (ref A). China's lead technical agency on infectious diseases is the CCDC. CCDC is a component of the NHFPC. However, China's aid to foreign countries is administered by MOFCOM, which controls all disbursements for aid programs overseas. For example, the recently announced RMB 200 million in assistance came in the form of a one-time allocation from MOFCOM; CCDC does not have resources to dedicate to operations of this scale. In addition, because China traditionally allocates disaster relief on the basis of direct requests from affected countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) plays an intermediary role between the capitals of the affected countries and the rest of the Chinese bureaucracy.

6. ~~(SBU)~~ U.S. CDC representatives permanently assigned to the Embassy in Beijing, who enjoy close working relationships with their CCDC counterparts, have served as the Embassy's main conduit of information related to China's Ebola response. In addition to this active working-level coordination, U.S. CDC Director Tom Frieden has spoken several times directly to his Chinese counterpart, CCDC Director Wang Yu, concerning Ebola. Post has also engaged with other relevant Chinese agencies to deliver points in ref t e l s B-D. MFA officials have expressed a willingness to engage with the U.S. on Ebola relief. For example, during a September 17 meeting with Deputy Pol Counselor, MFA Americas Counselor Dai Bing stressed that the Chinese Government agreed that combating the spread of Ebola was an excellent area in which to strengthen U.S.-China cooperation. MFA Americas Director General Cong Peiwu reiterated this commitment to work closely with the U.S. on Ebola during a September 19 meeting with the DCM. MOFCOM, however, which controls the foreign aid budget, has historically resisted U.S. approaches to cooperation on global development goals. Post is also continuing outreach efforts with MOFCOM on Ebola coordination.

7. ~~(SBU)~~ Lower-level officials from MFA and MOFCOM have told Embassy officers that they are focusing their Ebola relief efforts in response to direct requests for bilateral aid made to their embassies in the respective African capitals. For example, an official with MOFCOM's Department of Foreign Aid told EconOff September 17 that China was working closely with Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone and would ensure that its aid "reflected the needs as expressed by those countries" in their regular communication with China's Embassies in country. Further, officials at both MFA and MOFCOM advised that PRC support for multilateral initiatives (including the WHO) was coordinated through relevant Chinese Missions in New York and Geneva. This is consistent with the message delivered to UK officials, who were told that China's engagement with the WHO was best coordinated through their representatives in Geneva.

China's Capabilities and Constraints

8. ~~(SBU)~~ Accurately assessing the focus and scope of China's current activities in West Africa, as well as its broader capabilities to contribute to the Ebola response, remains challenging -- both because China has not participated in similar relief operations in the past and due to China's general lack of transparency. Because the medical practices of Chinese staff may not align with international standards in areas such as laboratory methodologies, infection control, and medical training, their ability to fully participate in international relief efforts may be accordingly limited. It may also be difficult for China to deploy trained medical personnel with sufficient knowledge of English or other appropriate languages. Moreover, rapidly increasing China's personnel contributions to the Ebola response may carry risk. For example, if Chinese medical workers were to contract Ebola in the process of combatting the current outbreak, China might withdraw its personnel or become less willing to participate in future international responses to infectious disease outbreaks. We have noted that some Chinese netizens are already questioning why China is sending experts to the region, both because of fear for their safety as well as concerns they may bring the disease back to China.

9. ~~(SBU)~~ On the other hand, the existing strong relationship between U.S. CDC and CCDC, and China's desire to gain clinical experience, may provide a base of cooperation on which we can build. CCDC will likely look to U.S. CDC for best practices and technical guidance. China is also eager to learn from the United States about how to structure and run Emergency Operations Centers, and wants to better understand international laboratory norms and standards. For example, the Chinese have expressed interest in, and appreciation for, lists of clinical conditions that might be difficult for their team currently in West Africa to differentiate from Ebola. Since there have been no confirmed cases of Ebola hemorrhagic fever yet in China, and China has not participated in relief operations for previous smaller Ebola outbreaks in Africa, China likely does not have practical experience diagnosing or treating this highly fatal disease. Therefore, the chance to gain clinical experience through working with U.S. or other experienced teams may impact their willingness to be more engaged clinically in the future. Finally, China has experience with rapidly constructing new health infrastructure, particularly in response to the country's experience with the 2002 SARS outbreak. China has already built health care facilities in West Africa, including the hospital in Sierra Leone where the newly dispatched Chinese medical team is based. This capability may present the most promising options for China to contribute meaningfully to Ebola response.

Focusing our Engagement with China

10. ~~(SBU)~~ COMMENT: (b)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

11. ~~(SBU)~~ COMMENT CONTINUED: (b)(5)

(b)(6)

(b)(5) END COMMENT.

Signature: BAUCUS

Drafted By: BEIJING: (b)(6)

Cleared By: (b)(6)

POL: (b)(6)

POL: (b)(6)

ECON: (b)(6)

ESTH: (b)(6)

CDC: (b)(6)

Approved By: EXEC: (b)(6)

Released By: BEIJING: (b)(6)

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CONAKRY, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; MONROVIA,
AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; ABUJA, AMEMBASSY *ROUTINE*; PRETORIA,
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