

From: Amanda J. Schoch-DNI- (b)(3)
To: [redacted] (b)(6)
Subject: RE: (U) Multiple Requests for Unclass TPs on COVID Origin
Date: Friday, December 4, 2020 2:27:35 PM

Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

Classified By: [redacted] (b)(3)
Derived From: ODNI CG (b)(6)
Declassify On: 20451231
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This is great thanks. Any sense of timing of the clearance? He is going to be on Fox Business on Sunday morning and I believe talking about China so he's probably be more than happy to have them. But if not he has more than enough to keep him busy on the show.

Amanda Schoch
ADNI for Strategic Communications
ODNI Strategic Communications

[redacted] (b)(3)
(b)(6)

From: [redacted] (b)(3)
(b)(6)
Sent: Friday, December 04, 2020 2:24 PM
To: Amanda J. Schoch-DNI-[redacted] (b)(3)
(b)(6)
Cc: [redacted]
Subject: (U) Multiple Requests for Unclass TPs on COVID Origin

Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~ (b)(3)
(b)(6)

Classified By: [redacted] IC COVID Coordinator
Derived From: ODNI CG
Declassify On: 20451231
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Amanda,

(U) FYSA.

~~(S//NF)~~ The NIC has been working on an update to the COVID Origin. Separately, the NIC received requests from State and the NSC (as well as DNI) on unclassified TPs on the origin question [redacted] (b)(1)
(b)(3)

(U//~~FOUO~~) The NIC put together the below information as a draft. I just submitted this language for formal clearance for unclassified TPs. These build off the 30 April statement with the new language in the last paragraph based off B&A.

(U) The Intelligence Community does not know exactly where, when, or how the

COVID-19 virus—known as SARS-COV-2—was transmitted initially to humans and have not determined whether the outbreak began through contact with infected animals or if it was the result of an accident at a laboratory in Wuhan.

- (U) The virus could have emerged naturally from human contact with infected animals, spreading in a consistent pattern with a natural epidemic, according to infectious disease experts.
- (U) A laboratory accident could resemble a natural outbreak if the initial exposure included only a few individuals and was compounded by asymptomatic infection. Chinese scientists have researched animal-derived coronaviruses under conditions that increased the risk for accidental and potentially unwitting exposure.

(U) We assess that by late January Chinese leaders understood that COVID-19 represented a significant threat, and took severe measures in Wuhan to try to control the spread of the virus. At the same time, leaders in Beijing tried to publicly downplay the threat of a pandemic and deflect blame away from China. In February, China characterized the US evacuation of citizens from Wuhan as an overreaction and was amplifying speculation that the outbreak began outside China.

~~(S//NF)~~ [Redacted] (b)(1)
 [Redacted] (b)(3)

[Redacted] (b)(3)
 [Redacted] (b)(6) (b)(3)

(U) ===== (b)(6) =====

IC COVID-19 COORDINATOR
 OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
 [Redacted] (b)(3)
 [Redacted] (b)(6)

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 Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~

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 Classification: ~~SECRET//NOFORN~~