



January 8, 2021

Gregory Koch
Director, Information Management Division
Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI)
Washington, DC 20511

RE: Mandatory Declassification Review request for three documents

Dear Mr. Koch:

This is a request for a mandatory declassification review (MDR), under the terms of Executive Order 12958, as amended. On August 12, 2020, U.S. Right to Know filed a FOIA request to the ODNI (ODNI Case # DF-2020-00325). We sought finished intelligence produced since January 2015 about the accidental or deliberate release of biological agents, containment failures in biosafety-level (BSL)-2, BSL-3 or BSL-4 research facilities, and other incidents of concern related to dual-use biosafety research in BSL-2, BSL-3 or BSL-4 research facilities in Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Iran, Israel, the Netherlands, Russia, former countries of the Soviet Union, South Africa, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and Thailand.

On December 29, 2020, the ODNI responded that it had located three documents responsive to our request, and determined that the three documents must be withheld in their entirety pursuant to FOIA exemptions (b)(1)-- under Executive Order 13526, section 1.4(c)-- and (b)(3), under the National Security Act of 1947, Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i)(1); Section 6 of the CIA Act of 1949, as amended; and Section 102A(i)(I) of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended. ODNI did not describe or characterize the nature of the documents, or their contents, other than that they were responsive to our FOIA request.

We hereby request that the three documents located by the ODNI in response to U.S. Right to Know's FOIA request (ODNI Case # DF-2020-00325) be reviewed under the terms of Executive Order 12958. If you regard these documents as potentially exempt from disclosure requirements, U.S. Right to Know requests that you nonetheless exercise your discretion to disclose them. We request that you release all reasonably segregable nonexempt portions of the three documents.

During the last year, the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 has been responsible for 1.8 million deaths. More are sure to follow. According to news reports, the U.S. deputy national security advisor, Matthew Pottinger, has [stated that](#) there is "a growing body of evidence that the [Wuhan Institute of Virology] lab is likely the most credible source of the [SARS-CoV-2] virus."

U.S. citizens have a right to know what data exists about accidents, leaks and other mishaps at laboratories where pathogens of pandemic potential are being stored and modified, and especially whether any such leaks are implicated in the origins of Covid-19, and the deaths of more than

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350,000 Americans. We urge you to release what information you have about these questions, both to U.S. citizens and concerned people and families across the world.

As a public interest, public health group, we have no commercial interest in the records that are the subject of this MDR request and would receive no financial benefit from their disclosure.

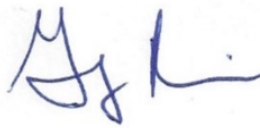
You can email Sainath Suryanarayanan at sainath@usrtk.org to discuss any aspect of this MDR.

If you prefer to call, please call Gary Ruskin, who can be reached at (415) 944-7350.

Sincerely,



Sainath Suryanarayanan, PhD
Staff Scientist



Gary Ruskin
Executive Director

Attachments:

1. Original FOI request letter
2. ODNI Letter of Denial