

From:	(b)(6)	(b)(6)
To:	(b)(6)	(b)(6)
Subject:	Re: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute	
Date:	Tue, 10 Mar 2020 12:48:33 +0000	

Too bad I couldn't get anyone to listen even with front channel cables and letters from the Ambassador to the NSC.

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From: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:44:00 AM

To: (b)(6)@state.gov>

Subject: RE: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute

Wow...just wow.

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

From: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 8:35 AM
To: (b)(6) (b)(6)
Subject: FW: 2018 Cable on Visit to the Wuhan Virology Institute

DeControlled

Here is the Ref A cable too:

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.

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 coronavirus 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.