May 30, 2023

Mr. Sainath Suryanarayanan, PhD
U.S. Right to Know
4096 Piedmont Ave. #963
Oakland, CA 94611

Dear Mr. Suryanarayanan:

As noted in our letter dated April 28, 2023, we are processing your request under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Thus far, the Department of State (“Department”) has located seven responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined that all seven records may be released in part.

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 record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. 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 Savith Iyengar, Assistant U.S. Attorney, at savith.iyengar@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2022-00075, and the civil action number, 22-cv-04359, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

Diamonece Hickson  
Chief, Litigation and Appeals Branch  
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
As requested, for you to print for A/S.

Also ++ Jonathan

Official
This message is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from UNCLASSIFIED attachment(s)
Classified By: Feith - DAS, Office:EAP, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 12/30/2045
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: Feith, David
Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 10:54 AM
To: Kenna, Lisa D @state.gov>; S_SpecialAssistants <S_SpecialAssistants@state.gov>
Cc: Stilwell, David R @state.gov>; Keshap, Atul @state.gov>
Subject: COVID origins material

Lisa and team, as requested, please see attached on COVID origins info:

1. Unclassified language from ODNI.
2. Draft S statement.

Thanks.

---

David Feith
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP)
U.S. Department of State
Official
This message is CONFIDENTIAL when separated from UNCLASSIFIED attachment(s)
Classified By: Feith - DAS, Office:EAP, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 12/30/2045
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>(b)(6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recipient:</td>
<td>Fritz, Jonathan D @state.sgov.gov</td>
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<td>(b)(6)</td>
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</table>
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(5)
Boss, the details of this Beijing soap opera are worth forwarding to S and Lisa:

Official - Sensitive

SECRET//NOFORN

Classified By: (b)(6) Deputy Director, Office:EAP/CM, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 17/7/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6)state.sgov.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Stilwell, David R (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; Feith, David (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; Buangan, Richard L (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; Keshap, Atul (b)(6)state.sgov.gov
Cc: (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)state.sgov.gov
Subject: FW: CLOSE HOLD: WIV Declassification Effort Heads Up

Good read-out of where things stand with the WHO mission...

Official - Sensitive

SECRET//NOFORN

Classified By: (b)(6) Deputy Director, Office:EAP/CM, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 17/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: (b)(6)state.sgov.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:26 AM
To: (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)state.sgov.gov
Cc: (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)state.sgov.gov; (b)(6)state.sgov.gov
Subject: RE: CLOSE HOLD: WIV Declassification Effort Heads Up

(b)(6)
I wanted to share with you a readout from a meeting I had this morning with [redacted] in Beijing. It provides some useful background and state-of-play on the visit (as of COB Beijing on January 7). Please limit distribution as I’d like to protect the contact.
Official - Sensitive
SECRET/NOFORN
Classified By: Deputy Director, Office:EAP/CM, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 7/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From:  
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2021 3:49 AM  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: RE: CLOSE HOLD: WIV Declassification Effort Heads Up

Thanks I haven't seen a readout

DAS Feith
Hi (b)(6)

Thanks for sharing. Have you seen a readout of the call?

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

Best,

(b)(6)
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: (b)(6)  
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2021 8:03 AM  
To: (b)(6)  
Cc: (b)(6) 
Subject: CLOSE HOLD: WIV Declassification Effort Heads Up

(b)(6)  

(SBU) (b)(5)  
(b)(5)
Best,

(b)(6)

(b)(6) Deputy Director
Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs
U.S. Department of State
(b)(6) Unclass)
(b)(6) @state.gov (Unclass)
(b)(6) (red phone)
(b)(6) @state.gov (SIPR)

Official - Sensitive
SECRET//NOFORN
Classified By: (b)(6) Deputy Director, Office: EAP/CM, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

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<th>&quot;Keshap, Atul&quot; (b)(6) @state.gov &gt;</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Recipient:</td>
<td>Stilwell, David (b)(6) @state.gov &gt;; Feith, David (b)(6) @state.gov &gt;; Fritz, Jonathan (b)(6) @state.gov &gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From: "Feith, David" @state.gov
To: Buangan, Richard L @state.gov;
CC: Fritz, Jonathan D @state.gov;
Keshap, Atul @state.gov;
Stilwell, David R @state.gov
Subject: FW: CLOSE HOLD: WIV Declassification Effort Heads Up
Date: Thu, 7 Jan 2021 17:20:37 -0500

Richard, as discussed, possible to help fix the problem noted below, that

Happy to help discuss with J39 folks etc.

Thanks.

Official - Sensitive
SECRET//NOFORN

Good read-out of where things stand with the WHO mission...

From: Fritz, Jonathan D @state.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Stilwell, David R @state.gov; Feith, David @state.gov; Buangan, Richard L @state.gov; Keshap, Atul @state.gov
CC: @state.gov
Subject: FW: CLOSE HOLD: WIV Declassification Effort Heads Up

From: (b)(6) (Beijing) @state.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 7, 2021 4:26 AM
To: @state.gov
I wanted to share with you a readout from a meeting I had this morning with contact in Beijing. It provides some useful background and state-of-play on the visit (as of COB Beijing on January 7). Please limit distribution as I’d like to protect the contact.
(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(6)

Official - Sensitive

SECRET//NOFORN
Classified By: [(b)(6)] Deputy Director, Office: EAP/CM, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From:  [(b)(6)]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2021 3:49 AM
To:  [(b)(6)] Beijing; [(b)(6)] Beijing; [(b)(6)] (Beijing)
Cc: Fritz, Jonathan D.; [(b)(6)]
Subject: RE: CLOSE HOLD: WIV Declassification Effort Heads Up
Thanks, I haven't seen a readout.

DAS Feith

Hi,

Thanks for sharing. Have you seen a readout of the call?

Best,

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, January 05, 2021 8:03 AM
To: (b)(6) Beijing; (b)(6) Beijing
Cc: Fritz, Jonathan D; (b)(6)
Subject: CLOSE HOLD: WIV Declassification Effort Heads Up

(b)(6)

(b)(1); (b)(5); (b)(7)(E)

(SBU)(b)(5)

(b)(5)
(b)(5)

(b)(5)

Best,

(b)(6)

Deputy Director,
Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs
U.S. Department of State

(b)(6) unclass
(b)(6) state.gov (unclass)
(b)(6) (red phone)
(b)(6) @state.gov (SIPR)

Official - Sensitive
SECRET/NOFORN

Classified By: (b)(6) Deputy Director, Office: EAP/CM, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 1/5/2046
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

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<td>Buangam, Richard L (b)(6) state.gov&gt;;</td>
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<td>(b)(6) state.gov&gt;</td>
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<td><strong>Recipient:</strong></td>
<td>Fritz, Jonathan D (b)(6) state.gov&gt;;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Keshap, Atul (b)(6) state.gov&gt;;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stilwell, David R (b)(6) state.gov&gt;</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Additional cables of interest from FSO (b)(6) to follow up his earlier excellent ones. (b) will be leaving AIT soon and starting (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Official - Sensitive
SECRET//NOFORN
Classified By: (b)(6) Political Officer, Office: AIT, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 8/5/2045
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

From: (b)(6)@state.gov
Sent: Wednesday, August 5, 2020 5:36 AM
To: Feith, David (b)(6)@state.gov
Cc: (b)(6)@state.gov
Subject: FW: cables on coronavirus origin

David,

Flagging two more cables attached for your consideration. Hope to see you in DC in a few weeks.

Thanks,
(b)(6)

Cables

(b)(1); (b)(6)
Withheld pursuant to exemption

(b)(1); (b)(6)
Official - Sensitive

SECRET//NOFORN
Classified By: (b)(6) Political Officer, Office: AIT, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 8/5/2045
Reasons: (Derived) Classification derived from previous message(s)

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<td>(h)(6)@state.sgov.gov</td>
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</table>

| Recipient: | (b)(6)@state.sgov.gov |
|           | (h)(6)@state.sgov.gov |
Rick,

Two more cables attached for your consideration.

Thanks,

(b)(

Cables

(b)(1); (b)(6)
Just for you and held as closely as possible.

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Feith, David <b>(6)</b>@state.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 6, 2021 10:36 AM
To: <b>(6)</b>@state.gov
Subject: FW: ACTION: Flagging Draft S Statement

As discussed, thanks.

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Stilwell, David <b>(6)</b>@state.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 1:44 PM
To: <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Feith, David <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Buangan, Richard L <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Keshap, Atul <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; EAP-Staffers Mailbox <EAPStaffers@state.gov>
Subject: RE: ACTION: Flagging Draft S Statement

Here you go.
Thanks
Stilly

Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED

From: <b>(6)</b>@state.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 5, 2021 11:01 AM
To: Ford, Christopher <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Stilwell, David <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Biegun, Stephen <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Hale, David <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Krach, Keith <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Ortagus, Morgan <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Brown, Cale <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Keshap, Atul <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Feith, David <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; Buangan, Richard L <b>(6)</b>@state.gov; EAP-Staffers Mailbox <EAPStaffers@state.gov>
RE: ACTION: Flagging Draft S Statement

Please send me the final draft when it’s ready for review. Cc: [b](6) who reviews all S statements before I see them. Thank you.

Official - SBY
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Ford, Christopher A  
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 6:49 PM
To: Stilwell, David R; Biegun, Stephen E; Hale, David; Krach, Keith J; Ortagus, Morgan D; Brown, Cale
Cc: Keshap, Atul; Feith, David; Buangan, Richard L; EAP-Staffers Mailbox
Subject: RE: ACTION: Flagging Draft S Statement

Thanks, David. I clear with the attached edits.

Official - SBE
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Stilwell, David R
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Biegun, Stephen E; Hale, David; Ford, Christopher A; Krach, Keith J; Ortagus, Morgan D; Brown, Cale
Cc: Keshap, Atul; Feith, David; Buangan, Richard L; EAP-Staffers Mailbox
Subject: ACTION: Flagging Draft S Statement

Colleagues,
The attached statement relates to [b](6) which S approved last week. S staff has asked for your review as soon as possible.

This S statement will be released after a

V/R
Dave
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<tr>
<th>Sender:</th>
<th>(b)(6) @state.gov</th>
<th>(b)(6) @state.gov</th>
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<td>Recipient:</td>
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Official
This message is UNCLASSIFIED when separated from SECRET attachment(s)
Classified By: Advisor, Office: AVC, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declasify On: 1/5/2031
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

From: Feith, David @state.gov
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 6:32 PM
To: DiNanno, Thomas G @state.gov; Ortagus, Morgan D @state.gov
Subject: FW: ACTION: Flagging Draft S Statement

FYSA, nodis please.

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Stilwell, David R @state.gov
Sent: Monday, January 4, 2021 2:16 PM
To: Biegun, Stephen E @state.gov; Hale, David @state.gov; Ford, Christopher A @state.gov; Krach, Keith J @state.gov; Ortagus, Morgan D @state.gov; Brown, Cale @state.gov
Cc: Keshap, Atul @state.gov; Feith, David @state.gov; Buangan, Richard L @state.gov; EAP-Staffers Mailbox <EAPStaffers@state.gov>
Subject: ACTION: Flagging Draft S Statement

Colleagues,

(b)(5); (b)(7)(E)

V/R
Dave

Official
UNCLASSIFIED

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<th>Sender:</th>
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<td>Recipient:</td>
<td>(b)(6)@state.sgov.gov</td>
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</table>
report that Wuhan authorities are seizing personal passports of local officials and SOE employees to prevent people defecting and telling the truth on the outbreak...
Official
CONFIDENTIAL
Classified By: (b)(6) Deputy Director, Office: AIT, Agency: U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 8/6/2045
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

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<th>(h)@state.sgov.gov</th>
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<td>E Clearances <a href="mailto:E_Clearances@state.sgov.gov">E_Clearances@state.sgov.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hi (b)(6) wanted to make sure you had seen the attached.

(b)(6)

Official
SECRET//NOFORN
Classified By: China Policy Coordinator, Office:ISN, Agency:U.S. Department of State
Declassify On: 8/11/2045
Reasons: Derived Per DSCG.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 11:58 PM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: ISN-RA-East Asia Team-DL
Subject: FW: Say CCP Aggressively Mobilizing Civilian Resources for Military Purposes with Major Focus on Biotech

Hi (b)(6)

I saw from your webinar a couple of months ago that you and your team are tracking the MCF strategy closely. I just wanted to bring the cable below to your attention. Part Two, which explores the same theme in Wuhan, is also attached. We decided to send part two as a record email instead of a front channel cable, and knowing that record emails often get overlooked, I thought it best to flag it for you.

Please feel free to share with your team or others working on MCF.

Thanks,
(b)(6)

Official - Sensitive
SECRET//NOFORN
Classified By: Political Officer, Office:ALT, Agency:U.S. Department of State
From: SMART Core  
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2020 1:52 PM  
To: (b)(6)  
Subject: (b)(6) Say CCP Aggressively Mobilizing Civilian Resources for Military Purposes with Major Focus on Biotech  

-SECRET  
Sensitive  

Action Office: POL, MLO, SCO  
Info Office: EAC  

MRN: 20 TAIPEI 349  
Date/DTG: Aug 04, 2020 / 040551Z AUG 20  
From: AIT TAIPEI  
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE ROUTINE  
E.O.: 13526  
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, CN, TW, KNCV, MOPS, MCAP, TBIO  
Captions: SENSITIVE  
Reference: A) 20 GUANGZHOU 27  
B) 20 BEIJING 77  
C) 20 TAIPEI 299  
D) 17 TAIPEI 495  
Pass Line: AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PASS TO AMCONSUL AUCKLAND  

Subject: (b)(6) Say CCP Aggressively Mobilizing Civilian Resources for Military Purposes with Major Focus on Biotech  

(b)(1); (b)(6)
Historical Precedents and Recent Patterns of PLA Integration into Civilian Academic Institutions

MCF Strategy Conscript Civilian Institutes into Military Tech Research
MCF Integral to CCP’s Overall Economic Development Strategy
Xi Speech: MCF Means PLA Must Tap into Civilian Scientific Talent

Xi Singles out Chinese Academy of Sciences as MCF Partner for Defense Tech R&D
11. (SBU) AIT found seven articles on the official website of the Wuhan branch of CAS referencing the MCF strategy. A September 2016 report documented how CAS set up a technology transfer center and base for innovation and entrepreneurship in Changsha, which “placed its focus on... smart manufacturing, biopharmaceuticals, next-generation information technology, and military-civil fusion.” The Hubei Provincial CCP Committee has an office dedicated to promoting the MCF strategy, and its official website contained 33 distinct pages with references to CAS, according to an advanced Google search. One example was a document issued on April 26, 2020 that answered questions about how to implement a directive called “Provisional Measures for Managing Weaponry R&D and Production Case Records.” This document identified CAS as one of several government agencies and state-run institutions authorized to serve as the “higher level supervisory unit” for local level institutions and enterprises that have been assigned work orders for R&D and/or production of PLA weapons. An AIT search found 2,030 separate references to the MCF strategy on the national website for CAS.
Biotech’s Prominence under the MCF Strategy

(b)(1); (b)(6)

(b)(1)

Signature: CHRISTENSEN

Classified By: Name: Christensen, W. Brent, Title: Director
Office: EXEC
Agency: AIT

Reason: 1.4 (a), (b), (d)
Declassify On: 2045/08/04
Drafted By: TAIPEI
Cleared By: POL
POL
ECON

(b)(6)
POL
EXEC:

Approved By: Christensen, W. Brent
Released By: TAIPEI

Info: SECDEF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; OSD WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI ROUTINE; COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI ROUTINE; COMSOCPAC HONOLULU HI ROUTINE; USARPAC INTEL FT SHAFTER HI ROUTINE; PACAF HICKAM AFB HI ROUTINE; COMMARFORPAC ROUTINE; CHINA POSTS COLLECTIVE ROUTINE; ZEN/AUCKLAND, AMCONSUL CHENGDU, AMCONSUL

XMT: NONE
Dissemination Rule: POL, EAC, MLO, SCO_ACTION

SECRET
Sensitive

Sender: state.sgov.gov>

Recipient: state.sgov.gov>