



United States Department of State

Washington, DC 20520

April 27, 2026

Case No. FL-2026-00005

Mr. Lewis Kamb  
U.S. Right To Know  
4096 Piedmont Ave  
Suite 963  
Oakland CA, 94611

Dear Mr. Kamb:

As we noted in our letter dated March 26, 2026, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State (“Department”) has identified an additional one responsive record subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined the record 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 the record. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing this record 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 Rashad Hussain, Assistant United States Attorney, at (202) 252-7725 or Rashad.Hussain@usdoj.gov. Please refer to the case number, FL-2026-00005, and the civil action number, 25-cv-03468, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

*Avery Bullard*

Avery Bullard  
Supervisory Government Information Specialist  
Litigation and Appeals Office

Enclosures: As stated.

**Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552) and Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. § 552a)**

**FOIA Exemptions**

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept classified 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

## **Privacy Act Exemptions**

- (d)(5) Information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action or proceeding
- (j)(1) Information maintained by the CIA
- (j)(2) Enforcement of criminal law, including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals, except records of arrest
- (k)(1) Classified pursuant to E.O. 13526 in the interest of national defense or foreign policy
- (k)(2) Investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes
- (k)(3) Regarding protective services to the President of the United States or other individual pursuant to Title 18, U.S.C., Section 3056
- (k)(4) Required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records
- (k)(5) Investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his identity would be held in confidence
- (k)(6) Testing or examination material used solely to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in the Federal service, the disclosure of which would compromise the testing or examination process
- (k)(7) Evaluation material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services

**From:** [Microsoft Outlook](#) on behalf of [inrwatchstander@state.sgov.gov](mailto:inrwatchstander@state.sgov.gov)  
**To:** [INR WATCH](#)  
**Subject:** [From SIPRNet] FW: China Coronavirus: Mission China Prepares CG Wuhan Ordered Departure  
**Date:** Saturday, January 25, 2020 8:48:22 AM  
**Attachments:** From SIPRNet FW China Coronavirus Mission China Prepares CG Wuhan Ordered Departure .msg

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Sender: [inrwatchstander@state.sgov.gov](mailto:inrwatchstander@state.sgov.gov)

Subject: [From SIPRNet] FW: China Coronavirus: Mission China Prepares CG Wuhan Ordered Departure

Message-Id:

<Mime4j.12a8f.c72d87e46f1a9fed.16fdcf5e60f@<5eabc7d28742405997b14caa264fd81d@state.sgov.gov>>

Recipient: [inrwatch@state.ic.gov](mailto:inrwatch@state.ic.gov)

**From:** inrwatchstander@state.sgov.gov  
**Sent:** Sat, 25 Jan 2020 13:47:53 +0000  
**To:** INR WATCH  
**Subject:** [From SIPRNet] FW: China Coronavirus: Mission China Prepares CG Wuhan  
 Ordered Departure  
**Attachments:** StateSeal.gif

**Official - ~~SBU~~**

UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** Operations Center  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2020 8:47 AM  
**To:** INR Watch  
**Cc:** SES-O  
**Subject:** FW: China Coronavirus: Mission China Prepares CG Wuhan Ordered Departure

**Official - ~~SBU~~**

UNCLASSIFIED

**From:** SMART Core  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 25, 2020 7:33 AM  
**Cc:** (b)(6) State-OpsCenter; (b)(6)

(b)(6)
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**Subject:** China Coronavirus: Mission China Prepares CG Wuhan Ordered Departure

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SBU~~

DeControlled



**Info Office:** SES\_O\_Watch

20 BEIJING 204

**MRN:** (<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20204%22>)

**Date/DTG:** Jan 25, 2020 / 251229Z 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, KHIV, AID

**Captions:** ~~SENSITIVE~~

**Reference:**

A) 20 BEIJING 202

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20202%22>)

B)

20 BEIJING 200

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20200%22>)

C)

20 BEIJING 198

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20198%22>)

D)

20 BEIJING 188

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20188%22>)

E)

20 BEIJING 186

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20186%22>)

F)

20 BEIJING 174

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20174%22>)

G)

20 BEIJING 172

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20172%22>)

H)

20 BEIJING 166

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20166%22>)

I)

20 BEIJING 164

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20164%22>)

J)

20 BEIJING 142

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20142%22>)

K)

20 BEIJING 122

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20122%22>)

L)

20 BEIJING 108

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%20108%22>)

M)

20 BEIJING 74

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2220%20beijing%2074%22>)

N)

19 WUHAN 112

(<http://repository.state.sgov.gov/searchcenter/results.aspx?k=mrn%3a%2219%20wuhan%20112%22>)

**Subject:** China Coronavirus: Mission China Prepares CG Wuhan Ordered Departure

1. ~~(SBU)~~ **Summary:** The Mission China Task Force held four meetings January 25 to coordinate Consulate General Wuhan personnel's safe and expedient departure from the city on a chartered flight January 27.

(b)(5) DPP

Mission China is officially closed until January 29 and the Chinese government is officially closed until January 30. The Mission China Task Force will continue to meet and report daily on the 2019-nCoV outbreak over the holiday. **End Summary.**

### **PRC Sets Process for Foreigners Leaving Wuhan**

2. ~~(SBU)~~ CG Wuhan reported Hubei's Foreign Affairs Office (FAO) January 25 established procedures for foreign citizens to leave Wuhan. FAO said all foreign citizens must obtain permission through their respective Embassy or Consulate to depart Wuhan. Foreign citizens should send their name, date of birth, gender, and passport information to their respective Embassy or Consulate and request that the Embassy send the request to leave via Diplomatic Note to the Hubei Provincial FAO. FAO also noted that anyone travelling by land to another city in China should expect a 14-day quarantine in the city of destination. For those travelling by road, they should also include a vehicle license plate number in their request.

### **Hubei FAO Confirms People Can Still Enter Wuhan**

3. ~~(SBU)~~ Hubei FAO noted January 25 that while individuals are still allowed to enter Wuhan, that regulation could change. The Exit Entry Bureau January 25 sent guidelines for foreigners regarding visa overstays, stating that quarantine periods will not count towards their visa overstay period. Once the quarantine period ends, the Bureau said foreigners will have a 10-day grace period to leave or extend their visas.

### **Wuhan Transportation Restrictions Tighten**

4. (SBU) Wuhan’s government January 25 announced that all motor vehicles except authorized supply trucks and other officially sanctioned cars will be banned in central districts beginning midnight January 26. Vehicles with diplomatic plates are exempted from the ban.

**Official Requests for Assistance Begin**

5. (SBU)

[Redacted]

(b)(5) DPP

The Ministry of Emergency Management (MEM) told Embassy Beijing ESTH January 25 that U.S. businesses should donate supplies through the Red Cross Society of Wuhan or the Red Cross Society of China. The Red Cross Society of Wuhan posted a notice on public donations January 25 (

link (<http://www.wuhanrc.org.cn/info/1003/2587.htm>)

) as did Wuhan’s customs office (

link ([http://wuhan.customs.gov.cn/wuhan\\_customs/506378/506379/2851956/index.html](http://wuhan.customs.gov.cn/wuhan_customs/506378/506379/2851956/index.html))

).

[Redacted]

(b)(5) DPP

**Reports of Clustered Cases Raise Concern of Sustained Human-to-Human Transmission**

6. (SBU) Reports of clustered cases among individuals with no history of travel to Hubei raised concerns of sustained human-to-human transmission. In Guangdong, China’s *People’s Daily* and other news outlets reported a case of 13 family members confirmed with 2019-nCoV on January 25. The patients were believed to have been infected at a family New Year’s get-together. [Note: No additional information was available from the Guangdong Health Commission as to whether anyone in the family had a connection to someone from Hubei. End note.]

**Mission China Task Force**

7. (SBU)

[Redacted]

(b)(5) DPP

(b)(5) DPP

8. (SBU)

(b)(5) DPP

9. (SBU)

(b)(5) DPP

10. (SBU) (b)(5) DPP told Embassy POLOFFS January 25 they continue to assess options on evacuating their citizens, but no plans have been confirmed. Embassy Beijing is in contact with other embassies on their evacuation planning.

**Public Health Emergencies Announced in Additional Provinces**

11. (SBU) By mid-day January 25, there were 20 provincial-level territories in total with declared level-1 emergencies in place. Level-1 emergencies are the most severe on the four-level scale established by national regulations. Declaration of a level-1 emergency gives local governments the authority to impose quarantines on affected communities, block off major transportation arteries, and restrict travel. Local governments may prohibit large gatherings of

people in affected areas, and schools and offices may be closed. The local government may also requisition buses, taxis, and other means of transport.

### **Nationwide Cases as of End of January 24**

12. ~~(SBU)~~ China's National Health Commission (NHC) reported that as of January 24, 444 new cases had been confirmed, with the total number of confirmed cases now up to 1,287 (

link (<http://www.nhc.gov.cn/yjb/s7860/202001/a7cf0437d1324aed9cc1b890b8ee29e6.shtml>) , in Chinese). Thirty of China's 31 provincial-level territories now have confirmed cases. The number of reported deaths is 41.

### **Death of Public Health Worker**

13. ~~(SBU)~~ CCTV reported the first death of a public health worker from 2019-nCoV on January 25. The patient, a 62-year-old doctor in the ears, nose, and throat (ENT) department of the Hubei Province Union Hospital (湖北省中西医结合医院新华医院) in Wuhan came into contact with nCoV patients in the ENT department and was suspected of infection on January 16. He was transferred to another hospital for treatment on January 18.

### **Beijing and Shanghai Schools Close**

14. ~~(SBU)~~ International schools in Beijing and Shanghai have begun to announce extended closures. Most schools are closed until February 3 for Lunar New Year. The Shanghai American School, which has the largest concentration of Consulate children, said January 25 that it will remain closed until February 17 at the request of the Shanghai Education Commission (SEC). CG Shanghai expects the decision by the SEC will affect all Consulate children. International schools in Beijing have also made similar closure announcements. In Beijing, the ride-hailing app DiDi (Chinese equivalent of Uber) notified users that all drivers would be required to wear masks. Passengers were also urged to wear masks. Service by the popular JSS food delivery app was suspended indefinitely, as the economic impacts of the outbreak begin to widen.

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

**Signature:**

KLEIN

**Drafted By:**

BEIJING (b)(6) Beijing); BEIJING: (b)(6)  
(Beijing); (b)(6) Wuhan); (b)(6) Wuhan); (b)(6)  
(b)(6) (Beijing)

**Cleared By:**

MGT (b)(6) Beijing)  
POL (b)(6) Beijing)  
HHS/CDC/IRD (b)(6) Beijing)  
HHS/CDC/CGH: (b)(6) Beijing)  
MGT/MED: (b)(6) Beijing)  
EXEC/LEG: (b)(6) Wuhan)  
PD: (b)(6) Beijing)  
CONS (b)(6) Beijing)  
ESTH: (b)(6) Beijing)  
USDA/APHIS (b)(6) Beijing)  
A/DCM-MGT: Munchmeyer, Katherine A (Beijing)  
INFO: DHS/CBP: (b)(6) Beijing)  
INFO: HHS/OGA (b)(6) Beijing)  
CDA: Klein, William H (Beijing)  
BEIJING: (b)(6) Beijing)

**Approved By:**

**Released By:**

**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*

**XMT:**

CARACAS, AMEMBASSY; ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

**Action Post:**

NONE

**Dissemination Rule:**

DIS\_Watch\_main

**UNCLASSIFIED**

~~SBU~~