

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6225

May 7, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Secretary Pompeo:

On April 16, 2020, I wrote you regarding the Department's and the Administration's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In that letter, I requested responses to a series of questions about how, when, and through what means the Department learned about the outbreak in Wuhan, China. Among other things, I requested the dates of the Department's first communications with officials from the WHO and other federal agencies about the suspected outbreak, and relevant cables from U.S. embassies. In addition, I have requested a briefing and any intelligence the Department has regarding the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic for well over a month.

As we continue to work to combat this pandemic in the United States and across the globe, we must at the same time ask critical questions to help us identify the cause of the virus, and to understand how our government, and others, responded, including what worked and where improvements are needed. The answers to these questions are critical, as they may inform ongoing efforts to stop any further spread, limit any subsequent waves of infection, and help us prepare against future pandemics.

Therefore, I ask that you respond to my prior questions and requests for information with urgency, and provide the additional documents requested below.

1. All Department cables relating to COVID-19 (including but not limited to any cable relating to a suspected virus, outbreak, influenza, pneumonia, H1N1, etc.) dated, sent, or received from November 1, 2019 through the date of complete response;
2. All cables relating to the Wuhan Institute of Virology or the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention lab in Wuhan, China dated, sent, or received from January 1, 2018 through the date of complete response;
3. All cables sent, received by, or relating to Brian "Rick" Switzer from January 1, 2018 through the date of complete response;
4. All cables relating to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and China from June 1, 2019 through the date of complete response;
5. All cables relating to the World Health Organization (WHO) from November 1, 2019 through the date of complete response;
6. All records relating to COVID-19 (including but not limited to any cable relating to a suspected virus, outbreak, influenza, pneumonia, H1N1, etc.) sent, received by, or

copying you, the Deputy Secretary, the Undersecretary for Management, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, or the U.S. Ambassador to China; from November 1, 2019 through the date of complete response;

7. All documents and memoranda drafted or prepared by the Bureau of Medical Services (MED), including MED/Clinical Services, sent to the Director of National Intelligence or National Security Council, or National Security Advisor, from January 1, 2020 through March 1, 2020;
8. All documents related to the Department's pandemic preparedness or response plan, including a copy of the plan as of January 1, 2020; and
9. All cables relating to pandemic preparedness or response from January 1, 2019 through the date of complete response.

Please contact my Committee staff to make arrangements for the production of these documents and to provide the previously requested information no later than May 14, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Menendez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Menendez
Ranking Member