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SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

PHONE (202) 225-4400

<https://coronavirus.house.gov>

July 8, 2020

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization
20 Avenue Appia
CH-1211 Geneva 27
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Tedros:

On April 9, 2020, Republicans on the Committee on Oversight and Reform (the Committee) wrote to you regarding the World Health Organization's (WHO) failed response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including its reported improper relationship with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).¹ On June 15, 2020, over two months after receipt of the letter, you provided a formal response.² This response was wholly incomplete and contained at least one false statement.³ This revelation demands your complete and forthright response to the Committee's previous request and sworn testimony before the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis (the Select Subcommittee). Until you appear under oath, America and the world will not know the origins of this crisis.

From as early as April 27, 2020, the WHO included a COVID-19 response timeline on its public website.⁴ This timeline originally stated that on December 31, 2019 the "Wuhan Municipal Health Commission, China, reported a cluster of cases of pneumonia in Wuhan, Hubei Province" to the WHO.⁵ This is also what you told the Committee in your June 15, 2020 letter

¹ Letter from Jim D. Jordan, et. al., Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform, to Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Org. (Apr. 9, 2020).

² Letter from Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Org., to Jim D. Jordan, Ranking Member, H. Comm. on Oversight & Reform (June 15, 2020).

³ *Id.*

⁴ Statement, World Health Org., Archived: WHO Timeline – COVID-19 (last updated June 29, 2020), <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/27-04-2020-who-timeline---covid-19>.

⁵ *Id.*

and maintained on your website until June 29, 2020.⁶ On April 20, 2020, during a virtual press conference, you even said: “[t]he first report came from Wuhan, from China itself.”⁷

However, a news report from last week revealed that your organization quietly contradicted these claims by posting an “updated” timeline to your official website.⁸ Then, on June 30, 2020, the above reference was quietly scrubbed from the website timeline. The timeline now states that the “WHO’s Country Office in the People’s Republic of China (PRC) picked up a media report...on cases of ‘viral pneumonia’ in Wuhan, PRC.”⁹ The “media report” was actually information posted to a United States website from doctors working in the epicenter of the pandemic.¹⁰

This revelation confirms that China failed to notify the WHO of the outbreak, in violation of the International Health Regulations (IHR), and must be held accountable.¹¹ By refusing to disclose the truth, you have shielded China from accountability. Your public statements regarding the initial outbreak coupled with the WHO website and your June 15 letter to this Committee demonstrate an endorsement of the CCP propaganda efforts to cover up the origins of this virus and mislead the world.

Since the beginning of this crisis, the WHO’s negligence and lack of transparency resulted in a loss of faith in your ability to contain this and future pandemics. This culminated with President Trump announcing the withdrawal of the United States’ voluntary WHO contributions on May 29, 2020 and officially notifying the U.S. Congress and the United Nations of the withdrawal on July 7, 2020.¹² Unequivocally, no organization should receive American taxpayer dollars that refuses to tell the truth and is unaccountable to the nations it serves.

⁶ Letter from Dr. Tedros *supra* note 2.

⁷ Transcript, World Health Org., COVID-19 virtual press conference (Apr. 20, 2020), https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/transcripts/who-audio-emergencies-coronavirus-press-conference-20apr2020.pdf?sfvrsn=b5656a70_2.

⁸ Adam Kredo, *China Never Reported Existence of Coronavirus to World Health Organization*, The Washington Free Beacon (July 2, 2020), <https://freebeacon.com/national-security/china-never-reported-existence-of-coronavirus-to-world-health-organization/>.

⁹ Statement, World Health Org., Timeline of WHO’s Response to COVID-19 (last updated June 30, 2020), <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/29-06-2020-covidtimeline>.

¹⁰ *Id.*; See Kredo *supra* note 8.

¹¹ International Health Regulations, 3rd Ed. (2005), <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/246107/9789241580496-eng.pdf;jsessionid=710A7E25FBB5559A94BDAA1284131887?sequence=1>.

Matthew Lee. *Trump US notifies UN of withdrawal from World Health Organization*, Associated Press. (July 7, 2020), <https://apnews.com/9dc4077f95d183649ca24a32a18abf01>

¹² Robbie Gramer, et. al., *Trump Cuts U.S. Ties With World Health Organization Amid Pandemic*, FOREIGN POLICY (May 29, 2020), <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/29/trump-pulls-out-of-who-coronavirus-pandemic-global-health-covid-china-beijing-influence-international-institutions-global-health/>.

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This new information necessitates your immediate response. We renew our April 9, 2020 request for the briefing and all the documents and communications. For your ready reference we previously requested the following documents and information:

1. All documents and communications regarding public health, including but not limited to COVID-19, novel coronavirus, or coronavirus, between the WHO and the Chinese Communist Party or the government of China between August 2019 and present.
2. All documents and communications regarding the total number of infected persons and deceased persons related to the current COVID-19 pandemic in China, including those infected but asymptomatic between August 2019 and present.
3. All documents and communications regarding public health, including but not limited to COVID-19, novel coronavirus, or coronavirus, between the WHO and Taiwan between August 2019 and present.

Additionally, we request the following employees of the WHO appear for transcribed interviews before the Select Subcommittee:

1. Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General
World Health Organization
2. Dr. John Mackenzie
Emergency Committee Advisor
World Health Organization
3. Dr. Michael Ryan
Executive Director
World Health Organization Emergencies Programme

Please provide the previously requested briefing, documents, communications, and confirm, in writing, the requested individual's attendance for transcribed interviews by July 15, 2020. In addition, we call on the WHO to publicly and formally acknowledge China's violation of the IHR.

This briefing may be conducted remotely for convenience and safety issues. To schedule the briefing or ask any follow-up or related questions, please contact Committee on Oversight and Reform staff at (202) 225-5074.

The Committee on Oversight and Reform is the principal oversight committee of the U.S. House of Representatives and has broad authority to investigate "any matter" at "any time" under House Rule X. Further, the Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis is empowered to investigate "preparedness for and response to the coronavirus crisis, including the planning for

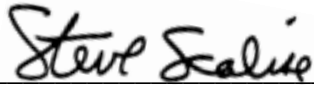
Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

July 8, 2020

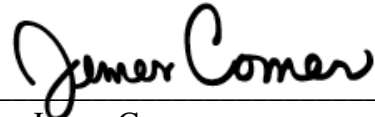
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and implementation of testing, containment, mitigation, and surveillance activities.”¹³ Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.

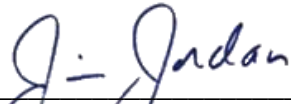
Sincerely,



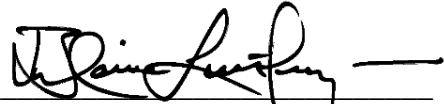
Rep. Steve Scalise
Ranking Member
Select Subcommittee on the
Coronavirus Crisis



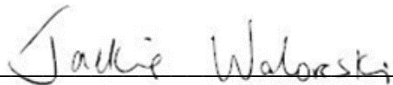
Rep. James Comer
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight
and Reform



Rep. Jim Jordan
Select Subcommittee on the
Coronavirus Crisis



Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer
Select Subcommittee on the
Coronavirus Crisis



Rep. Jackie Walorski
Select Subcommittee on the
Coronavirus Crisis



Rep. Mark E. Green, MD
Select Subcommittee on the
Coronavirus Crisis

cc: The Honorable James E. Clyburn, Chairman
Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney, Chairwoman
Committee on Oversight and Reform

¹³ H. Res. 935 § 3(a)(4) (2020).