



17 February 2021

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For information by

24 February 2021

Weekly Report – 17 February 2021

BRIEFING Overview Submission

PURPOSE This is a weekly product to update you on current and emerging international events, negotiations, and political developments. It includes a list of forthcoming Cabinet papers.

Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs

For information by

25 February 2021

Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	MOBILE PHONE
Amy Laurenson	Chief of Staff	Office of the Chief Executive	s9(2)(a)

Amy Laurenson
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Tūtohu – Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Note the contents of this report. | Yes / No |
| 2 | Refer a copy of this submission to: | Yes / No |

- Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date / /

Multilateral issues

WHO mission to China on the origins of COVID-19

18. The World Health Organisation (WHO) s6(b)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

s9(2)(g)(i)

From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 18 February 2021 2:39 pm

To:SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG)

<Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; Megan.McCoy@health.govt.nz; RANGER, Peter (UNHC)

<Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>; EVANS, David (NAD)

<David.Evans@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: WHO mission to China on the origins of COVID-19

[RESTRICTED]

Hi Alex,

As discussed earlier this week you will see in this weeks report for MFA an update on the WHO mission to China as follows:

The World Health Organisation (WHO) s6(b)(ii)

s9(2)(g)(i)
s6(a)

s9(2)(g)(i)

The UK also commented on the mission [here](#)

Given these developments we thought helpful to prepare reactive media points for the Minister as follows:

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(b)(ii) UNHC will work with MoH to develop joint advice and a NZ position on the mission for Ministers Mahuta, Hipkins and Little.

We will keep you in the loop as this develops.

Thanks,

Kathryn

Kathryn Beckett

Unit Manager
United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

Ms9(2)(a)

E kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz

10 March 2021

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For action by

11 March 2021

US Joint Statement: World Health Organization-led COVID origins study

BRIEFING	Decision Submission
----------	---------------------

PURPOSE	To provide an update on the proposed US joint statement on the World Health Organization-led COVID origins study, s6(a)
---------	---

Tukunga tūtohua – Recommended referrals

Prime Minister	For information by	11 March 2021
Minister for COVID-19 Response	For information by	11 March 2021
Minister of Health	For concurrence by	11 March 2021

Taipitopito whakapā – Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
Mark Ramsden	Divisional Manager	United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division	s9(2)(a)
Peter Ranger	Policy Officer	United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division	

Pito matua – Key points

- The US has circulated a draft statement to New Zealand s6(a) on the World Health Organization (WHO)-led COVID-19 origins study. s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i), s6(b)(ii)

- Identifying the origins of COVID-19 is of critical importance to both addressing the current pandemic and reducing the risk of future ones. New Zealand has supported work on determining COVID-19's origins from the outset, considering such work normal in response to a pandemic. Given its vital role in global health security, s6(a)
s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

- s6(a)
s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
- This submission has been prepared in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

Deborah Geels
for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Tūtohu – Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

s6(a)

Yes / No

Note s6(a) of the draft statement is attached as an Annex

Yes / No

Refer a copy of this submission to the Prime Minister, the Minister for COVID-19 response and the Minister for Health

Yes / No

Note officials will provide further advice on the issue.

Yes / No

Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: / /

Pūrongo – Report

1. The World Health Organization (WHO)-led study on the origins of COVID 19 - s9(2)(g)(i) - was mandated by an EU-led resolution, adopted by consensus, at the 73rd World Health Assembly in May 2020. Specifically, the resolution requested the WHO to work with the World Organization for Animal Health, the Food and Agriculture Organization and countries to identify the zoonotic source of the virus and its introduction to the human population. Identifying the origins of COVID-19 is of critical importance to both addressing the current pandemic and reducing the risk of future ones.
2. While the mission to China that was a critical part of the enquiry was completed last month, member states currently await the release of the mission's report - s6(b)(i), s6(b)(ii)

s6(a)

s6(b)(i), s6(a), s9(2)
(g)(i)

s6(a)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

New Zealand's position on the mission

6. New Zealand's support for the WHO's work on COVID origins, of which this mission forms part, has remained clear from the outset, considering that such work is normal in response to a pandemic. s6(a)

With our overarching goal being an improved state of global health security, we have supported calls for scientific rigour s6(a)

7. Further advice to Ministers will be informed by officials' analysing the report s9(2)(g)(i)

The US joint statement s6(a)

s6(a)

9. s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

officials consider we need to have our technical experts read and digest the report ahead of making a decision to join any statement on the China mission.

s6(a)

s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

b) Deliver a national statement, s6(a)
s6(a)

s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

Released under the
Official Information Act

Annex: s6(a) draft of US joint statement

Proposed Joint Statement on the WHO-Led COVID-19 Origins Study

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

Released under the
Official Information Act

From:SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 15 March 2021 5:43 PM

To: RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc:APPLETON, Michael (Inet) <Michael.Appleton@parliament.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: US Joint Statement: WHO led mission to China

Your previous message refers. s6(a)

Alexandra Smithyman

Private Secretary (Minister of Foreign Affairs)

s9(2)(a)

[SEEMAIL RESTRICTED]

From: Guergana Guermanoff [DPMC] [<mailto:Guergana.Guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>]

Sent: Monday, 15 March 2021 12:13 PM

To: Michael Appleton <Michael.Appleton@parliament.govt.nz>; Heath Fisher <Heath.Fisher@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: Alexandra Smithyman <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>

Subject: US Joint Statement: WHO led mission to China

[SEEMAIL][RESTRICTED]

Hi team

s6(a)

Guergana

Guergana Guermanoff

Foreign Policy Advisor

Policy Advisory Group

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(a)

E guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz



**DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 17 March 2021 6:17 pm
To:SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; LAWRENCE, Natasha (CEO Office) <Natasha.Lawrance@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: China Mission Joint Statement Update

[RESTRICTED]

Kia ora Alex,

The latest on the US Joint Statement on the WHO China Mission is s6(b)(i), s6(b)(ii)

Nothing else has changed since our submission...

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

Let me know if there is any other information that would be helpful,

Thanks,

Kathryn

Kathryn Beckett (she/her)

Unit Manager
United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz

From:APPLETON, Michael (Inet) <Michael.Appleton@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 18 March 2021 7:49 pm

To: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Ine) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: ESD <DM-ESD@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: DS-MLG signed submission for MFA action - US Joint statement: WHO led COVID origins study

Hi Peter

MFA and the PM have both read this submission. s6(a)

we should wait for the report to be released – and then

MFAT should provide further advice on whether to join the statement s6(a)

Kind regards

Michael



Michael Appleton

Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP
Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Local Government | Associate Minister for
Māori Development

M: s9(2)(a)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand
[Seemail Restricted]

From: GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 25 March 2021 8:32 am

To: GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>; UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: CPCD <DM-CPCD@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; ADDIS ABABA <DM-AUE@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; ANKARA <ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; APECPOL <APECPOL@mfat.govt.nz>; ARD <DM-ARD@mfat.govt.nz>; AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; BANGKOK <BKK@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>; BRIDGETOWN <BRG@mfat.govt.nz>; BRUSSELS <BRU@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; CCD <DM-CCD@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS APEC NZ <DSAPECNZ@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS TEG <DM-DSTEG@mfat.govt.nz>; ECO <DM-ECO@mfat.govt.nz>; ENV <DM-ENV@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; JAKARTA <JAK@mfat.govt.nz>; LGL <DM-LGL@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; MEXICO <MEX@mfat.govt.nz>; MOSCOW <MOS@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; NEW YORK <NYK@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; PACREG <PACREG@mfat.govt.nz>; PARIS <PAR@mfat.govt.nz>; PHM <PHM@mfat.govt.nz>; ROME <ROM@mfat.govt.nz>; SEA <DM-SEA@mfat.govt.nz>; STOCKHOLM <SKM@mfat.govt.nz>; SUVA <SVA@mfat.govt.nz>; TND <TND@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; VIENNA <VNA@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.Health Ministry (Seemail) <trade@health.govt.nz>; FM.P/S Health (Seemail) <FMPSHealth@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail) <DPMCFPA@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.MPI (Seemail) <mfat.messages@mpi.govt.nz>; COVID-19 Insights [DPMC] <COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz>; s6(a)

KIS Merlin Cables [TSY] <KIS_MerlinCables@cass.govt.nz>;

FM.MBIE Formal Messages (Seemail) <cables@mbie.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID 19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY

[SEEMAIL] [RESTRICTED]

s6(a)

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

MoH: Megan McCoy, Mikey Smyth, Emma Fisher

MBIE: Michael Contaldo, Simon Rae, Clinton Watson

RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY

WHO Member States will receive a briefing on the Covid-19 origins mission report at Friday lunchtime (Geneva time). An embargoed copy of the written report is expected to be made available to Member States tomorrow (Thursday). We anticipate a media briefing could be held in Geneva as soon as Friday afternoon.

With timing now more certain, s6(b)(i)

for release of a joint statement. s6(b)(i)

HOHENGANGA – ACTION

For information.

UNHC/MoH – we suggest you prepare New Zealand reviewers for analysis of the origins mission report on Friday 26 March (NZT).

POLI-258-408

GVA – to email the embargoed copy of the report to UNHC/MoH asap following receipt, followed by a short “report headlines” FM to wider addressees.

PŪRONGO – REPORT

WHO Member States have now been invited to a (closed) **information session, 12.30 to 2pm, on Friday 26 March (Geneva time)** that will provide an update on “the **Report from the Global Study of the Origins of SARS-CoV-2**”. Comment: we suggest NZ-based reviewers consider joining Friday’s Zoom information session so they can hear direct from the mission experts (and especially if an embargoed copy is not forthcoming tomorrow as expected).

- 2 We understand that s6(b)(i)
with editing and translation then required. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

(in keeping with DG Tedros’s undertaking to Member States last week that they would get the report 24 hours in advance of its release). Comment: There are no details available as to when the report will be publicly released, but **we should be prepared for DG Tedros to hold a media briefing in short order** following the Member State information session on Friday.

- 3 On the **timing of the US-proposed joint statement**, s6(b)(i)

Comment: s9(2)(g)(i)

MUTU - ENDS

From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC)
Sent: Thursday, 25 March 2021 10:41 AM
To:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY
 Thanks Guergana,

POLI-258-408

The process you outline below looks sensible and is aligned with discussions we had with MoH yesterday on next steps.

We will work with MoH today to agree a timeline and holding media points to send through, Kathryn

Kathryn Beckett (she/her)
Unit Manager
United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz

From:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 25 March 2021 9:01 AM
To:FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISS ON REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY

[SEEMAIL][RESTRICTED]

Good morning,

In the context of the FM below, and as we appear to be heading into another situation where we may be required to make quick decisions, I would like us to agree on the steps that will be taken before a decision is made/response provided.

This was the Ministerial decision on the submission regarding the US-led joint statement:

MFA and the PM have both read the submission s6(a)

Based on this, I would propose the following steps, but please let me know if you have a different view:

- Receive a copy of the report from the WHO and related briefings
- Provide Ministers with holding lines in response to any media briefings that may be held by the WHO
- NZ reviewers examine the report and provide an assessment/feedback/opinion
- MFAT coordinates advice to relevant Ministers, including the PM, on:
 - New Zealand's assessment of the report
 - s6(a)
 - How NZ should respond and in what format, including whether NZ should participate in the US-led joint statement
- Following Ministerial approval of a course of action, inform partners

To me, the above set of actions (if you agree), indicate that a weekend turn around of a decision would not be possible. So would be good to also get a timeline that we can be working to.

As you know, the PM is hosting PM Brown in Auckland tomorrow and has official commitments during the day and on Saturday, so she will have limited opportunities to receive formal briefings/consider advice.

Guergana

Guergana Guermanoff

Foreign Policy Advisor
 Policy Advisory Group
 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

M s9(2)(a)
 E guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz



From:FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 25 March 2021 11:18 am
To: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>;GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY

Yes, it works for us too, thanks.

**Heath Fisher**

Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP
 Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Local Government | Associate Minister for
 Māori Development

M:s9(2)(a)
 Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand
 [Seemail Restricted]

From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC)
Sent: Thursday, 25 March 2021 5:50 PM
To:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet)

<Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY

Evening Guergana,

Quick update - we will send through the timeline and media points tomorrow morning – we are seeking more clarity overnight on the timing of the US statement and how that impacts our process.

Thanks,

Kathryn

s9(2)(a)

From: GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 26 March 2021 8:46 am
To: UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: CPCD <DM-CPCD@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; ADDIS ABABA <DM-AUE@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; ANKARA <ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; APECPOL <APECPOL@mfat.govt.nz>; ARD <DM-ARD@mfat.govt.nz>; AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; BANGKOK <BKK@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>; BRIDGETOWN <BRG@mfat.govt.nz>; BRUSSELS <BRU@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBER A <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; CCD <DM-CCD@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS APEC NZ <DSAPECNZ@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS TEG <DM-DSTEG@mfat.govt.nz>; ECO <DM-ECO@mfat.govt.nz>; ENV <DM-ENV@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; JAKARTA <JAK@mfat.govt.nz>; LGL <DM-LGL@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; MEXICO <MEX@mfat.govt.nz>; MOSCOW <MOS@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; NEW YORK <NYK@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; PACREG <PACREG@mfat.govt.nz>; PARIS <PAR@mfat.govt.nz>; PHM <PHM@mfat.govt.nz>; ROME <ROM@mfat.govt.nz>; SEA <DM-SEA@mfat.govt.nz>; STOCKHOLM <SKM@mfat.govt.nz>; SUVA <SVA@mfat.govt.nz>; TND <TND@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; VIENNA <VNA@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.Health Ministry (Seemail) <trade@health.govt.nz>; FM.P/S Health (Seemail) <FMPHealth@mfat.net.nz>; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail) <DPMC@mfat.net.nz>; FM.MPI (Seemail) <mfat.messages@mpi.govt.nz>; COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz;s6(a) FM.Treasury (Seemail) <merlin@treasury.govt.nz>; FM.MBIE Formal Messages (Seemail) <cables@mbie.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN

POLI-258-408

<BER@mfat.govt.nz>; GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION: s6(b)(i)

Importance: High

[RESTRICTED]

s6(a)

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

MoH: Megan McCoy, Mikey Smyth, Emma Fisher

MBIE: Michael Contaldo, Simon Rae, Clinton Watson

PŪRONGO – REPORT

s6(b)(i)

TĀKUPU - COMMENT

s6(a), s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

MUTU – ENDS

From: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>

Date: Friday, 26 Mar 2021, 5:32 PM

To: Guergana Guermanoff [DPMC] <Guergana.Guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>,FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fishe@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: ^MFAT: Ben King <Ben.king@mfat.govt.nz>, WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>, GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>, WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>, OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>, LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>, Madison Edilson [DPMC] <Madison.Edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>,SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>, RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>, RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>, ^MFAT: Michael O'Shaughnessy <michael.o'shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>, GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>, ROWE, Jessica (NAD) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY

[SEEMAIL] [RESTRICTED]

Kia ora kōrua,

Reactive media points for Ministers on the COVID-19 origins mission report (also provided to Ministers Little and Hipkins via Ministry of Health):

- [If asked about the China mission report] We are pleased that the report has now been released. Our technical experts are currently analysing the report.
- [If asked about the US joint statement or a possible New Zealand statement] This is a scientific report and we want to make sure we understand the science before making any comment. We will wait until our experts have finished analysing the report –s9(2)(g)(i)

Update on joining the US statement

We now have more clarity on the position of the US regarding timing for delivery of the statement following the release of the report. They are planning a very short timeframe –s6(b)(i)

This means it will not be possible for New Zealand experts to sufficiently analyse the report (even at a high level) and for us to feed back any textual changes before the statement is delivered. For this reason we propose to inform the US directly (in Geneva, and following up in Wellington) that New Zealand cannot join the statement. Further, even if the US were to offer a short extension on timing, MoH has confirmed there would still not be enough time to sufficiently analyse the report. s6(a)

Below are key points we propose to deliver to the US:

- New Zealand recognises the critical importance of the WHO-led COVID-19 origins study. It is vital the world understands the exact source of the current coronavirus disease virus and its introduction to the human population, so that we can learn from this in order to improve the global health system and reduce the risk of a future pandemic.
- We welcome the efforts from the US to engage with the World Health Organization and global health security. The US plays a pivotal leading role in this space and we appreciate the US's engagement on such an important issue, s6(a)
- As we have mentioned, it is important to New Zealand that we are able to sufficiently analyse the mission's report before joining or delivering any statement on the WHO-led COVID-19 origins study. The US's proposed timeline from the release of the report to the delivery of the statement means that we will be unable to join the statement. Our technical experts are under a heavy work load with our COVID-19 response, and we do not have the capacity to analyse the report in such a short time.
- Once we have analysed the report we will be happy to share our views on the report and continue to work closely with the US on any further phases of the COVID-19 origins study.
- [If we are asked if we will deliver a national statement] Once New Zealand has analysed the report, we will decide on the appropriate way to comment on the mission.

Update on timeline for NZ agencies to review the report and provide advice to Ministers

We are working to agree a timeline for MFAT, MoH and MPI review of the report and provide advice to Ministers. The below is yet to be agreed by agencies but is what we are currently looking at:

Working days following release of the report:

- Days 1-6 from release of report: MoH, MPI and MFAT undertake parallel reviews of the report and determine individual agency positions.
- Day 7-8 from release of report: agencies meet and work together to agree joint NZ Inc position on the report and advice to Ministers.
- Day 9 from release of report: advice provided to relevant Ministers including the PM on:
 - New Zealand's assessment of the report
 - s6(a)
 - How NZ should respond to the report and in what format, including whether NZ should release a national statement or participate in any joint statements
 - Provision of media points.

Ngā mihi,
Kathryn

From:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 26 March 2021 7:33 pm

To: BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet)

<heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>

Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER) <Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>; ROWE, Jessica (NAD) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION REPORT: EMBARGOED COPY EXPECTED THURSDAY, WITH MEMBER STATE BRIEFING ON FRIDAY [RESTRICTED]

Thanks Kathryn, this approach looks good to me s6(a)

I will update the PM on Monday on what we are proposing as the next steps and will let you know if I receive any further comments.

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

From: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) [<mailto:Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>]
Sent: Monday, 29 March 2021 11:57 AM
To:GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>; Heath Fisher <Heath.Fisher@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>; Madison Edilson <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>; Alexandra Smithyman <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER) <Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>; ROWE Jessica (NAD) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; NE DS, Andrew (SEA) <Andrew.Needs@mfat.govt.nz>; LAWRENCE, Natasha (CEO Office) <Natasha.Lawrance@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: Arriva of the COVID-19 Origins Mission Report
Importance: High
 [SEEMAIL] [RESTRICTED]

Hi all,

We have just received notification from Geneva that **the WHO has uploaded the Joint Report of the WHO-convened Global Study of Origins of SARS-CoV-2: China Part (the origins report)** to a password protected section of its website. The report is attached.

Also uploaded was a separate annexes document; but this document is too large to attach here.

GVA will send an FM overnight to alert the system.

To note:

- The report and annexes are only available to Member States at this time and are otherwise **embargoed until Tuesday 30 March 2021 at 3.30pm CET (Wednesday 31 March 2:30am NZT)**. This is so Member States can consider the report before it is placed in the public domain. The Secretariat has requested

that Member States do not discuss the report publicly or issue public statements about the report until the embargo is lifted.

- There will be a **Member State information session** on the report with scientists from the expert group available to present the report and take questions. This will take place on **Tuesday 30 March at 1pm to 2.30pm CET (Wednesday 31 March 12am NZT)**. The embargo on the report will be lifted one hour after the Member State information session. The Secretariat will publish it on WHO.int at that time and release it to the media ahead of an expected press briefing by members of the expert group later in the afternoon on 30 March.
- The report has been shared with experts at MOH and MPI.

Thanks and happy to discuss,

Cheers

Peter Ranger

Foreign Policy Officer

United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division

New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere

M s9(2)(a) E peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz

From:SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 29 March 2021 12:43 pm
To: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>;GUERMANOFF, Gue gana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON Madison (Inet) <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; O'SHAUGHNESSY Michael (AMER) <Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>; ROWE, Jessica (NAD) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; NEEDS, Andrew (SEA) <Andrew.Needs@mfat.govt.nz>; LAWRENCE, Natasha (CEO Office) <Natasha.Lawrance@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Arrival of the COV D-19 Origins Mission Report

Thanks for this. Just to clarify – how does this fit with Kathryn's advice on Saturday, does it change anything (or are we simply at day 0 in terms of the timetable at the foot of Kathryn's email)? And, do you have any further advice on the US' intended timeframes (6(b)(i) public release)? We are just preparing a short update for the Minister now.

Alex

Alexandra Smithyman

Private Secretary (Minister of Foreign Affairs)

s9(2)(a)

[SEEMAIL RESTRICTED]

From: RANGER, Peter (UNHC)
Sent: Monday, 29 March 2021 1:44 pm
To:SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>;GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>;FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office)

<Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER) <Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>; ROWE, Jessica (NAD) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; NEEDS, Andrew (SEA) <Andrew.Needs@mfat.govt.nz>; LAWRENCE, Natasha (CEO Office) <Natasha.Lawrance@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Arrival of the COVID-19 Origins Mission Report

Hi Alex,

Thanks for your email.

To confirm, we do not see this as changing the approach proposed in Kathryn's email. We would see this as day zero.

Regarding s6(b)(i) I have confirmed with Kathryn that the email below referred to the release to member states, not public release. We have no further update on the US timeframe, but we do now have the details regarding how long the report is embargoed. Our understanding is that a US statement could be delivered very shortly after the end of the embargo.

We look forward to hearing any comments you, or Guergana, may receive when updating MFA and the PM.

Cheers

Peter Ranger

Foreign Policy Officer
United Nations, Human Rights and Commonwealth Division
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade | Manatū Aorere
Ms9(2)(a) E peter.ranger@mfat.govt.nz

From:SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 29 March 2021 3:19 pm
To: RANGER Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfat.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Arrival of the COVID-19 Origins Mission Report

Thanks Peter

Alexandra Smithyman
Private Secretary (Minister of Foreign Affairs)
Ms9(2)(a)
[SEEMAIL RESTRICTED]

From: GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 March 2021 6:13 am
To: GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>; UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>
Cc: CPCD <DM-CPCD@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR

<DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; ADDIS ABABA <DM-AUE@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; ANKARA <ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; APECPOL <APECPOL@mfat.govt.nz>; ARD <DM-ARD@mfat.govt.nz>; AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; BANGKOK <BKK@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>; BRIDGETOWN <BRG@mfat.govt.nz>; BRUSSELS <BRU@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; CCD <DM-CCD@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS APEC NZ <DSAPECNZ@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS TEG <DM-DSTEG@mfat.govt.nz>; ECO <DM-ECO@mfat.govt.nz>; ENV <DM-ENV@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; JAKARTA <JAK@mfat.govt.nz>; LGL <DM-LGL@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; MEXICO <MEX@mfat.govt.nz>; MOSCOW <MOS@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; NEW YORK <NYK@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; PACREG <PACREG@mfat.govt.nz>; PARIS <PAR@mfat.govt.nz>; PHM <PHM@mfat.govt.nz>; ROME <ROM@mfat.govt.nz>; SEA <DM-SEA@mfat.govt.nz>; STOCKHOLM <SKM@mfat.govt.nz>; SUVA <SVA@mfat.govt.nz>; TND <TND@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; VIENNA <VNA@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.Health Ministry (Seemail) <trade@health.govt.nz>; FM.P/S Health (Seemail) <FMPHealth@mfat.net.nz>; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) PS.MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail) <DPMCFPA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.MPI (Seemail) <mfat.messages@mpi.govt.nz>; COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) FM.Treasury (Seemail) <merlin@treasury.govt.nz>; FM.MBIE Formal Messages (Seemail) <ables@mbie.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION: EMBARGOED REPORT RELEASED, MEMBER STATE BRIEFING SCHEDULED TUESDAY 30 MARCH

[RESTRICTED]

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

MoH: Megan McCoy, Mikey Smyth, Emma Fisher
MBIE: Michael Contaldo Simon Rae, Clinton Watson

RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY

An embargoed version of the report of the WHO-convened Global Study of Origins of SARS-CoV-2 has been made available to Member States. The WHO will hold a briefing on Tuesday afternoon (CET) with scientists from the expert group present to take questions, after which the report will be made public. s6(b)(i)

PŪRONGO – REPORT

1. **The WHO released an embargoed version of the Joint Report** of the WHO-convened Global Study of Origins of SARS-CoV-2 to a password protected section of its website late on Sunday 28 March CET. The report – which GVA transmitted to UNHC and MOH upon its release – is attached to this Formal Message. Typographical and formatting issues are still being picked up by the expert group as part of routine final proof-reading. The Annex to the report is too large to attach. It can be accessed at the password protected section of the WHO website (strictly for Member States use only so please protect log on details):

s6(a)

2. The report and annexes are only available to Member States at this time. The Secretariat has requested that Member States do not discuss the report publicly or issue public statements about the report until the embargo is lifted on Tuesday 3.30pm CET (Wednesday 2:30am NZT). [Comment: Addressees should continue to observe the embargo despite media reports that it has already been breached.]

3. There will be a **Member State information session** on the report with scientists from the expert group present to take questions. This will take place on Tuesday 1pm CET. The embargo on the report will be lifted one hour after the Member State information session. The Secretariat will publish it on WHO.int at that time and release it to the media ahead of an expected press briefing by members of the expert group later in the afternoon.

4. The **US-led joint statement** is also on track for release on Tuesday. s6(b)(i)

5. GVA will report by Formal Message again tomorrow, after s6(b)(i) and the Member State information session.

ENDS

From:FISHER, Heath (Inet) <heath.fisher@parliament.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 30 March 2021 9: 4 am

To: RANGER, Peter (UNHC) <Peter.Ranger@mfa.govt.nz>;SMITHYMAN, Alexandra (Inet) <Alexandra.Smithyman@parliament.govt.nz>;GUERMANOFF, Guergana (Inet) <guergana.guermanoff@dpmc.govt.nz>

Cc: KING, Ben (DCE) <Ben.King@mfat.govt.nz>; WILSON, Paula (NAD) <Paula.Wilson@mfat.govt.nz>; GEELS, Deborah (DS MLG) <Deborah.Geels@mfat.govt.nz>; WOODLEY, Jocelyn (AMER) <Jocelyn.Woodley@mfat.govt.nz>; OCE <OCE@mfat.govt.nz>; LAURENSEN, Amy (CEO Office) <Amy.Laurenson@mfat.govt.nz>;EDILSON, Madison (Inet) <madison.edilson@dpmc.govt.nz>; RAMSDEN, Mark (UNHC) <Mark.Ramsden@mfat.govt.nz>; O'SHAUGHNESSY, Michael (AMER) <Michael.O'Shaughnessy@mfat.govt.nz>; GOULD, Jacinta (NAD) <Jacinta.Gould@mfat.govt.nz>; ROWE, Jessica (NAD) <Jess.Rowe@mfat.govt.nz>; BECKETT, Kathryn (UNHC) <kathryn.beckett@mfat.govt.nz>; NEEDS, Andrew (SEA) <Andrew.Needs@mfat.govt.nz>; LAWRENCE, Natasha (CEO Office) <Natasha.Lawrance@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Arrival of the COVID-19 Origins Mission Report

I spoke with MFA last night. s6(a)

And I see

from reporting overnight that we would have had very little time indeed!

Heath

**Heath Fisher**

Senior Foreign Affairs Advisor | Office of Hon Nanaia Mahuta MP
 Minister of Foreign Affairs | Minister of Local Government | Associate Minister for
 Māori Development

M: s9(2)(a)

Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

[Seemail Restricted]

From: UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>**Sent:** Tuesday, 30 March 2021 11:59 AM**To:** GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; WASH NGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>**Cc:** CPCD <DM-CPCD@mfat.govt.nz>; UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR<DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DSAAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING<BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO<TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; ADDIS ABABA <DM-AUE@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; ANKARA<ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; APECPOL <APECPOL@mfat.govt.nz>; ARD <DM-ARD@mfat.govt.nz>; AUS <[\[AUS@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:AUS@mfat.govt.nz\)>; BANGKOK <\[BKK@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:BKK@mfat.govt.nz\)>; BEIJING <\[BEI@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:BEI@mfat.govt.nz\)>; BERLIN](mailto:DM-</div>
<div data-bbox=)<BER@mfat.govt.nz>; BRIDGETOWN <BRG@mfat.govt.nz>; BRUSSELS <BRU@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA<CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; CCD <DM-CCD@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE<DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS APEC NZ <DSAPECNZ@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA<DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS TEG<DM-DSTEG@mfat.govt.nz>; ECO <DM-ECO@mfat.govt.nz>; ENV <DM-ENV@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <[\[EUR@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:EUR@mfat.govt.nz\)>; HAGUE <\[HAG@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:HAG@mfat.govt.nz\)>; ISED <\[DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz\)>; JAKARTA](mailto:DM-</div>
<div data-bbox=)<JAK@mfat.govt.nz>; LGL <DM-LGL@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; MEXICO<MEX@mfat.govt.nz>; MOSCOW <MOS@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; NEW YORK<NYK@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; PACREG <PACREG@mfat.govt.nz>; PARIS<PAR@mfat.govt.nz>; PHM <PHM@mfat.govt.nz>; ROME <ROM@mfat.govt.nz>; SEA <[\[SEA@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:SEA@mfat.govt.nz\)>; STOCKHOLM <\[SKM@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:SKM@mfat.govt.nz\)>; SUVA <\[SVA@mfat.govt.nz\]\(mailto:SVA@mfat.govt.nz\)>; TND](mailto:DM-</div>
<div data-bbox=)<TND@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; VIENNA <VNA@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON<WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; FM Health Ministry (Seemail) <trade@health.govt.nz>; FM.P/S Health (Seemail)<FMPHealth@mfat.net.nz>; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail)<DPMCFPA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.MPI (Seemail) <mfat.messages@mpi.govt.nz>; [COVID-](mailto:COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz)19insights@dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) FM.Treasury (Seemail)<merlin@treasury.govt.nz>; FM MBIE Formal Messages (Seemail) <cables@mbie.govt.nz>; BEIJING<BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON<LON@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN<BER@mfat.govt.nz>**Subject:** RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION: EMBARGOED REPORT RELEASED, MEMBER

STATE BRIEFING SCHEDULED TUESDAY 30 MARCH

[RESTRICTED]**RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY**

Thank you for your formal message. We provide guidance on New Zealand's approach to the US joint statement.

HOHENGA – ACTION

GVA: Drawing on the talking points outlined in paragraph 2, grateful if you could confirm with the US that New Zealand will not join their joint statement.

s6(a)

PŪRONGO – REPORT

- 1 The short timeframe between the release of the COVID-19 origins mission report and the proposed delivery time of the US joint statement means it will not be possible for New Zealand experts to sufficiently analyse the report (even at a high level) and for us to feed back any textual changes before the statement is delivered. For this reason we confirm that New Zealand cannot join the US joint statement.
- 2 We provide talking points for informing the US of New Zealand's decision:
 - New Zealand recognises the critical importance of the WHO-led COVID-19 origins study. It is vital the world understands the exact source of the current coronavirus disease virus and its introduction to the human population, so that we can learn from this in order to improve the global health system and reduce the risk of a future pandemic.
 - We welcome the efforts from the US to engage with the World Health Organization and global health security. The US plays a pivotal leading role in this space and we appreciate the US's engagement on such an important issue s6()
 - As we have mentioned, it is important to New Zealand that we are able to sufficiently analyse the mission's report before joining or delivering any statement on the WHO-led COVID-19 origins study. The US's proposed timeline from the release of the report to the delivery of the statement means that we will be unable to join the statement. Our technical experts are under a heavy work load with our COVID-19 response, and we do not have the capacity to analyse the report in such a short time.
 - Once we have analysed the report we will be happy to share our views on the report and continue to work closely with the US on any further phases of the COVID-19 origins study.
 - *[If we are asked if we will deliver a national statement]* Once New Zealand has analysed the report, we will decide on the appropriate way to comment on the mission.
- 3 If approached by our traditional likemindeds for our position on the US joint statement, please feel free to inform them.

MUTU - ENDS

From: UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 30 March 2021 5:48 pm

To: GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>; CPCD <DM-CPCD@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; ADDIS ABABA <DM-AUE@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; ANKARA <ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; APEC POL <APEC POL@mfat.govt.nz>; ARD <DM-ARD@mfat.govt.nz>; AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; BANGKOK <BKK@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>; BRIDGETOWN <BRG@mfat.govt.nz>; BRUSSELS <BRU@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; CCD <DM-CCD@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS APEC NZ <DS APEC NZ@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS

POLI-258-408

PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS TEG <DM-DSTEG@mfat.govt.nz>; ECO <DM-ECO@mfat.govt.nz>; ENV <DM-ENV@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; JAKARTA <JAK@mfat.govt.nz>; LGL <DM-LGL@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; MEXICO <MEX@mfat.govt.nz>; MOSCOW <MOS@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; NEW YORK <NYK@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; PACREG <PACREG@mfat.govt.nz>; PARIS <PAR@mfat.govt.nz>; PHM <PHM@mfat.govt.nz>; ROME <ROM@mfat.govt.nz>; SEA <DM-SEA@mfat.govt.nz>; STOCKHOLM <SKM@mfat.govt.nz>; SUVA <SVA@mfat.govt.nz>; TND <TND@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; VIENNA <VNA@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.Health Ministry (Seemail) <trade@health.govt.nz>; FM.P/S Health (Seemail) <FMPSHealth@mfat.net.nz>; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail) <DPMCFPA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.MPI (Seemail) <mfat.messages@mpi.govt.nz>; COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) FM.Treasury (Seemail) <merlin@treasury.govt.nz>; FM.MBIE Formal Messages (Seemail) <cables@mbie.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION: US INFORMED NZ WILL BE UNABLE TO JOIN US-LED STATEMENT

[RESTRICTED]

RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY

s6(a)

of the WHO-led COVID-19 origins study and s6(a)

we recognise the critical importance

New Zealand is not in a position to join the US-led statement as we cannot conduct our own independent analysis of the report in time to meet the US deadline (releasing the statement 30 March Geneva time).

HOHENGA – ACTION

GVA: you may wish to confirm New Zea and's position with Geneva-based US contacts.

WSH: for information.

PŪRONGO – REPORT

Further to our fo mal message below, s6(a)

2 s6(a)

given the importance of New Zealand conducting our own independent analysis of the WHO COVID origins mission report before issuing any public statement, New Zealand would not be in a position to sign on to the joint statement, as we could not complete this in the time available. s6(a)

s6(a) DM UNHC called US Embassy s9(2)(a) to convey New Zealand's decision in person

s6(a)

MUTU – ENDS**From:** GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 March 2021 9:51 am**To:** UNHC <DM-UNHC@mfat.govt.nz>; GENEVA <GVA@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>

Cc: AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; CPCD <DM-CPCD@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; ADDIS ABABA <DM-AUE@mfat.govt.nz>; AMER <DM-AMER@mfat.govt.nz>; ANKARA <ANK@mfat.govt.nz>; APECPOL <APECPOL@mfat.govt.nz>; ARD <DM-ARD@mfat.govt.nz>; AUS <DM-AUS@mfat.govt.nz>; BANGKOK <BKK@mfat.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>; BRIDGETOWN <BRG@mfat.govt.nz>; BRU SELS <BRU@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; CCD <DM-CCD@mfat.govt.nz>; CEO <DM-CEO@mfat.govt.nz>; DCE <DCE@mfat.govt.nz>; DS AAG <DM-DSAAG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS APEC NZ <DSAPECNZ@mfat.govt.nz>; DS EMA <DM-DSEMA@mfat.govt.nz>; DS MLG <DM-DSMLG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS PDG <DSPDG@mfat.govt.nz>; DS TEG <DM-DSTEG@mfat.govt.nz>; ECO <DM-ECO@mfat.govt.nz>; ENV <DM-ENV@mfat.govt.nz>; EUR <DM-EUR@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; ISED <DM-ISED@mfat.govt.nz>; JAKARTA <JAK@mfat.govt.nz>; LGL <DM-LGL@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; MEXICO <MEX@mfat.govt.nz>; MOSCOW <MOS@mfat.govt.nz>; NAD <DM-NAD@mfat.govt.nz>; NEW YORK <NYK@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; PACREG <PACREG@mfat.govt.nz>; PARIS <PAR@mfat.govt.nz>; PHM <PHM@mfat.govt.nz>; ROME <ROM@mfat.govt.nz>; SEA <DM-SEA@mfat.govt.nz>; STOCKHOLM <SKM@mfat.govt.nz>; SUVA <SVA@mfat.govt.nz>; TND <TND@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; VIENNA <VNA@mfat.govt.nz>; WASHINGTON <WSH@mfat.govt.nz>; FM Health Ministry (Seemail) <trade@health.govt.nz>; FM.P/S Health (Seemail) <FMPSHealth@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.P/S MFA (Seemail) <PS.MFA@mfat.net.nz>; FM.DPMC (FPA) (Seemail) <DPMCFPA@mfat.govt.nz>; FM.MP (Seemail) <mfat.messages@mpi.govt.nz>; COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz; s6(a) FM.Treasury (Seemail) <merlin@treasury.govt.nz>; FM.MBIE Formal Messages (Seemail) <cables@mbie.govt.nz>; BEIJING <BEI@mfat.govt.nz>; CANBERRA <CBA@mfat.govt.nz>; HAGUE <HAG@mfat.govt.nz>; LONDON <LON@mfat.govt.nz>; OTTAWA <OTT@mfat.govt.nz>; TOKYO <TKY@mfat.govt.nz>; BERLIN <BER@mfat.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FORMAL MESSAGE: COVID-19 ORIGINS MISSION: MEMBER STATE BRIEFING AND US-LED STATEMENT

[RESTRICTED]**RĀPOPOTO – SUMMARY**

The WHO's weekly COVID-19 information session today focused on the joint expert group's study into the origins of SARS-CoV-2, giving the experts an opportunity to discuss their report with Member States.

s6(a)

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)

The US released its joint statement after the information session, in the company of 13 other countries. New Zealand did not join, given our need to conduct our own independent national analysis, which was not achievable in time to meet the US' statement short deadline. GVA conveyed this message,s6(a)

HOHENGA – ACTION

For information. This is Part 1 of a two-part message with Part 2, summarising our insights into likemindeds' preliminary views on the expert groups' conclusions to follow tomorrow.

PŪRONGO – REPORT

At the WHO's weekly COVID-19 information session today the expert group responsible for the joint study into the origins of SARS-CoV-2 spoke with Member States about its recently released report. The WHO Dr Peter Ben Embarek and China's Professor Liang Wannian provided remarks on behalf of the expert group, followed by statements from WHO DG Tedros, China, the European Union, the United States, and Canada.

Expert Group remarks

2. s6(b)(ii)

s6(a)

Director General Tedros
s6(b)(ii)

Member States

s6(a)

Response from the Experts
s6(b)(ii)

s6(b)(ii)

s6(a), s6(b)(ii)

US-led joint statement

12. As instructed, we advised the US mission this morning that New Zealand would not be joining the US-led joint statement. s6(b)(i)