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From: Li Xiang [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 2:15 AM

To: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: About the upcoming hearing on COVID-19 origins

Dear [REDACTED],

I am Counselor Li Xiang with the Chinese Embassy in the US. I am reaching out to express our grave concern regarding the COVID-19 Origins hearing to be chaired by Congressman Wenstrup on next Tuesday. According to the announcement, the hearing is to examine “China's complicity in the COVID-19” crisis and hold China accountable. We firmly

oppose it. and I would like to share with you our perspectives on this issue.

First of all, the origins-tracing is a complex matter of science. This study should be and can only be conducted jointly by scientists. Intelligence community, which is highly political in nature, cannot possibly produce anything objective or credible on such professional matter. We oppose "political tracing" or "intelligence tracing". We oppose any attempt to lable China esp. Wuhan as the origin of the virus before any concrete evidence is presented and conclusion is drawn collectively by the scientists all over the world. We oppose any political manuveur such as "verdict first, then comes trial".

Second, China values life and public health cause around the globe and is always ready to cooperate with other countries on origin tracing. "A laboratory origin of the pandemic was considered to be extremely unlikely" is a science-based, authoritative conclusion reached by the experts of the WHO-China joint mission after field trips to the lab in Wuhan and in-depth communication with researchers in 2021. It was accurately recorded in the mission's report and has received extensive recognition from the international community and the science community.

Third, the hearing just demonstrates that the US is going further and further down the wrong path. To simply blame others or find a scapegoat for its own failure and incompetence is the easiest thing to do, but it is neither responsible for the past nor helpful for the future.

We call on the US side to respect science and facts, refrain

from targeting China in holding the above-mentioned hearings, and put a stop to the intelligence-led, politics-driven origins-tracing, and help promote international solidarity against the pandemic and global cooperation on science-based origins-tracing.

I look forward to having an in-depth discussion with you on COVID-19 or any other issue of mutual concern at any time.

LI Xiang

Counsellor

Embassy of China in the USA

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