



One Hundred Sixteenth Congress  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

May 13, 2020

Mr. Brian Murphy  
Acting Under Secretary for Intelligence & Analysis  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Acting Under Secretary Murphy:

The world continues to learn more about China's efforts to dissemble, obfuscate, and divert information from the key early months of the novel coronavirus outbreak through to the present day. Media reports indicate that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Intelligence & Analysis (I&A) recently assessed with medium confidence that China was manipulating public knowledge of the extent and severity of the virus in their country in order to stockpile resources for their own pandemic response.<sup>1</sup> Earlier today, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), in coordination with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), issued a public warning regarding China's threats to American intellectual property related to the coronavirus.<sup>2</sup> China's apparent actions create challenges for the efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, to say nothing of the public health ramifications for the entire world. In light of these reports and the recent news that leadership at I&A is in transition, we write to inquire about I&A's work with respect to China.

As a member of the Intelligence Community (IC), I&A is privy to the intelligence reporting of all IC agencies and contributes valuable classified and open-source material to the IC intelligence picture. In particular, I&A sits in a unique position in the IC given its responsibilities to state, local, tribal and territorial partners, as well as partners in the private sector who rely on DHS reporting to secure the American public. As such, DHS has an essential role to play in ensuring that the American public and the American economy get back to normal as quickly as conditions allow.

China's past and present actions with regard to the pandemic implicate issues of cybersecurity, export enforcement, intellectual property, electronic crimes, and other traditional and non-

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<sup>1</sup> Jana Winter and Sharon Weinberger, *Leaked intelligence report saying China 'intentionally concealed' coronavirus to stockpile medical supplies draws scrutiny*, YAHOO NEWS, May 4, 2020, <https://news.yahoo.com/intelligence-analysis-claims-china-intentionally-concealed-the-severity-of-coronavirus-to-stockpile-medical-supplies-172449908.html>.

<sup>2</sup> *Public Service Announcement: People's Republic of China (PRC) Targeting of COVID-19 Research Organizations*, FBI & CISA, May 13, 2020; see also David E. Sanger and Nicole Perlroth, *U.S. to Accuse China of Trying to Hack Vaccine Data, as Virus Redirects Cyberattacks*, NEW YORK TIMES, May 10, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/10/us/politics/coronavirus-china-cyber-hacking.html>.

traditional threats. Given these broad-ranging impacts, we urge I&A to take the critical step of increasing its focus on China, including the use of commercial trade data.

We also ask that you commit to continuing to share with the Committee all products DHS has produced on China's actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including any products not already transmitted to the Committee. Please make relevant unclassified DHS products available to Committee staff over official email channels. In addition, we respectfully request a briefing from I&A on China's actions during this pandemic.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your team to ensure that DHS has the resources it needs to protect the American public and aid communities in their return to normalcy at the appropriate time. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'mrose', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Max Rose  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Intelligence  
and Counterterrorism

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Walker' in a cursive style.

Mark Walker  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Intelligence  
and Counterterrorism