



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

April 26, 2021

Case No. FL-2021-00033

Gary Ruskin
4096 Piedmont Ave. #963
Oakland, CA 94611

Dear Mr. Ruskin:

As we noted in our letter dated March 26, 2021, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State has identified an additional five responsive records subject to the FOIA. We have determined that all five records may be released in part. The processing of your request is ongoing.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Laurel Lum, Trial Attorney, at laurel.h.lum@usdoj.gov or (202) 305-8177. Please refer to the case number, FL-2021-00033, and the civil action number, 20-cv-08415, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Miller".

Jeanne Miller
Chief, Programs and Policies Division
Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

From: SMART Archive
Sent: Mon, 03 Aug 2020 10:07:25 GMT
To: SMART Core
Subject: PAKISTAN: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL SUBMISSIONS JULY 27 - AUGUST 2
Attachments: ATA passed by NA 29 July.pdf, UNSC Act passed by NA 29 July.pdf

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SBU~~



MRN: 20 ISLAMABAD 1616
Date/DTG: Aug 03, 2020 / 031006Z AUG 20
From: AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *IMMEDIATE*
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, PHUM, PTER, ETRD, ECON, ECIN, EPET, ENRG, KIRF, CN, AF, PK
Captions: SENSITIVE, OFFICIAL INFORMAL
Reference: 20 ISLAMABAD 1512
Subject: PAKISTAN: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL SUBMISSIONS JULY 27 - AUGUST 2

1. (U) Below is a roundup of Mission Pakistan's Official-Informal submissions July 27 - August 2.

POLITICAL ISSUES

July 27

2. (SBU) "**Protection of the Foundation of Islam**" **Bill Garners Criticism Beyond Punjab:** Minister for Science and Technology Fawad Chaudhry criticized the Punjab Assembly's July 22 passage of the "Protection of the Foundation of Islam" ("Tahaffuz-e-Buniyad-Islam") bill and other recent populist Islamic measures, saying they would drive the country deeper into religious extremism. Chaudhry tweeted that the bills were a "dangerous trend," decrying that the environment in Parliament and in the Punjab Assembly had deteriorated such that no one could oppose a bill claiming to protect Islam. Left-wing feminist group and core organizer of Pakistan's annual women's march, the Women Democratic Front, similarly labeled the bill a "blatant attempt at increased state censorship" and called on Punjab Governor Chaudhry Sarwar not to sign it into law. Senior Shia clerics and political leaders also expressed concern that the law stokes sectarian differences by elevating Sunni traditions over Shia customary expressions of respect for the Prophet Muhammad's family and companions. The senior-most Shia cleric on the Council on Islamic Ideology told EmbOff on July 26 the bill would have nationwide sectarian implications and that Shia leaders would urge the Punjab Assembly to walk the bill back. (**NOTE:** Punjab represents more than half of Pakistan's population. **END NOTE.**) (b)(6)

July 28

3. ~~(SBU)~~ **Pakistani MFA Refutes Alleged “Covert” Pakistani Biological Weapons Cooperation with Chinese Lab:** Pakistani media are covering the government’s rebuttal of a July 23 report on the Australian investigative news website, *The Klaxon*, claiming that the Wuhan Institute of Virology signed a covert deal with Pakistan’s Defense Science and Technology Organization to collaborate on research in “emerging infectious diseases.” The report cites intelligence sources claiming the research is part of a covert biological weapons program. In a July 26 statement, the MFA dismissed the story as “politically motivated and fake.” The MFA further claimed that Pakistan has been sharing information about the Bio-Safety Level-3 laboratory facility with the States Parties to the Biological and Toxins Weapons Convention (BTWC). The Chinese Embassy in Pakistan re-tweeted the MFA’s statement, adding: “The Embassy strongly opposes [the] fabricated story on China-Pakistan joint research on Biological weapon. It is totally irresponsible, vicious-intentioned to smear China and Sino-Pak relations. As a responsible nation, China always lives up to its obligations to B[T]WC.” The Klaxon story has been repeated in a few Indian publications without any additional information or commentary. Embassy New Delhi cleared this OI. (b)(6)

July 30

4. ~~(SBU)~~ **Pakistan’s National Assembly Passes Anti-Terrorism Act and UN Security Council Act Amendments:** Pakistan’s National Assembly passed legislation on July 29 amending the Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA) and United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Act in what MFA contacts said was an effort to improve Pakistan’s compliance with Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations on countering the financing of terrorism and combatting money laundering. The final version of the ATA amendments (attached) removed two controversial provisions included in the draft bills (refTel): the creation of an “economic terrorism” offense and an extension of the initial authorized period for which law enforcement can detain an individual in connection with a counterterrorism inquiry from 30 days to 90 days. The final version of the UNSC Act amendment (attached) is identical to the draft, and MFA contacts indicate it is intended to address a specific FATF recommendation to provide indemnification to civil servants with respect to their anti-money laundering/countering the financing of terrorism enforcement responsibilities. The bills will now move to the Pakistani Senate and President before becoming law. (b)(6)

ECONOMIC ISSUES

July 28

5. ~~(SBU)~~ **Transit Trade Temporarily Resumes at Chaman Border Crossing:** Director General of Transit Trade Raza Khan informed EconOff on July 24 that protestors at the Chaman border crossing have disbanded, and unhindered transit trade has resumed. On that same day, a backlog of 300 empty trucks at the border was cleared, and an additional 204 trucks were able to pass through, including 32 NATO oil tankers. While the reopening of the border crossing allowed trade to resume, many traders are suffering financial fallout from the closure, including having to pay penalty fees for returning shipping containers late. Additionally, contacts told CG Karachi that port operators have been levying high demurrage charges, ranging from \$100 to \$150 per day, on traders for use of storage space for containers. Contacts also told us that the negotiated reopening of the border covers only a 10-day period from July 24 to August 3. Any long-term plan to keep the border crossing operational beyond

that timeframe remains unclear. (b)(6)

6. (U) **Truckers Protest, Block Torkham Road in Khyber:** Transporter groups involved in Afghanistan-Pakistan trade protested July 27, temporarily blocking the Torkham highway in Landi Kotal leading to the Torkham border crossing. The protests were directed at local Khyber District police and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) officials, asking them to address alleged bribery and extortion at truck parking lots in Bara, an area 30 miles from Torkham where trucks are directed to park and wait for their turn to cross the border. Contacts estimate 800-1,000 trucks are waiting in these Bara parking lots – a result of backlogs caused when COVID-19 restrictions and clearing procedures slowed border crossing traffic. KP transporter contacts claim the COVID-related border crossing restrictions contributed to the creation of the Bara parking lots and alleged illegal pressure on the truckers, some of whom have been stranded for days with rotting cargo. KP officials reopened the highway late on July 27 and assured the transporter groups the Bara truck lots would be closed and cleared of trucks within 48 hours. **(NOTE:** In earlier discussions with contacts, KP and national officials had promised to build secure parking lots for the backlogged trucks closer than Bara to the actual border crossing. **END NOTE.** (b)(6)



Protests and Blockade of Torkham Highway near Landi Kotal on July 27

July 29

7. (U) **Pakistan's Top Economic Body Approves Expanded Access to LNG Imports:** Pakistan's Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) approved a proposal by the Ministry of Energy to allow private companies access to liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals, according to a July 28 [government press release](#). If fully implemented, the move would let the private sector use excess terminal capacity to offload LNG from tank ships for consumption in Pakistan. A senior Engro official told CG Karachi the ECC agreed, in principle, to allow the private sector to use excess terminal capacity for three months, with the possibility of the private sector's continuing to use untapped capacity once Engro's floating storage and regasification unit is upgraded to a larger one and the third terminal, located in Port Qasim, is completed. According to Engro, the ECC forwarded its recommendation to the Cabinet for approval. According to ExxonMobil Pakistan, the largest Pakistani LNG terminal operated at only 51 percent capacity in fiscal year 2020, with the remaining 49 percent potentially available for sale to the private sector. Post will report further via septel. (b)(6)

July 30

8. ~~(SBU)~~ **Prime Minister’s Special Assistants Resign:** Special Assistant to the Prime Minister (SAPM) for Health Zafar Mirza and SAPM for Digital Pakistan Tania Aidrus both resigned on July 29 due to mounting criticism over the role of SAPMs in the cabinet. The week prior, the government released information about the financial assets and citizenship status of SAPMs and other non-elected members of PM Khan’s cabinet. Opposition figures and the media questioned some SAPMs’ assets and whether it was appropriate for foreign nationals to hold high public offices. Mirza tweeted, “Due to ongoing negative discussion about the role of SAPMs & criticism on the gov, I choose to resign” and noted the decline in daily new COVID-19 cases under his management. Aidrus tweeted her resignation letter, noting “Criticism levied towards the state as a consequence of my citizenship status is clouding the purpose of Digital Pakistan.” Prior to Aidrus’ appointment in December 2019, she served as Google’s Country Representative to Singapore and was criticized for her connections to big tech, including by other cabinet officials who claimed to lead on digital matters. **(COMMENT:** The resignations will deliver a blow to PM Khan’s efforts to lure Pakistani technical experts into senior government roles. **END COMMENT.)** (b)(6)

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Signature: Jones

Drafted By: (b)(6)
Cleared By: Islamabad, EXEC Staff Assistants
Approved By: EXEC/LEG: (b)(6)
Released By: ISLAMABAD: (b)(6)
Info: SECDEF WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; CIA WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; DIA WASHINGTON DC *IMMEDIATE*; ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE *IMMEDIATE*
Attachments: ATA passed by NA 29 July.pdf, UNSC Act passed by NA 29 July.pdf

Dissemination Rule: Archive Copy

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~~SBU~~

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

further to amend the Anti-terrorism Act, 1997

WHEREAS, it is expedient further to amend the Anti-terrorism Act, 1997 (XXVII of 1997) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as under:-

1. Short title, Extent and Commencement.- (1) This Act may be called the Anti-terrorism (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. Amendment of section 2, XXVII of 1997.- In the Anti-terrorism Act, 1997 (XXVII of 1997), hereinafter referred to as "the Act", in section 2 the existing clause (pa) shall be re-numbered as clause (paa) and before the aforesaid re-numbered clause the following new clause shall be inserted, namely:-

"(pa) 'Person' means any natural or legal person including government body, autonomous or semi-autonomous entity, regulatory authority, body corporate partnership association, trust, agency or any other undertaking responsible for carrying out the purposes of this Act".

3. Amendment of section 110, Act XXVII of 1997.- In the Act, in section 110.-

(a) in sub-section (2), the words "to penalty of fine not exceeding ten million rupees" the words "on conviction to a term not exceeding ten years or with fine not exceeding twenty-five million rupees or with both" shall be substituted;

(b) in sub-section (3), for the word "to penalty of fine not exceeding ten million rupees and every director, officer or employee of such person found guilty of the violation shall be punished in terms thereof", the words "on conviction to fine not exceeding fifty million rupees and every director, officer or employees of such person found guilty of the violation shall be liable on conviction to a term not exceeding ten years or with fine not exceeding twenty five million rupees or with both" shall be substituted; and

(c) after sub-section (3), the following new sub-section shall be inserted, namely-
 "(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), if any public servant is found negligent in complying with the provision of sub-section (1) such public servant shall be proceeded against under respective service rules for administrative action."

4. Insertion of section 11000, Act XXVII of 1997.- In the Act, after section 1100, the following new section shall be inserted namely:-

“11000. Violation of UN Security Council Resolution.- (1) A person is guilty of an offence if he, in any way whatsoever, refuses or fails to comply with the orders of the Federal Government under section 2 of United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1948 (XIV of 1948).

(2) A person guilty of an offence under sub-section (1), shall be liable to conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or with fine not exceeding twenty five million rupees or with both.

(3) If a legal person commits an offence under sub-section (1), such person shall be liable on conviction to fine not exceeding fifty million rupees and every director, officer or employee of such legal person found guilty of the violation shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years or with fine not exceeding twenty five million rupees or with both.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2), of 11000, if any public servant is found negligent in complying with the provisions of sub-section (1), such public servant shall be proceeded against under respective service rules for administrative action.”

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Anti-Terrorism Act (ATA), 1997, though comprehensive in its scope, lacks certain provisions in relation to the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1267 and 1373. The UNSCRs 1267 and 1373 were adopted under Article 41 of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter making them obligatory for all members of the United Nations. Through UNSCR 1267, member states of the United Nations implement the sanctions measures of assets freeze (targeted financial sanctions), arms embargo and travel ban on the entities and individuals who are designated on the sanctions list. UNSCR 1373 requires member states to implement counter terrorism measures, especially countering the financing of terrorism through their domestic laws. The above obligation is implemented in Pakistan through Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997. The penalties already provided in the said Act are not dissuasive for violations of assets seizure provision in section 11-O and the provided amount of fine is insufficient.

Ijaz Ahmed Shah
Minister for Interior

منسلکہ۔ الف

[قائمہ کمیٹی کی رپورٹ کردہ صورت میں]

انسدادِ دہشت گردی ایکٹ، ۱۹۹۷ء میں مزید ترمیم کرنے کا بل

ہر گاہ کہ یہ قرین مصلحت ہے کہ بعد ازیں ظاہر ہونے والے اغراض کے لئے انسدادِ دہشت گردی ایکٹ، ۱۹۹۷ء (نمبر ۲۷ بابت ۱۹۹۷ء) میں مزید ترمیم کی جائے؛ بذریعہ ہذا حسب ذیل قانون وضع کیا جاتا ہے:-

۱۔ مختصر عنوان اور آغاز نفاذ۔ (۱) یہ ایکٹ انسدادِ دہشت گردی ایکٹ (ترمیمی) بل، ۲۰۲۰ء کے نام سے موسوم کیا جاسکے گا۔
(۲) یہ فی الفور نافذ العمل ہوگا۔

۲۔ ایکٹ نمبر ۲۷ بابت ۱۹۹۷ء کی دفعہ ۲، میں ترمیم:- انسدادِ دہشت گردی ایکٹ، ۱۹۹۷ء (نمبر ۲۷ بابت ۱۹۹۷ء) میں، بعد ازیں جس کا حوالہ مذکورہ ”ایکٹ“ کے طور پر دیا گیا ہے، کی دفعہ ۲ میں، موجودہ شق (ع الف) کو بطور (ع الف الف) نیا نمبر دیا جائے گا اور مذکورہ نئے نمبر والی شق سے پہلے، درج ذیل نئی شق کو شامل کر دیا جائے گا، یعنی:-

” (ع الف) ”شخص“ سے مراد کوئی فطری یا شخص قانونی ہے جس میں حکومتی جماعت، خود مختار یا نیم خود مختار ہئیت، انضباطی اتھارٹی، ہئیت جمعیہ، شراکت انجمن، وقف، ایجنسی یا اس ایکٹ کی اغراض کی سرانجام دہی کے لئے کوئی بھی دیگر ذمہ دار ادارہ، شامل ہے۔“

۳۔ ایکٹ نمبر ۲۷ بابت ۱۹۹۷ء کی دفعہ ۱۱۱، کی ترمیم:- ایکٹ میں، دفعہ ۱۱۱ میں،

(الف) ذیلی دفعہ (۲) میں، الفاظ ”جرمانے کی سزا جو دس ملین روپے سے زائد نہ ہو“ کو الفاظ

”سزایابی پر جس کی مدت دس سال سے زائد نہ ہو یا جرمانہ جو کہ پچیس ملین روپے تک ہو یا دونوں“ سے تبدیل کر دیا جائے گا۔

(ب) ذیلی دفعہ (۳) میں، الفاظ ”جرمانے کی سزا جو کہ دس ملین روپے سے زائد نہ ہو اور مذکورہ شخص کا ہر ڈائریکٹر، افسر یا ملازم جو خلاف ورزی کا قصور وار پایا گیا تو اسی مفہوم میں سزا دی جائے گی“ کو الفاظ ”جرمانے کی سزایابی پر جو پچاس ملین روپے تک ہو اور مذکورہ شخص کا ہر ایک ڈائریکٹر، افسر یا ملازم جو خلاف ورزی کا قصور وار ہو سزایابی پر دس سال کی مدت تک مزائے قید یا پچیس ملین روپے تک جرمانہ یا دونوں کا مستوجب ہوگا“ سے تبدیل کر دیا جائے گا۔

(ج) ذیلی دفعہ (۳) کے بعد، درج ذیل نئی ذیلی دفعہ کو شامل کر دیا جائے گا، یعنی:۔۔۔

” (۴) ذیلی دفعہ (۲) میں شامل کسی بھی شے کے باوصف، اگر کوئی بھی سرکاری ملازم ذیلی دفعہ (۱) کے احکامات کی تعمیل میں لا پرواہی کا مرتکب پایا گیا، تو مذکورہ سرکاری ملازم کے خلاف متعلقہ قواعد ملازمت کے تحت انتظامی کارروائی کا آغاز کیا جائے گا۔“

۳۔ ایکٹ نمبر ۲۷ بابت ۱۹۹۷ء میں دفعہ اس س کا اضافہ:- ایکٹ میں دفعہ اس

کے بعد، درج ذیل نئی دفعہ کا اضافہ کر دیا جائے گا، یعنی:-

”اس س۔ اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کی قراردادوں کی خلاف ورزی:- (۱) ایک شخص

جرم کا مرتکب ہوگا اگر وہ، کسی بھی صورت میں، اقوام متحدہ (سلامتی کونسل ایکٹ، ۱۹۴۸ء (نمبر ۱۴ بابت ۱۹۴۸ء) کی دفعہ ۲ کے تحت وفاقی حکومت کے احکامات کی بجا آوری سے انکار کرے یا قاصر ہے۔

(۲) ایک شخص جو ذیلی دفعہ (۱) کے تحت کسی جرم کا قصور وار ہو، تو سزایابی پر وہ دس سال کی مدت تک سزائے قید یا جرمانہ جو پچیس ملین روپے سے زائد نہ ہو یا دونوں کا مستوجب ہوگا۔

(۳) اگر کوئی شخص قانونی ذیلی دفعہ (۱) کے تحت جرم کا ارتکاب کرتا ہے، تو مذکورہ شخص سزایابی پر پچاس ملین روپے تک جرمانے کا مستوجب ہوگا اور مذکورہ شخص قانونی کا ہر ایک ڈائریکٹر، انسر یا ملازم جو خلاف ورزی کا قصور وار ہو سزایابی پر دس سال کی مدت تک سزائے قید یا پچیس ملین روپے تک جرمانہ یا دونوں کا مستوجب ہوگا۔

(۴) اس س س کی، ذیلی دفعہ (۲) میں شامل کسی بھی شے کے باوصف، اگر کوئی بھی سرکاری ملازم ذیلی دفعہ (۱) کے احکامات کی تعمیل میں لاپرواہی کا مرتکب پایا گیا، تو مذکورہ سرکاری ملازم کے خلاف متعلقہ قواعد ملازمت کے تحت انتظامی کارروائی کا آغاز کیا جائے گا۔

بیان اغراض و وجوہ

انسداد دہشت گردی ایکٹ، (ATA)، ۱۹۹۷ء، اگرچہ کہ اپنی وسعت میں جامع ہے، مگر اقوام متحدہ کی سلامتی کونسل کی قرار دادوں (UNSCRs) ۱۲۶۷ اور ۱۳۷۳ کے اطلاق کی نسبت بعض احکامات کی کمی ہے۔ UNSCR ۱۲۶۷ اور ۱۳۷۳ کو اقوام متحدہ کے منشور کے باب ہفتم کے آرٹیکل ۴۱ کے تحت اختیار کیا گیا جو اقوام متحدہ کے تمام ارکان کے لیے اسے لازم بناتا ہے۔ UNSCR ۱۲۶۷ کے ذریعے، اقوام متحدہ کی رکن ریاستیں اثاثہ جات کے منجمد کرنے (اہدانی مالیاتی پابندیاں)، اسلحے کی بندش اور اداروں اور افراد پر سفری پابندی جو پابندیوں کی فہرست میں نامزد کردہ ہوں کی پابندیوں کے اقدامات کی تعمیل کریں گی۔ UNSCR ۱۳۷۳ رکن ریاستوں سے یہ تقاضا کرتی ہے کہ انسداد دہشت گردی کے اقدامات کا اطلاق کریں، بالخصوص اپنے ملکی قوانین کے تابع دہشت گردی کی مالیات کاری کا انسداد کریں۔ مندرجہ بالا وجوہ کو پاکستان میں انسداد دہشت گردی ایکٹ، ۱۹۹۷ء کے ذریعے لاگو کیا گیا ہے۔ مذکورہ ایکٹ میں پہلے سے فراہم کردہ سزائیں دفعہ ۱۱-س اثاثہ جات کی ضبطی کے حکم کی خلاف ورزی کے لیے مزاحمتی نہیں ہیں اور جرمانے کی فراہم کردہ رقم بھی ناکافی ہے۔

(اعجاز احمد شاہ)

وزیر داخلہ

قومی اسمبلی سیکرٹریٹ

انسداد دہشت گردی (ترمیمی) بل، ۲۰۲۰ء (سرکاری بل) پر قائمہ کمیٹی برائے داخلہ کی رپورٹ۔

میں، چیئر مین قائمہ کمیٹی برائے داخلہ ۳۱ جنوری، ۲۰۲۰ء کو قائمہ کمیٹی کے سپرد کردہ انسداد دہشت گردی ایکٹ، ۱۹۹۷ء (ایکٹ نمبر ۳۷ بابت ۱۹۹۷ء) میں مزید ترمیم کرنے کے بل [انسداد دہشت گردی (ترمیمی) بل، ۲۰۱۹ء] (سرکاری بل) پر رپورٹ ہذا پیش کرنے کا شرف حاصل کرتا ہوں۔

۲۔ کمیٹی درج ذیل اراکین پر مشتمل ہے:-

چیئر مین	۱۔	راجہ خرم شہزاد نواز
رکن	۲۔	جناب شیر اکبر خان
رکن	۳۔	مہر غلام محمد لالی
رکن	۴۔	جناب رضا نصر اللہ
رکن	۵۔	خواجہ شیراز محمود
رکن	۶۔	جناب راحت انان اللہ بھٹی
رکن	۷۔	ملک کر امت علی کھوکھر
رکن	۸۔	سردار طالب حسن نکی
رکن	۹۔	محترمہ نفیسہ عنایت اللہ خان خٹک
رکن	۱۰۔	جناب محمد اختر میٹگل
رکن	۱۱۔	صاحبزادہ شازین بگٹی
رکن	۱۲۔	ملک سہیل خان
رکن	۱۳۔	سید افتخار الحسن
رکن	۱۴۔	جناب محمد پرویز ملک
رکن	۱۵۔	جناب ندیم عباس
رکن	۱۶۔	محترمہ مریم اورنگزیب
رکن	۱۷۔	سید آغا رفیع اللہ
رکن	۱۸۔	نواب محمد یوسف تالپور
رکن	۱۹۔	جناب عبدالقادر پٹیل
رکن	۲۰۔	جناب عصمت اللہ
رکن	۲۱۔	جناب اعجاز احمد شاہ
رکن، بلاخط عہدہ		وزیر برائے داخلہ

۳۔ کمیٹی نے ۱۳ فروری، ۲۰۲۰ء اور ۱۷ فروری، ۲۰۲۰ء کو منعقدہ اپنے اجلاسوں میں منسلکہ الف کے طور پر قومی اسمبلی میں پیش کردہ بل پر غور کیا۔ کمیٹی سفارش کرتی ہے کہ قومی اسمبلی پیش کردہ بل کی منظوری دے۔

دستخط۔

(راجہ خرم شہزاد نواز)

چیئر مین

قائمہ کمیٹی برائے داخلہ

دستخط۔

(طاہر حسین)

سیکرٹری

اسلام آباد، ۱۷ فروری، ۲۰۲۰ء

[AS PASSED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY]

A

Bill

further to amend the United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1948

WHEREAS it is expedient further to amend the United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1948 (XIV of 1948) for the purposes hereinafter appearing;

It is hereby enacted as under:-

1. **Short title and commencement.**- (1) This Act shall be called the United Nations (Security Council) (Amendment) Act, 2020.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. **Amendment in section 2, Act XIV of 1948.**- In the United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1948 (XIV of 1948), hereinafter referred to as the said Act, in section 2, the expression, "and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, provision may be made for the punishment of persons offending against the order" shall be omitted.

3. **Insertion of new sections, Act XIV of 1948.**- In the said Act, after section 2, amended as aforesaid, the following new sections shall be added, namely:-

"3. **Indemnity.**- No suit, prosecution or other legal proceedings shall lie against any person in respect of anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

4. **Power to make rules.**- The Federal Government may, by notification in the official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

5. **Delegation.**- The Federal Government may, by order, delegate, subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, all or any of the powers exercisable by it under this Act".

exercisable

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

**Subject: United Nation Security Council Act 1948 (XIV of 1948)
(Amendment) Bill 2020**

The implementation of the obligations of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter are fulfilled through the United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1948 (XIV of 1948). Under the said Act, the Federal Government passes orders directing authorities in Pakistan to implement various measures in the Security Council resolutions including the freezing and seizure of assets, travel ban and arms embargo.

The Act does not contain an indemnity clause to provide protection to the persons implementing in good faith, the orders passed under the Act. Furthermore, there is a requirement to give powers to the Federal government to make rules for carrying out the purposes of the Act. In addition, the power to issue orders under the Act need to be delegated by the Federal Government to ensure that the orders are issued in a timely manner, within a matter of a few hours, as required by the Security Council. Finally the provision for punishment of persons offending against the order issue under the Act is redundant as neither the punishment nor the mechanism for its enforcement is provided under the Act. The issue is being taken up separately through corresponding amendment in the Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997.

The bill, therefore, seeks to amend the United Nations (Security Council) Act, 1948 (XIV of 1948) in order to ensure the effective implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Qureshi
Minister for Foreign Affairs

بیان اغراض ووجوہ

موضوع: اقوام متحدہ سیکورٹی کونسل ایکٹ، ۱۹۴۸ء (۱۳ ابابت ۱۹۴۸ء) (ترمیمی) بل، ۲۰۲۰۔

اقوام متحدہ کے چارٹر کے باب ہفتم کے تحت اقوام متحدہ کی سیکورٹی کونسل کی جانب سے اختیار کردہ قراردادوں کی ذمہ داریوں کا اطلاق اقوام متحدہ (سیکورٹی کونسل) ایکٹ، ۱۹۴۸ء (۱۳ ابابت ۱۹۴۸ء) ذریعے ایفاء کی جاتی ہیں۔ مذکورہ ایکٹ کے تحت، وفاقی حکومت ایسے احکامات جاری کرتی ہے جن میں پاکستان میں اتھارٹیز کو سیکورٹی کونسل کے قراردادوں کے اطلاق کے لئے متعدد اقدامات کی ہدایات دی جاتی ہے جن میں اثاثہ جات کو منجمد کرنا اور ان کی ضبطگی، سفری پابندیاں اور ہتھیاروں کی روک شامل ہے۔

ایکٹ کے تحت جاری کردہ احکامات کا نیک نیتی سے اطلاق کرنے والے شخص کو تحفظ کی فراہمی کے لئے ایکٹ میں شق برأت شامل نہیں ہے۔ مزید برآں، یہ مقتضیات ہے، کہ وفاقی حکومت کو یہ اختیار دیا جائے کہ اس ایکٹ کی اغراض کی بجا آوری کے لئے قواعد وضع کر سکے۔ مزید یہ کہ، ایکٹ کے تابع احکامات کے اجراء کا اختیار وفاقی حکومت کی جانب سے تفویض کرنے کی ضرورت ہے اس کو یقینی بنانے کے لئے کہ احکامات بروقت جاری کیے جاسکیں، چند گھنٹوں کے اندر اندر، جیسا کہ سیکورٹی کونسل کو مطلوب ہے۔ بالآخر اس ایکٹ کے تابع جاری کردہ فرمان کی خلاف ورزی کرنے والے اشخاص کی سزایابی کا حکم زائد ضرورت ہے جیسا کہ نہ سزا نہ ہی اس کے اطلاق کا طریقہ کار اس ایکٹ کے تحت فراہم کیا گیا تھا۔ اس معاملے کو علیحدہ سے متعلقہ انسداد ہشت گردی ایکٹ، ۱۹۹۷ء میں ترمیم کے ذریعے اٹھایا گیا ہے۔

لہذا، اس بل کا مقصد اقوام متحدہ (سیکورٹی کونسل) ایکٹ، ۱۹۴۸ء (۱۳ ابابت ۱۹۴۸ء) میں ترمیم کرنا ہے تاکہ اقوام متحدہ کی سیکورٹی کونسل کی قراردادوں کے موثر اطلاق کو یقینی بنایا جاسکے۔

(مخدوم شاہ محمود قریشی)

وزیر خارجہ

[قائمہ کمیٹی کی رپورٹ کردہ صورت میں]

اقوام متحدہ (سیکورٹی کونسل) ایکٹ، ۱۹۴۸ء کو مزید ترمیم کرنے کا بل

ہر گاہ کہ یہ قرین مصلحت ہے کہ بعد ازیں رونما ہونے والی اغراض کے لئے اقوام متحدہ (سیکورٹی کونسل) ایکٹ ۱۹۴۸ء (۱۴ ابابت، ۱۹۴۸ء) کو مزید ترمیم کیا جائے؛ بذریعہ ہذا حسب ذیل قانون وضع کیا جاتا ہے:

۱۔ مختصر عنوان اور آغاز نفاذ:- (۱) یہ ایکٹ اقوام متحدہ (سیکورٹی کونسل) (ترمیمی) ایکٹ، ۲۰۲۰ء کے نام سے موسوم ہوگا۔

(۲) یہ فی الفور نافذ العمل ہوگا۔

۲۔ ایکٹ نمبر ۱۴ ابابت ۱۹۴۸ء، کی دفعہ ۲ کی ترمیم:- اقوام متحدہ (سیکورٹی کونسل) ایکٹ، ۱۹۴۸ء (۱۴ ابابت ۱۹۴۸ء) بعد ازیں جس کا حوالہ ”ایکٹ“ کے طور پر دیا گیا ہے، کی دفعہ ۲ میں، سکتے اور الفاظ، ”متذکرہ بالا اختیار کی عمومیت سے متناقض ہوئے بغیر، فرمان کی خلاف ورزی کرنے والے شخص کے خلاف سزا کے لئے حکم وضع کیا جاسکتا ہے“ کو حذف کر دیا جائے گا۔

۳۔ ایکٹ نمبر ۱۴ ابابت ۱۹۴۸ء، میں نئی دفعات کی شمولیت:- ایکٹ میں، دفعہ ۲ کے بعد، جیسا کہ مذکورہ بالا طور پر ترمیم کی گئی، حسب ذیل نئی دفعات کو شامل کر دیا جائے گا، یعنی:-

”۳ برأت:- اس ایکٹ کے تحت نیک نیتی سے کی گئی کسی بھی شے یا جس کے کرنے کا ارادہ ہو کی نسبت کسی بھی شخص کے خلاف کوئی مقدمہ، استغاثہ یا دیگر قانونی کارروائیاں عمل میں نہیں لائی جائیں گی۔

۴۔ قواعد وضع کرنے کا اختیار:- وفاقی حکومت، سرکاری جریدے میں شائع شدہ اعلامیے کی رو سے، اس ایکٹ کی اغراض کی بجا آوری کے لئے قواعد وضع کر سکتی ہے۔

۵۔ تفویض اختیار:- وفاقی حکومت، فرمان کے ذریعے ایسی شرائط کے تابع جیسا کہ اس میں مقرر کی جاسکتی ہیں، اس ایکٹ کے تحت اس کی جانب سے استعمال کیے جانے والے تمام یا کوئی بھی اختیارات تفویض کر سکتی ہے۔“

قومی اسمبلی سیکرٹریٹ

اقوام متحدہ (سلامتی کونسل) (تریمی) بل، ۲۰۲۰ء پر قائمہ کمیٹی برائے خارجہ امور کی رپورٹ

میں، چیئرمین قائمہ کمیٹی برائے خارجہ امور ۱۷ فروری، ۲۰۲۰ء کو کمیٹی کے سپرد کردہ اقوام متحدہ (سلامتی کونسل) ایکٹ، ۱۹۳۸ء میں مزید ترمیم کرنے کے بل [اقوام متحدہ (سلامتی کونسل) (تریمی) بل، ۲۰۲۰ء] (نمبر ۱۴ ابابت ۱۹۳۸ء) (سرکاری بل) پر رپورٹ ہذا پیش کرنے کا شرف حاصل کرتا ہوں۔

۲۔ کمیٹی حسب ذیل اراکین پر مشتمل ہے:-

چیئرمین	۱۔	ملک محمد احسان اللہ ٹوانہ
رکن	۲۔	جناب فضل محمد خان
رکن	۳۔	جناب ارباب عامر ایوب
رکن	۴۔	مہر غلام محمد لالی
رکن	۵۔	جناب محمد عاصم نذیر
رکن	۶۔	جناب محمد امیر سلطان
رکن	۷۔	سید فخر امام
رکن	۸۔	مخدوم زین حسین قریشی
رکن	۹۔	محترمہ منزہ حسن
رکن	۱۰۔	محترمہ ملیکہ علی بخاری
رکن	۱۱۔	ڈاکٹر رمیش کمار وینکوانی
رکن	۱۲۔	جناب علی نواز شاہ
رکن	۱۳۔	جناب علی زاہد
رکن	۱۴۔	جناب محمد خان ڈاہا
رکن	۱۵۔	جناب نور الحسن تنویر
رکن	۱۶۔	محترمہ زہرا دودد قاطمی
رکن	۱۷۔	محترمہ مائزہ حمید
رکن	۱۸۔	جناب نعمان اسلام شیخ
رکن	۱۹۔	محترمہ حنا ربانی کھر
رکن	۲۰۔	جناب عبدالشکور
رکن بلحاظ عہدہ	۲۱۔	وزیر برائے خارجہ امور

۳۔ کمیٹی نے ۲۶ فروری، ۲۰۲۰ء کو منعقدہ اپنے اجلاس میں منسلک ”الف“ کے طور پر قومی اسمبلی میں پیش کردہ بل پر غور کیا۔ کمیٹی سفارش کرتی ہے کہ قومی اسمبلی پیش کردہ صورت میں بل کی منظوری دے۔

دستخط۔

دستخط۔

(ملک محمد احسان اللہ ٹوانہ)

(طاہر حسین)

چیئرمین

سیکرٹری

اسلام آباد، ۱۱ مارچ، ۲۰۲۰ء

From: SMART Archive
Sent: Tue, 17 Mar 2020 09:35:39 GMT
To: SMART Core
Subject: CORONAVIRUS REPORTING4PPO: PAKISTAN IMPLEMENTS AGGRESSIVE NEW MEASURES AS CASES CONTINUE TO CLIMB

UNCLASSIFIED

~~SBU~~



MRN: 20 ISLAMABAD 568
Date/DTG: Mar 17, 2020 / 170933Z MAR 20
From: AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *IMMEDIATE*
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: SHLH, PREL, PGOV, ETRD, EAID, CDC, PK
Captions: SENSITIVE
Reference: A) 20 ISLAMABAD 490
 B) 20 ISLAMABAD 488
Pass Line: Coronavirus Global Response Coordination Unit (CGRCU)
Subject: CORONAVIRUS REPORTING4PPO: PAKISTAN IMPLEMENTS AGGRESSIVE NEW MEASURES AS CASES CONTINUE TO CLIMB

1. ~~(SBU)~~ **KEY POINTS:**

- Following a March 13 National Security Committee meeting, Pakistan announced more aggressive measures to control the spread of COVID-19, including closing all land borders, limiting international air travel to its three principal airports, and closing schools at least until April 5.
- The National Assembly suspended parliamentary proceedings and the annual Pakistan Day parade (March 23) was canceled – both actions being described in the press as historic firsts.
- The MFA announced the creation of a crisis management cell “to coordinate and monitor developments.”
- The Ministry of National Food Security and Research will formulate a food security plan, in anticipation of food shortages.
- The number of confirmed cases in Pakistan continued to increase: on March 15 it was 31, the morning of March 16 it was 52, and mid-day March 17 it rose to at least 183. Pakistan currently tests less than 100 cases per day.
- Sindh has reported the most cases, totaling 150 confirmed cases on March 17; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa closed its Torkham border and three other land crossings; and Punjab reported

its first case over the weekend.

- As efforts to track and diagnose the disease ramp up, health practitioners are concerned the efforts will shift capacity from other infectious disease priorities, such as polio, dengue fever, and tuberculosis.

2. ~~(SBU)~~ **COMMENT:** The flurry of March 13 announcements indicates COVID-19 is being addressed as a national emergency. The claims to date by Special Advisor to the Prime Minister on Health and Population (de facto Minister of Health) Dr. Zafar Mirza that all confirmed cases are imported from other countries appears no longer to be valid, as new cases are starting to emerge from contact with those already in Pakistan. The new measures seem to acknowledge this, as efforts to keep COVID-19 out of the country are now supplemented by an increased focus on slowing the spread of the disease in the country – a welcomed development that our assistance will continue to support. **END COMMENT.**

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT RAMPS UP ITS RESPONSE

3. ~~(SBU)~~ Following a March 13 National Security Council meeting chaired by Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan announced more aggressive measures to control the spread of COVID-19. The measures include closing all land borders for 15 days; limiting international air travel to Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore airports; closing schools at least until April 5; and banning large public gatherings, including at cinemas, marriage halls, and theaters. Even the annual Pakistan Day parade on March 23 was canceled – reportedly for the first time. Also, Pakistan’s National Assembly suspended its parliamentary session that was scheduled to continue until March 19. Media described this as a historic first for the institution. In addition, the MFA announced to the diplomatic community the creation of a crisis management cell “to coordinate and monitor developments,” though with little specifics about the cell’s role or planned activities. The Ministry of National Food Security and Research will formulate a food security plan, in anticipation of food shortages.

NUMBER OF CASES CONTINUES TO RISE – AND NO LONGER LIMITED TO IMPORTS

4. ~~(SBU)~~ Media in Pakistan continued to cover COVID-19 as a lead story, with coverage reflecting mixed messages from federal and provincial authorities. Media reported that two confirmed cases were a Pakistani couple in Islamabad – the wife reportedly having tested positive after returning to Pakistan from the United States and her husband subsequently contracting the virus from her. In addition, two of the new cases in Sindh were locally transmitted. Special Advisor Mirza had tweeted as early as March 10 that there was “no need to worry...the situation is completely under control,” but numbers continued to rise. Some social media users criticized the Balochistan provincial government for failing to contain COVID-19 at the Pakistan-Iran border.

SINDH BATTLES THE MOST CASES, BUT JURISDICTIONAL ISSUES EMERGE

5. ~~(SBU)~~ Sindh province continued to see the highest number of cases, including a family member of the Sindh Chief Minister. In a March 17 meeting at the National Emergency Operations Center, authorities reported 150 confirmed cases. These include 119 cases who were purportedly quarantined at the Taftan border crossing with Iran (western Balochistan) for 14 days before moving to Sukkur, Sindh. The provincial government canceled fan attendance at Pakistan Super League cricket matches in Karachi. The Karachi Commissioner confirmed 238 COVID-19 tests had been conducted in Sindh as of March 13. Prior to the federal government announcement on school

closures, the Sindh and Balochistan provincial governments both announced school closures, with Sindh's educational facilities closed until May 30. A Consulate contact, who works closely with the Chinese, said the Sindh government extended the closure of schools on the advice of the Chinese Consul General in Karachi. The Chinese Consul General also reportedly offered financial assistance, which the Chief Minister of Sindh declined.

6. ~~(SBU)~~ The Sindh Home Secretary told EmbOffs that Sindh and federal governments disagree over who is responsible for detecting new cases at the ports of entry (air, land, and sea). The province believes this should be a federal government responsibility, but, in Balochistan, for example, the province has ended up having to take on this task. The Sindh government has announced plans to monitor inter-provincial borders. While speaking to media March 11, Sindh government's spokesperson Barrister Murtaza said that the federal government needed to improve its COVID-19 monitoring system at airports and that the provincial government lacked the jurisdiction to take measures at the ports. However, on March 10, the Sindh government issued its own COVID-19 preparedness and response plan and travel advisory. Provincial authorities also established their own screening desks (separate from the one operated by federal officials) at the Karachi airport.

KP CLOSES TORKHAM BORDER

7. ~~(SBU)~~ Following the March 13 NSC meeting, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) Cabinet implemented a 14-day closure of the Torkham border crossing between Pakistan and Afghanistan. Four travelers had recently been denied entry at the Angoor Adda border crossing in South Waziristan, after fever and other symptoms were found by the KP health screening team. In response to COVID-19, KP has initiated a 24-hour hotline for public information, designated 20 hospitals as back-up facilities, and established 24 intensive care units across the province. Additional training on infection control, disinfection, and decontamination were conducted with UNICEF assistance. Trained epidemiologists are contacting hundreds of persons with previous travel to or from Iran and health teams continue to screen at points of entry throughout the province. KP health teams also began domestic travel screening at KP's border with Punjab province at the Dera Ismail Khan district. KP reported 15 confirmed cases, while suspected cases have tripled in the past week and doubled since March 13.

PUNJAB BRACING FOR MORE CASES, DECLARES EMERGENCY

8. ~~(SBU)~~ Punjab reported its first confirmed COVID-19 case over the weekend. The Punjab cabinet declared a medical emergency on March 12, according to media, with the expectation that more confirmed cases are imminent and to ensure it can allocate necessary resources to fight the disease. Prior to the March 13 announcements, life has remained largely unchanged for the average Punjabi. Schools were open, few events were canceled or postponed, and contacts continued to greet others as before with a handshake or hug. Doctors stated they have not yet experienced any shortages of necessary supplies. One business contact stated, if anything, COVID-19 has created better business conditions for the province. "For once, the Chinese are honoring contracts," he commented.

DONORS QUESTION LOW TESTING RATES, IMPACT ON OTHER DISEASE EFFORTS

9. ~~(SBU)~~ At a WHO-convened donor meeting on March 11, donors and foreign diplomats discussed the low numbers of testing Pakistan has conducted, pointing out that less than 100 tests are done per day in Pakistan, despite claims that Pakistan has the capacity for up to 15,000 tests in eight

laboratories nationwide. Media reported that Pakistan’s National University of Science and Technology developed a new, cheaper testing kit that has been effective in trials, with Columbia University, Wuhan Institute of Virology China, DZIF Germany, and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology in Rawalpindi. Donors provided commitments in response to the Ministry of Health’s \$11 million request that included health infrastructure and equipment for COVID-19. Separately, the WHO confirmed that there was a three-day data reporting delay from the Sindh provincial government to the federal government on case numbers. Health practitioners also raised concerns that the focus on COVID-19 in Pakistan would have unintended effects for the health sector, including negative effects on existing efforts to combat dengue fever, polio, and tuberculosis.

~~SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED~~

Signature: Jones

Drafted By: ISLAMABAD: (b)(6)

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 USAID: (b)(6)
 A/DCM: (b)(6)

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Released By: ISLAMABAD: (b)(6)

Info: NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; CIA WASHINGTON DC *ROUTINE*; ATLANTA GA, CDC *ROUTINE*; centcom.macdill.centcom-hq.list.ccj2-jic-jas-pak@mail.mil *ROUTINE*; ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*; ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE *ROUTINE*

XMT: CARACAS, AMEMBASSY; ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL

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From: SMART Archive
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To: SMART Core
Subject: France in Focus for April 20 2020

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MRN: 20 PARIS 814
Date/DTG: Apr 20, 2020 / 201050Z APR 20
From: AMEMBASSY PARIS
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ECON, FR
Subject: France in Focus for April 20 2020



France in Focus for: Monday, April 20, 2020 UNCLASSIFIED

- **(U) COVID-19: Outbreak Continues to Ease, but Challenges Persist**
- **(U) France Says No COVID-19 Link to Wuhan Research Lab Set Up with French Help**
- **(U) Council of State Limits Localities' Ability to Impose COVID-19 Restrictions**

(U) COVID-19: Outbreak Continues to Ease, but Challenges Persist

(U) COVID-19 cases were up 0.7 percent, to 152,894 (1,101 new cases). Patients in hospital totaled 30,610, down for the fifth day, by 0.1 percent. ICU cases dropped for the 11th straight day, to 5,744 (down by 89), with a total drop of 20 percent since the peak on April 9. Deaths increased by 2 percent, to 19,718 (395 new). In a two-hour press conference, Prime Minister Philippe and Health Minister Veran overviewed an upcoming plan for deconfinement, which will be finalized by the end of April. Veran focused on the need for vast capacity for diagnostic testing, contact tracing, and isolating infected individuals after lockdown is lifted. He added France is meeting its needs for masks and ventilators, but there is an ongoing shortage of other PPE as well as of drugs needed to treat patients in ICUs. (b)(6)

(U) France Says No COVID-19 Link to Wuhan Research Lab Set Up with French Help

(U) On April 17 an Elysee official disputed U.S. press reports linking COVID-19 and the P4 research laboratory in Wuhan, China which France helped set up. The French government's International Center for Research in Infectious Diseases (CIRI) in Lyon collaborated with the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) National Bio-safety Laboratory to create the \$44 million facility. CIRI provided conceptual, engineering and logistical support for the construction of the first biosafety level 4 laboratory at the WIV, which was commissioned in 2018. (b)(6)

(U) Council of State Limits Localities' Ability to Impose COVID-19 Restrictions

(U) The Council of State, France's highest administrative court, ruled April 17 mayors cannot impose COVID-19 measures beyond those determined by the federal government. Exceptions can be granted based on local circumstances as long as they don't compromise national measures. The ruling overturns a decree by the Mayor of Sceaux, south of Paris, to require residents over the age of ten to wear masks outside their homes starting April 15. The Human Rights League (LDH) filed a complaint because the Mayor's rule violated individual freedoms, and Cergy-Pontoise administrative court overturned the measure. The city of Sceaux then appealed to the Council of State, which upheld the lower court's ruling. Interior Minister Castaner had previously warned that mayors should not issue unilateral orders on masks. (b)(6)

Signature: McCourt

Drafted By: Paris: (b)(6)
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Released By: PARIS: (b)(6)

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XMT: ST PETERSBURG, AMCONSUL; VLADIVOSTOK, AMCONSUL

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Subject: FRANCE: Coronavirus Reporting4PPO - PM Philippe Treads Water with Press Conference

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~~SBU~~



MRN: 20 PARIS 822
Date/DTG: Apr 20, 2020 / 201604Z APR 20
From: AMEMBASSY PARIS
Action: WASHDC, SECSTATE *ROUTINE*
E.O.: 13526
TAGS: PGOV, ECON, SHLH, TBIO, CASC, AMGT, EAIR, KNCV, KHIV, KPAO, FR
Captions: SENSITIVE
Reference: A) 20 Paris 812
 B) 20 Paris 386, 402, 408, 420, 430, 448, 460, 464, 474, 486, 494, 506, 514, 524, 532, 544, 554, 568, 578, 590, 608, 626, 640, 652, 658, 684, 692, 710, 730, 740, 760, 770, 788, 800
Subject: FRANCE: Coronavirus Reporting4PPO - PM Philippe Treads Water with Press Conference

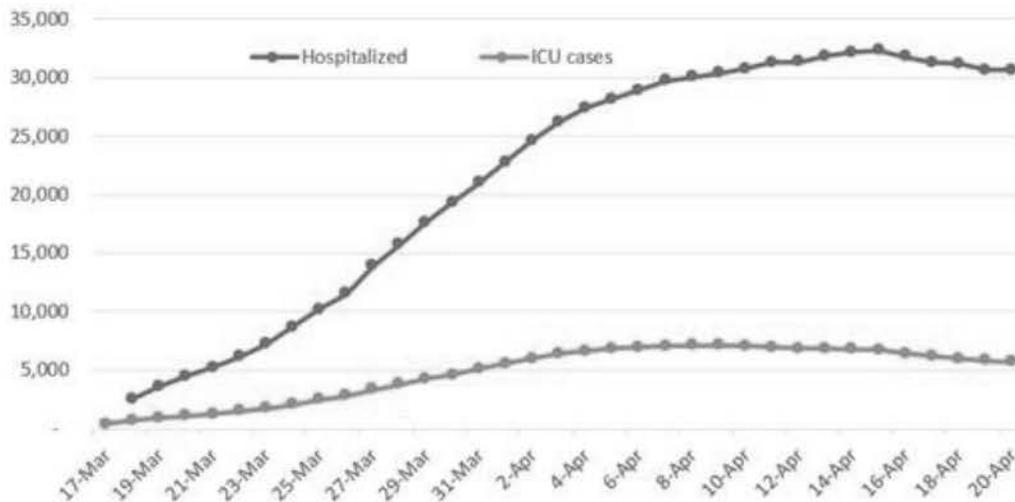
1. (U) Key Developments

- An Elysee official said there is no evidence of a link between the COVID-19 outbreak and Wuhan research lab. (Section 2)
- The number of patients in intensive care, one of the best measures of the epidemic's intensity, is down 20 percent from its April 9 peak. (Section 2)
- Six U.S. citizens from the cruise ship *MSC Magnifica* are disembarking in Marseille and have onward travel arrangements confirmed. (Section 4)
- In a televised press conference, PM Philippe outlined the nation's priorities in designing an exit from confinement: protecting people's health and assuring continuity of economic and social life of the nation. (Section 5)
- The French overseas territory of New Caledonia will begin lifting lockdown measures April 20. (Section 5)

2. (U) **Outbreak Update: 152,894 cases; 19,718 deaths**

	New	Total	Increase
Cases*	1,101	152,894	0.7 %
Hospitalized Cases	-29	30,610	-0.1 %
ICU Cases	-89	5,744	-1.5 %
Deaths	395	19,718	2 %
Recoveries	685	36,578	2 %

* The case count includes cases confirmed by PCR test and cases diagnosed without a test in retirement and other care facilities, which reflects the total shown in the JHU dashboard. Cases confirmed by PCR test totaled 112,606. Cases not confirmed by PCR test in retirement and other care facilities total 40,288.



Number of hospitalized and intensive-care COVID-19 patients as of 4pm local time, April 20.

- An Elysee official said on April 17 there was no evidence of a link between the Covid-19 outbreak and the work of the P4 research laboratory in the Chinese city of Wuhan, which France helped set up. The Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) National Bio-safety Laboratory was completed at a cost of \$44 million in collaboration with the French government’s International Center for Research in Infectious Diseases (CIRI) in Lyon. CIRI provided conceptual, engineering, and logistical support for the construction of the first biosafety level 4 (BSL-4) laboratory at the WIV, which was commissioned in 2018. “We would like to make it clear that there is to this day no factual evidence corroborating recent reports in the U.S. press linking the origins of COVID-19 and the work of the P4 laboratory of

Wuhan, China,” an official in President Macron’s office said.

- The number of patients in intensive care has dropped by 20 percent from its high on April 9. Still, the Health Minister warned in an April 19 press conference that while shortages of masks and ventilators have been relieved, other PPE and ICU medications are in short supply.
- Part of the military field hospital (operational since March 24) installed in the eastern city of Mulhouse has been dismantled. Of the 30 beds, 15 will be maintained. The mobile ICU unit may be re-deployed to Mayotte. The field hospital has so far received a total of 48 patients and currently houses 14 patients.
- Nantes-based Eurofins, a multinational company specialized in traceability and testing services, announced a new genome sequencing technique to trace the development and mutations of the coronavirus SARS-nCoV2.
- Dream, an electronic component manufacturer in eastern France, which has been trading with South Korea for 30 years, received a donation of 10,000 masks from a South Korean firm.

China’s PPE Diplomacy and Sales

- Fundraising by the Chinese community in Alsace brought in nearly €10,000 (\$10,900) and enabled 20,000 surgical masks to be ordered. Some 16,000 have already been delivered. Another 4,000 are expected to arrive soon.

3. ~~(SBU)~~ **Mission France Operating Status**

- No updates since April 17 (Ref A).

4. ~~(SBU)~~ **American Citizen Services**

- The cruise liner *MSC Magnifica* docked in Marseille and has begun disembarking its 1,700 passengers, including six U.S. citizens (USC). Onward travel has been confirmed for all six USCs. The *Costa Deliziosa* docked April 20 in Barcelona, where it will disembark Spanish and certain other EU citizens before continuing on to its final port of call in Genoa, Italy. Costa has arranged transportation for the ship’s 11 USC passengers from Genoa to Paris, connecting to onward flights back to the United States.

- The count of deaths of USCs from COVID-19 stands at one, with no new reports.
- Flights continue to the United States with well under 50 USC passengers a day. Post continues to forecast no need for USG repatriation from France.
- The Consular Section continues to monitor a small but steady stream of USCs transiting France from third countries.

5. (U) French Government Response

- Transportation Junior Minister Jean-Baptiste Djebbari unveiled on April 17 two measures totaling €390 million (\$424M) designed to help road transport companies with cashflow difficulties: reimbursement every quarter instead of every semester of the fuel consumption tax (€300 million / \$326M) and the postponement of payment on commercial vehicle taxes (€90 million / \$98M).
- Finance Minister Le Maire clarified in an April 16 interview the French proposal for a shared EU recovery fund. Le Maire proposes a €1 trillion (\$1.1 trillion) package that would raise common debt to be used only for future investments by member states with a definite end date. Investments should be between three and five years, while debt servicing shares will be based on the gross domestic product of each country and will take place over 10-20 years. Le Maire warned that the EU is facing the risk of losing the 21st century race and is falling behind in technologies like 5G and artificial intelligence. “In a few years, we won’t be able to compete with China or the United States,” he said. The recovery fund, along with other options, will be considered at the April 23 EU leaders video conference.

Preparing for an Exit from Lockdown

- Prime Minister Philippe held a two-hour joint press conference on April 19 with Health Minister Olivier Véran, public health chief Jerome Salomon, and infectious diseases specialist Professor Florence Ader. Philippe explained he would unveil the government’s plan to progressively lift restrictions on travel and businesses by the end of April, ahead of the May 11 date announced by President Macron to begin lifting some lockdown restrictions. Philippe said the government would base its judgment on two

metrics: 1) whether the circulation of the virus has slowed sufficiently, and 2) the capacity of dealing with new patients in hospitals. Philippe appointed Jean Castex, a senior civil servant with experience in health and labor, to coordinate the government's strategy to gradually exit from confinement. In addition, ministers, elected officials, and social partners will feed into the process. Several political leaders criticized the press conference as useless since no new measure was announced and PM Philippe remained vague on several issues.

- Philippe recommended those who can work from home should continue to do so as long as possible. He said cafes and restaurants will remain shuttered for the time being, and that businesses that will be open, such as supermarkets, will have to take measures to enable people to maintain a distance of one meter from others. Schools will reopen bit by bit, Philippe stressed, but the details have yet to be hashed out.
- Philippe stated that people will “probably” be required to wear masks on public transport post-lockdown. Health Minister Veran said the government was working on making 500,000 coronavirus tests possible per week for people who show symptoms and those they had been in contact with — up from the current 150,000 weekly. People who test positive after May 11 will be placed in isolation. France will soon be producing some 17 million washable, reusable fabric face coverings for the general public per week, Veran added.
- Philippe announced the ban on visits to retirement homes would be lifted as of April 20, but limitations would continue regarding number of visitors and no physical contact.
- The French overseas territory of New Caledonia, in the South Pacific, will begin easing confinement April 20, becoming the first French territory to end lockdown measures, which came into effect March 24. Schools and businesses will reopen, but bars and restaurants will remain closed. According to French media, the South Pacific archipelago reported 18 total cases, all imported; however, no new cases have been reported in the last 12 days and no deaths have been attributed to the coronavirus. Thierry Santa, the president of the New Caledonian government, announced his administration would reevaluate the situation May 3. Anyone who arrives in New Caledonia will be quarantined for 14 days, under observation by health and social services.

- Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo outlined her deconfinement plan in an interview with *JDD* April 19. Massive diagnostic testing will be required, though the mayor sees antibody tests as less reliable. She plans to distribute 2 million fabric face coverings free of charge to residents, at a cost of €3 million (\$3.3M). The city plans to install hand sanitizer dispensers in public spaces, including bus stops, Metro entrances, and schools. In order to decrease crowding on metro lines and the use of automobiles, certain roads will become dedicated bike routes, including those that follow the most popular metro lines.
- PSA Peugeot Citroën, has designed a new health protocol in anticipation of re-opening its Rennes plant with 3,000 employees. Protective measures will include regular temperature screening, daily medical mask distribution, workplace modifications to limit contact with surfaces, systematic facility cleaning, and altered work shifts to maximize social distancing. Management has not yet announced a date to resume operations.
- The Bas-Rhin Departmental Council, the Eurometropolis of Strasbourg, and municipalities will finance the distribution of two washable and reusable masks to each inhabitant of the Bas-Rhin (more than a million people). About half the masks will be produced by textile companies that belong to the Alsace Textile Pole and the rest purchased from other European manufacturers. The goal is to have 1.2 million masks by the start of deconfinement. The masks can be washed and reused about 50 times and offer 70 percent filtration.

6. ~~(SBU)~~ Travel and Screening Measures

- No updates since April 17 (Ref A).

7. ~~(SBU)~~ Economic Updates

- On April 19, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe reiterated the government's forecast that the economy will contract by 8 percent in 2020. He said, "This health crisis will lead to an economic crisis that has only just begun. It will be brutal." Meanwhile, Citibank analysts were even more pessimistic, speculating that de-confinement will wind down more slowly than expected and estimated France's economy will take at least seven quarters for real GDP to return to pre-crisis levels. Citi forecasted GDP to drop by

around 10 percent this year and the budget deficit to widen to 10 percent of GDP, once a recovery plan is agreed.

- Labor Minister Muriel Penicaud announced on April 20 that 785,000 private companies had signed up 9.6 million workers for the government's temporary unemployment scheme, or nearly 50 percent of all private sector workers. Penicaud indicated the scheme will remain open after May 11 to contribute to the economic recovery.

8. (U) Political Updates

- The Council of State, France's highest administrative court, ruled April 17 that mayors cannot impose COVID-19 measures beyond those determined by the national government. Exceptions can be granted based on local circumstances as long as they do not compromise national measures. The ruling overturns a decree by the Mayor of Sceaux, south of Paris, to require residents to wear masks outside their homes starting April 15. The Human Rights League (LDH) filed a complaint arguing the rule violated individual freedoms, and Cergy-Pontoise administrative court overturned the measure. The city of Sceaux then appealed to the Council of State, which upheld the lower court's ruling. Interior Minister Castaner had previously warned that mayors should not issue unilateral orders on masks.
- Two hundred French people signed an anti-hate memorandum targeting German-French border tensions. Since March 16, only a few large customs posts between France and Germany remain open, allowing goods and cross-border workers to cross. Well-guarded posts and strict controls sometimes generate hours of waiting and therefore misunderstanding and frustration on the French side. Some cross-border workers have the impression that some Germans are becoming anti-French. Cédric Rosen, president of the cross-border workers from Alsace-Lorraine confirms the same feedback: "Many French workers are sent home; they are asked to take vacation or sick leave. Some testify that they cannot eat in the same cafeteria as the German employees, and certain employers are starting to lay off workers. But I don't want to criticize Germany either, I remember that we too have closed our border in the past."
- The Strasbourg court registered 98 appeals contesting the first round of municipal elections on grounds the low participation rate due to fears of the coronavirus taints the validity of the results.

9. (U) **Media and Public Reaction**

- According to a *JDD* poll released April 18, the French population’s confidence in the government’s ability to handle the COVID-19 outbreak is at 46 percent, an 8-point rise over the last week due to what pollsters call the “presidential speech effect” following President Macron’s address to the nation April 13 and the declining number of patients in intensive care units. A slightly larger percentage, 52 percent, believe Macron will “help businesses” through the effects of the COVID-19 crisis.

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- A survey analysis released April 20 by OpinionWay for Cevipof and the economy department of Sciences Po University comparing sentiments of French, British, and German respondents shows the COVID-19 crisis has profoundly affected French confidence in “pillars of the Western World and the European Union.” Mistrust in institutions, for example, is higher in France during COVID-19 than it was following the terrorist attacks in 2015, and surveys show lower public confidence in the French executive than the German or British. In fact, 74 percent of Germans and 69 percent of British think their government has “managed the crisis well” compared to only 39 percent of French. Further, 65 percent believe France should “protect itself from the world,” and 75 percent believe France will have to “better control the borders,” which should be the responsibility of the French state as opposed to the EU. 45 percent want the “capitalist system to be thoroughly reformed” and 91 percent believe it should be reformed in some way, particularly through increased economic protectionism. French respondents remain attached to democratic principles, however, as 76 percent approve of a “political system with an elected parliament that controls the government.”

Signature: McCourt

Drafted By:
Cleared By:

PARIS	(b)(6)
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ECON	

EXEC: [REDACTED]
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ECON: [REDACTED]
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Date/DTG: Apr 30, 2020 / 301104Z APR 20
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TAGS: PGOV, PREL, ECON, FR
Subject: France in Focus for April 30 2020



France in Focus for: Thursday, April 30, 2020 UNCLASSIFIED

- **(U) COVID-19 Update: Considering Stop-and-Go Lockdown Strategy**
- **(U) France GDP Falls Record-Breaking 5.8 Percent in First Quarter**
- **(U) Chinese-Controlled Media Increase Criticism of the United States**
- **(U) De Montchalin Highlights Franco-German Deconfinement Cooperation**
- **(U) Cybersecurity Agency Issues Recommendations for a Secure StopCovid App**
- **((U) (U) Macron and Zelenskyy Discuss COVID-19, Eastern Ukraine in Advance of N4 Foreign Ministers' Call**
- **(U) Catholic Leaders Angry Religious Services to be Delayed Until June 2**

(U) COVID-19 Update: Considering Stop-and-Go Lockdown Strategy

(U) France reported an additional 427 deaths (+1.8 percent), bringing the total to 24, 087. The number of hospitalized patients continued to drop, by 2.4 percent (-650) to 26,834, and ICU patients dropped by 4.2 percent (-180), to 4,207. Case counts are being re-evaluated, with a temporary drop of 2,505 cases, to 166,420 (down 1.5 percent). Excess mortality (deaths above those expected in a given week based on a multi-year average) has been observed for the past five weeks, particularly in the eastern region and around Paris. As May 11, the date to start easing stay-at-home orders, approaches, the French government is considering a "stop and go" lockdown strategy, alternating periods of lockdown and eased restrictions to avoid

exceeding hospital capacity in the event of additional waves of outbreaks. (b)(6)

(U) France GDP Falls Record-Breaking 5.8 Percent in First Quarter

(U) On April 30, France's official statistics agency INSEE reported French GDP shrank 5.8 percent in the first quarter of 2020 compared to the previous quarter, the sharpest economic contraction on record since 1949. INSEE attributed this to the COVID-19-related economic activity shutdown. However, the GDP figure only incorporates two weeks of France's lockdown, which began March 17, leading independent analysts to predict Q2 GDP will be significantly worse. Consumer spending, usually the driver of the French economy, dropped 6.1 percent in the first quarter, while business investment plunged 11.4 percent. Production of goods and services declined sharply (-5.5 percent) with the largest drop in construction (-12.6 percent). Output in market services declined by -5.7 percent overall. Exports and imports also contracted by about 6 percent. The Q1 figure marks the second consecutive quarter of economic contraction, after shrinking 0.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2019, meaning France has officially fallen into a technical recession. (b)(6)

(U) Chinese-Controlled Media Increase Criticism of the United States

(U) The Chinese Embassy in France intensified criticism of the West and the United States in a piece entitled "16 Myths and Facts About China and COVID-19." The content, originally published by the Chinese Embassy in Berlin on April 24, claims the Wuhan Institute of Virology (WIV) had nothing to do with COVID-19, questioned the origins of the disease, and asserted China has no influence over the WHO. CCP-controlled CGTN France also aired content from CGTN English denouncing the U.S. use of the crisis to launch political and ideological attacks against China. Content criticizing Secretary Pompeo is especially harsh, with an article describing him as an "enemy of humanity." (b)(6)

(U) De Montchalin Highlights Franco-German Cooperation on Deconfinement Measures

(U) Secretary of State for European Affairs Amelie de Montchalin informed the Senate April 29 of ongoing EU, cross-border COVID-19 deconfinement efforts. Calling such Franco-European cooperation valuable, she underscored France and Germany must lead in "reviving EU consensus building." She stressed France and Germany must be the "engine" for agreement on economic rival today, and tomorrow be the drivers for "reinforcing European strategic autonomy." France is coordinating closely with Germany on comprehensive deconfinement measures in border regions, and a French inter-ministerial committee is developing safeguards to protect cross-border workers and "neutralize" the effects of COVID-19 on social and tax systems. De Montchalin said they would seek to reopen borders as much as possible, but must ensure a high level of health security for all citizens. (b)(6)

(U) Cybersecurity Agency Issues Recommendations for a Secure StopCovid App

(U) On April 27 France's cybersecurity agency ANSSI published recommendations to ensure the proposed StopCovid tracing app (Ref [20 PARIS 820](#)) securely protects data. These include: using an electronic safe, hardware, or software to protect anonymized data sent to the central server; applying security measures to prevent malware attacks; setting up a vulnerability management system for both the app and central sever; and using a cyber-attack detection system. ANSSI recommended the use of SKINNY-64/192 as an encryption algorithm and will carry out security audits throughout app's design. **Comment:** The StopCovid app is far from a done deal (Ref [20 PARIS 894](#)), and some observers wonder whether it will ever

come to pass, especially now Germany has opted for the Google-Apple solution. **End Comment.** (b)(6)

(U) Macron and Zelenskyy Discuss COVID-19, Eastern Ukraine in Advance of N4 Foreign Ministers' Call

The French and Ukrainian presidents discussed COVID-19, Ukraine's relations with the IMF and EU, and Ukraine's reform implementation in an April 27 phone call. They also spoke about eastern Ukraine and follow-up from agreements made at the December 2019 Normandy Format Summit. They noted the importance of maintaining negotiations for peace in the Donbas. They hoped to continue bilateral cooperation after the pandemic, and Zelenskyy reiterated an invitation for Macron to visit Ukraine, which Macron accepted in principle, according to a Ukrainian presidency readout (Note: The Elysee did not issue a call readout. End note.) The call preceded the April 30 Normandy Format foreign ministers' call. (b)(6)

(U) Catholic Leaders Angry Religious Services to be Delayed Until June 2

(U) Religious services will not resume before June 2, PM Philippe told the National Assembly on April 28. Churches remain open for individual prayer. While religious leaders had previously supported social distancing, the Catholic Church was angry about the latest announcement, which did not incorporate its proposal to resume services social distancing measures. Interior Minister Castaner will meet April 30 with Eric de Moulins Beaufort, president of the Conference of Bishops of France, to address frustrations. The bishop of Nanterre lamented called restrictions on religion stronger than others, noting many shops and some museums will reopen May 11. He called the delay for the Church a sign of "anti-clericalism" or "anti-Catholic orientation" in the presidency. (b)(6)

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Drafted By: Paris (b)(6)
Approved By: POL (b)(6)
Released By: PARIS: (b)(6)

Info: WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; CIA WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; DNI WASHINGTON DC ROUTINE; EUROPEAN POLITICAL COLLECTIVE ROUTINE

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