

Natural or lab-made? US agents will probe the origins of the Covid virus, according to Biden

On Wednesday, US President Joe Biden urged the country's intelligence services to provide a report on their most recent research of Covid-19's origins within 90 days. Biden also stated that the United States, in collaboration with other nations, will push China to join in a comprehensive, transparent, and evidence-based international probe. He claimed that US intelligence agencies are investigating competing theories, such as a Chinese laboratory accident. Intelligence agencies are considering two possible scenarios, but they are still unsure about their conclusions and are debating which is more likely, according to Biden. The conclusions were detailed in a report to Biden, who asked his team in March to detail whether the novel coronavirus "emerged from human contact with an infected animal or a laboratory accident," as per the president's written statement.

According to a still-classified US intelligence assessment published during former President Donald Trump's administration, three researchers at China's Wuhan Institute of Virology were so ill in November 2019 that they sought medical care and Chinese reticence to an international investigation, as well as Beijing's inconsistent explanations for the virus's origin, have fuelled suspicions about the origin of the virus and on the Wuhan facility. In recent weeks, Washington has grown more frustrated with China's lack of

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Image source: wsj.com

cooperation in the international inquiry. According to the US President, intelligence services have been urged to “stymie their efforts to acquire and evaluate evidence that might bring us closer to a definite conclusion.” Biden’s rare public disclosure regarding classified and inconclusive US intelligence assessments highlighted a raging disagreement inside his administration concerning the origins of the new coronavirus.

Washington has urged the WHO to begin the second phase of its research into the origins of COVID, following their first phase inquiry, which was conducted in collaboration with Chinese specialists and concluded that the virus was most likely transmitted from bats to humans by another animal, and that “introduction through a laboratory event was seen as an extraordinarily improbable scenario.”

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Both the Senate and House of Representatives intelligence committees are looking into how US agencies have reported on and obtained information concerning COVID-19's origin, distribution, and government responses.

WHO emergency director Mike Ryan said in Geneva on Wednesday that they plan to offer an update on their planned next measures "in the coming weeks." On Tuesday, China's delegation to the World Health Organization (WHO) called on "all stakeholders" to "have an open and transparent approach" to help the WHO track out the virus's origin.

China attacked the Biden administration on Thursday for its fresh attempt to explore the origins of the coronavirus, claiming that the US "does not care about facts or truth, nor is it interested in genuine scientific origin tracing," only a day after Joe Biden announced the probe.



Members of the World Health Organization (WHO) team, tasked with investigating the origins of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), don personal protection suits during a visit at

the Hubei Animal Epidemic Disease Prevention and Control Center in Wuhan, Hubei province, China February 2, 2021. REUTERS/Thomas Peter

Viruses arise regularly. Repeatedly. The pace at which viruses proliferate, as well as their capacity to swiftly mutate and adapt to new surroundings and hosts, implies that there is effectively an endless number of viruses on the globe. As a result, determining where this infection originated will be difficult. So, if you're asking, "Is it conceivable to have both lab-made and biologically generated theories about the virus?" Yes, you're right. Both are valid alternatives. The answer is affirmative if the question is, "Are they equally likely?" The answer is a resounding no. For over a year, one notion has necessitated a gigantic cover-up as well as the quiet, unshakable, leak-proof collaboration of a vast network of scientists. The alternative demands just that biology act as it always has, and that a family of viruses that have done this previously do so once more.

The origin of the virus, which has killed roughly 3.5 million people and impacted more than 168 million people over the world, is still unknown, and while solving this riddle may take a long time, the research may spark a cultural war between nations.

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