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CHINA INSIDER

ANDY WONG-POU/GETTY IMAGES

Vice President Joe Biden buys an ice cream as he tours Beijing with Hunter Biden on Dec. 5, 2013. Biden is on an official visit to China from Dec. 4 to 5.

HUNTER'S CHINA BUSINESS LINKS

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

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SURVEILLANCE

Beijing Views US Consulates as ‘Hostile Forces,’ Orders Monitoring of Diplomats: Leaked Documents

EVA FU

Chinese authorities see U.S. Consulates as “hostile forces” that conduct “infiltration and sabotage” activities on Chinese soil and have ordered officials to monitor key U.S. diplomats, according to a leaked document obtained by The Epoch Times.

At a time when bilateral relations hit a historical low, the document from Leizhou city of China’s southeastern Guangdong Province offers a rare glimpse into how the Chinese regime deals with American diplomats.

In a four-page “work plan” dated April 2018, the Leizhou Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau described the “U.S. and other Western consulates in China” as key targets that could threaten the region’s political and social stability.

All departments and units within the bureau must work to counter such influences, by effectively “blocking [the consulates] from establishing connections with key [Chinese] political figures, prominent lawyers, ‘public intellectuals,’ ‘rights defenders,’ and special interest groups,” the bureau told its staff.

The bureau’s goal is to “break all threats and nets” and leave no room for such attempts, the document stated.

Methods

To address the perceived threats, the bureau outlined a four-step plan with measures such as watching for “infiltration activities” organized by foreign consulates in Guangzhou city, the capital of Guangdong, and “use all efforts”—including “reminders, warnings, and a mild degree of force”—to discourage the aforementioned individuals from attending events held by consulates.

The bureau staff were to monitor organizations and individuals that have “close ties” with foreign consulates, and gather

any relevant information, such as their background and any changes in their “asset accounts,” to cut off any “financial enticements” from U.S. Consulates.

The office also planned to establish a database on “key” foreign diplomats in China and use big data to track down their whereabouts. “It’s a countermeasure against ongoing infiltration and subversion,” the document stated.

The bureau cautioned the staff to be “strategic” in balancing between “prevention and control” and “collaboration and taking advantage.”

In a four-page ‘work plan’ dated April 2018, the Leizhou Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs Bureau described the ‘U.S. and other Western consulates in China’ as key targets that could threaten the region’s political and social stability.

Given that Guangdong borders Hong Kong, the bureau also detailed in a separate section how staff should guard against any “contamination” from “opposition forces.” The “pro-independence elements” may attempt to “sneak in” through participating in cultural exchange programs and inviting Chinese scholars to Hong Kong and converting them into “domestic agents,” it warned.

A former British colony, Hong Kong returned to Chinese rule in 1997 and was promised a high degree of autonomy, which the regime stripped away in July with a sweeping national security law. The Chinese Communist Party routinely characterizes Hong Kong pro-democracy activists who are vocal about Beijing’s encroach-

ment on the city’s affairs as separatists, and accuses them of supporting the territory’s independence from the mainland.

It stressed that in the event such opposition forces “really need to enter” Guangdong, they must be strictly monitored and prosecuted if they exhibit any problematic behaviors. The document also stated plans to collaborate with relevant higher government departments in Hong Kong, such as by supplying intelligence, to eliminate any of Hong Kong’s “negative influences” on Guangdong.

The document ended by stating that the “counter-infiltration” work would be on the daily agenda. The bureau formed a “leadership team” comprising top officials, including the bureau director, to take up this task. The U.S. State Department didn’t immediately return an inquiry regarding the leaked document.

Interrupted Academic Exchanges

While the document focused primarily on Guangdong, it is unclear whether other Chinese cities have issued similar orders.

A separate internal document from 2016 suggested that Chinese authorities have oversight over how local academic institutions can interact with U.S. diplomats.

In an August 2016 meeting with top officials in northeastern Jilin Province, then-U.S. ambassador to China Max Baucus raised concerns about consular access to multiple Chinese universities, citing abrupt cancellations of scheduled conferences with U.S. consular officials in the nearby city of Shenyang, according to government meeting minutes provided to The Epoch Times.

Wang Zhiwei, then-director of the Jilin Foreign Affairs Office, blamed the timing of the conference, saying that students were all on summer vacation and thus wouldn’t be able to attend; then-Jilin governor Jiang Chaoliang, in turn, replied that any activities that “don’t endanger China’s national security” and “spread positive energy

should be fine.”

“I want to clarify that there shouldn’t be any issue with our university visits. There are no subversion activities,” Baucus had told Jiang during the meeting. He then asked Jiang to “urge the institutions not to reject interacting with us.”

Calls for Reciprocity

The United States has decried a lack of reciprocity when it comes to diplomatic interactions with the Chinese regime.

On Sept. 10, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called out Beijing’s “hypocrisy” after Chinese state media People’s Daily rejected an op-ed drafted by then-U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad. Pompeo cast the state newspaper’s reasoning as “a litany of grievances.”

“The People’s Daily’s response once again exposes the Chinese Communist Party’s fear of free speech and serious intellectual debate—as well as Beijing’s hypocrisy when it complains about lack of fair and reciprocal treatment in other countries,” he said in a statement.

The two countries have imposed restrictions on each other’s diplomatic missions since July, after the State Department moved to shut down the Chinese consulate in Houston over espionage concerns. In retaliation, Beijing closed the U.S. consulate in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan Province.

On Sept. 2, Pompeo announced that senior Chinese diplomats in the United States will have to ask permission to visit U.S. college campuses and meet with local officials.

“We’re simply demanding reciprocity. Access for our diplomats in China should be reflective of the access that Chinese diplomats in the United States have,” he told a news briefing on Sept. 2.

The Chinese foreign ministry responded by applying restrictions on the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and consulates across China, including the one in Hong Kong.

He Jian contributed to this report.

NOEL CELIS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Policemen march in front of the US consulate in Chengdu, southwestern China’s Sichuan Province, on July 26, 2020.

EXCLUSIVE

China Had COVID-Like Patients Months Before Official Timeline

Internal CCP documents show patients in Wuhan had symptoms as early as September 2019, but authorities didn’t disclose to the world

EVA FU

A series of leaked documents shows that patients in China with symptoms similar to COVID-19 were hospitalized months before the regime’s official timeline, throwing into question when exactly the CCP virus began spreading in Wuhan, China’s epidemic ground zero.

At least one patient started experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms in September 2019, according to hospital data obtained by The Epoch Times from a trusted source who has access to government documents. Dozens more were hospitalized over the following month.

Wuhan hospitals also reported several deaths in October 2019 due to severe pneumonia, lung infections, and other symptoms similar to COVID-19 patients.

Wuhan hospitals reported several deaths in October last year due to severe pneumonia, lung infections, and other symptoms similar to those experienced by COVID-19 patients. The city only publicly announced an outbreak of a novel form of pneumonia on Dec. 31.

The city’s health commission only publicly announced an outbreak of a novel form of pneumonia on Dec. 31, 2019—after social media posts by whistleblower doctors had gone viral.

In a letter dated Feb. 19 obtained by The Epoch Times, a national investigation team set up by the central government stated that it wished to trace early cases of the disease. It asked local authorities for data from all Wuhan medical institutions over the period between Oct. 1 to Dec. 10, 2019, including information on patients

who visited fever clinics in the vicinity of the Huanan Seafood Market, a wet market that the officials initially identified as the outbreak origin; details of the earliest 10 suspected cases at each medical agency rated tier two or above (three is the highest); and pneumonia deaths with COVID-19-like symptoms.

The letter stated that nine hospitals, which received the most COVID-19 patients in the city, were key to the investigation.

The Epoch Times had access to part of the records in response to the inquiry, those from 11 hospitals.

Despite the collected data, the Wuhan outbreak control task force told media on Feb. 26 that the earliest documented patient was a person surnamed Chen who fell ill on Dec. 8, 2019.

It’s unclear whether authorities conducted any inquiries into early cases prior to February.

To some critics, the investigation appeared rather narrow and came too late. “For such a massive respiratory disease to break out in the area, how come they didn’t track down all other hospitals?” Sean Lin, former lab director of the viral disease branch at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, told The Epoch Times.

“This should have been done a long time ago,” he said, calling the delayed inquiry “ridiculous.”

Suspected Virus Patients

The obtained records showed nine deaths due to COVID-19-like conditions at three hospitals.

Five were severe pneumonia patients who died between November and December 2019 at the Wuhan No. 6 Hospital, one of the hospitals named in the inquiry letter. The Wuhan Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, a tertiary hospital, had three deaths in October. Wuhan No. 8 Hospital recorded one death.

Patients died within a period of several days to about four weeks after their first symptoms appeared.



A health professional in a unit set up for CCP virus patients in Lima, Peru, on Feb. 27, 2020. Internal documents reveal that Beijing knew by then of suspected cases dating back to September 2019, but didn’t tell the world.

Xu Zhenqian, for example, was hospitalized at Wuhan No. 6 hospital. The 82-year-old started exhibiting symptoms on Oct. 1, 2019, including coughing fits without an apparent cause and coughed up white phlegm, a sign of respiratory infection, according to the hospital’s clinical description. The patient was transferred from another facility shortly before his death on Nov. 3.

Three other patients at the same hospital also had difficulty breathing before they died. Their CT scans showed blurred markings in their lungs—patterns that match the lesions on some COVID-19 patients.

The files also identified at least 40 other suspected COVID-19 patients across eight hospitals, the earliest one being 67-year-old Xiao Niangu, who began exhibiting symptoms on Sept. 25, 2019, and was hospitalized at the Wuhan Puren Jiang’an Hospital.

Wuhan has 205 health facilities at the community and township level and 66 designated hospitals for treating COVID-19 patients, city officials said in March.

China’s lack of transparency has been heavily criticized by government officials. It consistently refused to allow in experts from the United States and the World Health Organization (WHO) to study the outbreak in the country. On Feb. 12, an official from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the agency was still unable to access “direct data” about the outbreak and “continue to be hopeful that we’ll be invited to do that.”

In a media interview released on May 1, a WHO representative in China also said China has excluded the organization’s experts from the country’s virus probe.

Nicole Hao contributed to this report.

CCP VIRUS

China Outlines Scenarios of COVID-19 Outbreak This Winter

ALEX WU

A province in southern China has outlined four scenarios for a potential CCP (Chinese Communist Party) virus outbreak this fall and winter, according to leaked internal Chinese government documents that were obtained by The Epoch Times.

The official internal documents, titled “Notice on Printing and Distributing the Emergency Plan for Hainan’s Response to COVID-19 Epidemic in Autumn and Winter,” were issued by the CCP’s Hainan provincial government on Aug. 27.

The documents were marked “Not for release to the public.”

According to research and modeling, there could be a COVID-19 spike in Hainan this fall or winter, the provincial government stated. It also predicted that such an outbreak could be lengthy.

The documents outlined four potential scenarios for the spread of COVID-19 on the island province.

Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 describe a relatively mild outbreak. In Scenario 3 and Scenario 4, the epidemic situation is more severe. In Scenario 3, for example, the province would see sporadic cases or cases of asymptomatic carriers in three or more counties and cities, or a local cluster of infections in a city or county. In either case, there would be community spread in some cities and counties that would carry a risk for province-wide transmission, the documents stated.



Residents wear masks while walking through the entrance of the Wuhan Beer Festival in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, on Aug. 21, 2020.

The Hainan authorities said there are four preconditions for Scenario 3: 1. the relaxation of port control measures; 2. large-scale community transmission in other provinces; 3. local epidemics caused by items such as frozen foods or environmental pollution; and 4. prevention and control of Scenario 2 isn’t achieved, and sporadic cases lead to clusters of infections.

Chinese authorities have previously blamed local outbreaks on contaminated foods, even as

experts have said that contaminated food isn’t known to transmit the virus.

Scenario 4 outlines a large-scale epidemic across the province—that is, continuous community transmission in more cities and counties, spreading throughout the whole province.

Hainan authorities listed two possible preconditions for Scenario 4: 1. Scenario 3 prevention and control haven’t been achieved, and the epidemic spreads rapidly to various places;

and 2. provincial borders are open without restriction or isolation of people who enter the province.

An accompanying emergency plan laid out 10 response measures. For example, under Scenario 3, authorities would rely on big data to monitor the movements of “key individuals,” and implement regional lockdowns.

In Scenario 4, authorities would set up a makeshift hospital to treat mildly ill patients. The measures also outlined propaganda and education efforts, and re-

quested support from the central government’s State Council, depending on the progression of the epidemic.

The government stated that, according to research and modeling, there could be a COVID-19 spike in Hainan this fall or winter. It also predicted that the outbreak would last for a long time.

In recent months, The Epoch Times has obtained a large number of internal CCP documents showing that after the CCP virus broke out, local governments concealed information about the epidemic from the public. They also consistently underreported infection numbers.

This publication has also obtained a series of internal Chinese government documents on biosafety guidelines for research labs that revealed Beijing issued guidelines on how to study the CCP virus and knew of its potential to spread among humans at least weeks before disclosing such risks with the public.

While the first known case of infection from the CCP virus occurred in late 2019, the Chinese regime only publicly confirmed human-to-human transmission on Jan. 20.

Xu Meng’er contributed to this report.



Then-Vice President Joe Biden waves as he walks out of Air Force Two with his granddaughter, Finnegan Biden and son Hunter Biden upon their arrival in Beijing on Dec. 4, 2013.

CHINESE INFLUENCE

Hunter Biden Under Scrutiny for Alleged Business Deals With Chinese Exec With Links to Military

FRANK FANG & CATHY HE

Hunter Biden allegedly sought to pocket millions from deals involving a Chinese energy giant with ties to the Chinese military, according to emails obtained by the New York Post. An alleged email from James Gilliar of the international consultancy J2eR that was sent to Biden on May 13, 2017 detailed “remuneration packages” for six people in an unspecified deal apparently involving the now-bankrupt Chinese oil giant CEFC China Energy. Biden, who is the second son of former Vice President and current presidential candidate Joe Biden, was identified as “Chair/Vice Chair” of a new company, “depending on agreement with CEFC.” His pay would be “\$50.”

Gilliar did not immediately return a request for comment about his involvement. The email also mentions a “provisional agreement” under which a person identified as “H,” an apparent reference to Hunter Biden, would hold 20 percent “equity” in the new company, as well as 10 percent “held...for the big guy.” The email doesn’t identify who the “big guy” is. Gilliar also said he would be “happy to raise any detail with Zang if there is [sic] shortfalls?” in an apparent reference to Zang Jianjun, a former executive director at CEFC.

Shanghai-based conglomerate CEFC China Energy was China’s largest privately-held oil company before it was caught in Beijing’s crosshairs in 2018. The oil conglomerate made billions of dollars in Russia, eastern Europe, and parts of Africa, while its now-disgraced founder and chairman Ye Jianming fostered cozy ties with high-level Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials.

Ye has been missing since early 2018 after he was placed under investigation by the Chinese regime for “suspected

economic crimes” and detained. A state-owned enterprise took control of CEFC in March 2019, and the firm declared bankruptcy early this year, according to Chinese media Caixin.

In a separate email Biden sent to Hong Kong financier Dong Gongwen on Aug. 2, 2017, Biden reveals that he previously had a three-year agreement with CEFC that would pay him \$10 million per year “for introductions alone.”

Dong was Ye’s business associate and executed transactions for Ye’s companies, according to a recent Senate report. But Ye later sweetened the deal, giving Biden 50 percent ownership of a holding company named “Hudson West,” with Ye owning the other half, the email stated.

“Consulting fees is one piece of our income stream but the reason this proposal by the chairman was so much more interesting to me and my family is that we would also be partners inn [sic] the equity and profits of the JV’s [joint venture’s] investments,” Biden wrote.

An Aug. 1, 2017 photo obtained by The New York Post of a hand-drawn organization chart outlined Hudson West’s ownership. It showed that the company was controlled 50/50 by two entities that were ultimately controlled by Biden and a person identified as “Chairman” respectively.

The Senate report also showed that Hunter Biden’s law firm, Owasco PC, was one of two owners of a company called Hudson West III, which has since been dissolved.

In September 2017, Biden and Dong opened a line of credit at a bank under Hudson West III, the report said. Credit cards issued under the account were made available to Biden, his uncle James Biden, and James’ wife Sara Biden. They purchased more than \$100,000 worth of “extravagant items, including airline tickets and multiple items at Apple Inc. stores, pharmacies, hotels, and restaurants,” it said.

The emails obtained by the Post were

allegedly from the hard drive of a laptop left at a Mac repair shop in Wilmington, Delaware in April 2019, that was never retrieved. The FBI then allegedly seized the laptop, and the repair shop owner later gave a copy of the hard drive to former New York City mayor Rudy Giuliani, President Donald Trump’s personal attorney. Giuliani then gave the contents to the Post. Giuliani said he spent three weeks authenticating the materials on the drive. The Epoch Times has not seen a copy of the files and could not independently verify this claim.

Joe Biden’s campaign did not return a request for comment.

Fallen Oil Tycoon

Ye had extensive ties to the Chinese military.

According to the Senate report, Ye served as deputy secretary-general of the China Association for International Friendly Contacts (CAIFC) from 2003 to 2005.

The association is a front group for the Chinese military’s former General Political Department, a political organ within the Central Military Commission—the CCP agency that controls the armed forces, according to a 2018 report published by the Congress-appointed U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (USCC). That department was replaced by a new agency called the Political Work Department in 2016.

“CAIFC has additional ties to the Ministries of State Security, Civil Affairs, and Foreign Affairs, and it is a platform for deploying undercover intelligence gatherers,” the report said.

USCC added: “In addition to sending intelligence collectors abroad, CAIFC sponsors trips to China by foreign military and veteran groups, businesspeople, and former politicians which typically include contact with hand-picked PLA personnel,” referring to the People’s Liberation Army, the official name of the Chinese regime’s military.

Caixin published an extensive report on CEFC in March 2018. It stated that CEFC’s Party secretary, Jiang Chunyu, was a retired Chinese military police officer. All major firms in China are required to set up Party units within their offices.

Jiang was also once head of a military police school located in Shanghai. According to Chinese news portal Sina, the school was combined with other institutes to form the PLA Nanjing Political College in August 2017.

According to Caixin, Ye was also chairman of the board at a company called Shanghai Zhenrong Energy Corporation from 2007 to 2008. Shanghai Zhenrong was jointly established by three companies; two of them were CEFC and Zhuhai Zhenrong Corporation.

Zhuhai Zhenrong was sanctioned by the U.S. government in July 2019 for engaging in oil transactions with Iran, in violation of U.S. sanctions on the Iranian regime.

According to Caixin, CEFC established a Shanghai Charity Fund in 2011, hiring Li Guangjin, a retired political officer from the PLA’s Shanghai Garrison, as the fund’s chairman. Additionally, Wang Hongyuan, a former bureau chief at the General Office of the Central Military Commission, became the fund’s standing director.

Taiwan’s Ministry of Justice Investigation Bureau disclosed that several CEFC executives had ties to the Chinese military and the Chinese regime, in its monthly magazine Prospect & Exploration published in July 2018.

For instance, the magazine pointed out that Xiong Fengsheng, CEFC’s director and Party secretary of the company’s discipline commission at the time, was once head of the PLA Air Force’s 461 Hospital, located in the northeastern city of Jilin.

Some CEFC executives previously worked in the Chinese government or at state-owned firms.

One of CEFC’s deputy presidents, Jiang

Mingsheng, once worked at China’s central bank, the People’s Bank of China. He was also a one-time Party secretary while working at the Shanghai branch of the China Merchants Bank, according to the magazine.

Pan Zhigang, an economist at CEFC, was once office director at the International Cooperation Center of China’s National Development and Reform Commission, a state planning agency.

Biden had previously told The New Yorker in a July 2019 article that he didn’t consider Ye to be a “shady character at all,” and characterized his investigation and detention as “bad luck.”

Ye also established a nonprofit based in Hong Kong and Arlington, Virginia, called the China Energy Fund Committee, which had “special consultative status” at the United Nations.

The organization’s general secretary was Hong Kong businessman Patrick Ho. Ho was also Biden’s client at Owasco, according to the Senate report.

In March 2019, Ho was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison for paying millions in bribes to the presidents of Chad and Uganda to secure oil rights for CEFC.

On March 22, 2018, months before Ho was to go on trial, a \$1 million payment was sent from Hudson West III to Owasco for Ho’s legal representation, the Senate report found.

The Post obtained an “Attorney Engagement Letter” executed in September 2017, in which Ho agreed to pay Biden \$1 million as a retainer for legal services. Biden told The New Yorker in 2019 that he agreed to represent Ho after Ye told him that he was concerned that “U.S. law-enforcement agencies were investigating” Ho.

Ho was convicted of money laundering, violating the Foreign Corrupt Practice Act, and other charges. He was freed in June this year, with the judge shortening his incarceration after he demonstrated good behavior.

CHINESE INFLUENCE

Hunter Biden’s Business Associates Helped Chinese Tycoons Meet With Obama White House Officials, Emails Show

CATHY HE

Hunter Biden’s business associates helped secure meetings between Chinese tycoons and high-level Obama-era White House officials in 2011, according to emails obtained by author Peter Schweizer and seen by The Epoch Times.

Biden’s then-business associates Devon Archer and Bevan Cooney facilitated a group of Chinese business and political elites from the exclusive China Entrepreneur Club (CEC) to visit the White House and meet with administration officials in November 2011 during their trip to the United States, the emails showed.

The Chinese delegation met with then-Vice President Joe Biden during this trip, according to a CEC document.

An email also suggested that Archer had communicated with Hunter Biden about setting up the White House meeting for the group.

Hunter Biden’s business dealings in China and Ukraine have come under close scrutiny as his father runs for the presidential office. The younger Biden recently also attracted scrutiny for his alleged business deals with Chinese executives at an oil conglomerate that has ties to the Chinese military, as detailed in emails obtained by the New York Post and a Senate report.

Cooney is serving a prison sentence for his role in a 2016 scheme to defraud an American Indian tribe. He authorized Schweizer, author of the 2018 book “Secret Empires,” access to his email account and publication of the emails, the outlet stated. Schweizer first published the findings from these emails in a Breitbart report. These emails are separate from the tranche obtained by the NY Post.

Archer was also convicted in the same 2016 case and is currently awaiting sentencing. He and Hunter Biden were partners in Rosemont Seneca Bohai, an asset management

Hunter Biden’s business dealings in China and Ukraine have come under close scrutiny as his father runs for the presidential office.

firm. They also both joined the board of Burisma Holdings, a Ukrainian energy firm, in 2014.

On Nov. 5, 2011, Archer was forwarded an email from a business contact, Gary Fears. The email contained a request for help from Mohamed A. Khashoggi, apparently an intermediary for CEC, who sought to secure a visit to the White House and meetings with administration officials. He said the business club had sent meeting invitations to several members of the Obama administration and lawmakers but hadn’t heard back from them.

“A tour of the white house and a meeting with a member of the chief of staff’s office and John Kerry would be great,” Khashoggi wrote.

“If we can set up meetings with Rominy [sic] or non elected officials might be easier,” he added. “Not sure if one has to be registered to do this,” apparently a reference to registration under the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Khashoggi described the group’s “mandate is to let the US know that the Chinese ‘private sector’ is ready and willing to invest in America.”

“I think it is a soft diplomacy play that could be very effective,” Khashoggi continued, adding that it would give Hunter Biden’s business partners “good access to [the Chinese] for any deal in the future.”

The CEC, which has been referred to as the “billionaire’s club,” is composed of China’s top business leaders, as well as economists and diplomats. At the time, it had 50 members including Liu Chuanzhi, its then-chairman and founder of computer giant Lenovo, Jack Ma, founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, and Wu Jianmin, a prominent Chinese diplomat.

The income of 44 CEC members totaled more than 1.5 trillion yuan (\$224 billion) and accounted for roughly 4 percent of China’s gross domestic product, the email stated.

“This is China Inc.,” Khashoggi wrote of the club.

On Nov. 11, 2011, Fears followed up with Archer in an email asking how a meeting

with Khashoggi went. Fears also asked Archer to tell Hunter Biden to call him.

Archer replied, “Hunter is traveling in the UAE for the week with royalty so probably next week before he will be back in pocket.”

In a later reply, Archer wrote, “Couldn’t confirm this with Hunter on the line but we got him his meeting at the WH Monday for the Chinese folks.” On Nov. 14, 2011, the day of the Chinese delegation meeting, Cooney emailed Fears saying, “Archer got the Chinese guys all taken care of in DC.”

White House visitor logs show that a delegation of about 30 people from CEC visited the White House that day, and was hosted by Jeff Zients, then-deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget.

While the logs don’t show a meeting with then-Vice President Biden, a CEC document containing member biographies indicates the delegation met with him, Under Secretary Robert Hormats, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Gen. Colin Powell during the 2011 trip.

The meetings with Hormats, Albright, and Powell are listed in an itinerary for the trip. The itinerary also lists a meeting with then-Commerce Secretary John E. Bryson.

Schweizer told Fox News on Oct. 17 that the emails, as well as others that haven’t been released, showed “a wide net of using the Biden name, using access to the White House,” with “Hunter serving as the pipeline to the administration as means to help their clients and gain clients.”

“The names that come up in this are the Chinese, the Russians, the Ukrainians, the Kazakhs,” Schweizer added. “It’s a veritable United Nations of corruption. And what it demonstrates is that Joe Biden, as vice president of the United States, was a center point.”

The Biden campaign and Fears didn’t immediately respond to a request by The Epoch Times for comment. Khashoggi and Archer couldn’t be reached for comment.



In this screenshot from the DNCC’s livestream of the 2020 Democratic National Convention, Hunter Biden, son of Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, addresses the virtual convention on Aug. 20, 2020.

OPINION

Xi Jinping Holds Onto Power Amid Infighting Within the CCP

WANG HE

In less than eight years, Xi Jinping has established himself as the core leader and his political ideology is enshrined into the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s constitution. This not only places Xi above his predecessors Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao, and Deng Xiaoping, but he is also catching up with Mao Zedong's legacy. However, now that the CCP is accelerating its own demise, most factions within the regime want to hold Xi accountable.

For example, in the first half of 2020, a few vocal CCP officials have requested for Xi to step down. "Princeling" (a descendant of a former high-ranking official) Chen Ping called for an urgent Politburo meeting to determine whether Xi is suitable to continue serving as the national leader. Another princeling, Deng Pufang, who is also the son of former Party leader Deng Xiaoping, openly criticized the regime's policies in a speech he gave when he was re-elected as the honorary chairman of China's Disabled Persons' Federation in September 2018. Experts say the remarks were a veiled attack on Xi.

What is Xi's reaction? First of all, Xi took steps to solidify his authority over the regime and the military.

Xi wants to control three groups: high-ranking officials, dissenters, and big corporations.

1. High-ranking officials and retired Party veterans
Xi wants to crack down on any "non-organized political activities" by veterans. According to state media reports, the upcoming fifth plenum will pass new working regulations of the Central Committee that are intended to cement Xi's core leadership and prevent him from being ousted by political rivals.

2. Dissenters
The regime punishes critics who openly criticize the CCP, including Princeling Ren Zhiqiang, a second-generation descendant of a senior

CCP official, who was sentenced to 18 years; Cai Xia, a dissident and retired professor of the Central Party School, lost her retirement benefits; Xu Zhangrun, an intellectual and a professor at Tsinghua University, was removed from his post; and Xu Zhiyong, an activist and legal scholar, was detained earlier this year. All these incidents happened in the first half of 2020.

3. Big corporations
Financial tycoons, especially those with political ties, have been reined in by the CCP. The CEO of Anbang Insurance Group, Wu Xiaohui, was found guilty of fraud and embezzlement, and sentenced to 18 years in prison. The founder of Tomorrow Group, Xiao Jianhua, was placed under investigation. He reportedly laundered money for high-level CCP officials. The early retirement of Alibaba founder Jack Ma last year came at a time when Beijing was clamping down on private firms. In June 2018, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) mandated that all of the country's publicly listed companies must set up Party organizations for its employees.

Promoting Socialism: Xi Jinping Thought
Many books on Xi's political doctrine, called "Xi Jinping's Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era" (also known as Xi Jinping Thought) have been published—fostering a cult of personality around Xi. The first volume of "Xi Jinping: The Governance of China," a collection of Xi's speeches and writings, was published in 2014, and the third volume was just published this year. On July 20, China's foreign minister Wang Yi declared the opening of the Xi Jinping Thought on Diplomacy research center in Beijing as "an epoch-making milestone in the diplomatic theory of New China." Xi's portraits have also been put up in many places such as temples and churches.

Party officials are required to study Xi Jinping Thought and are expected to be loyal to the CCP. The regime has severely cracked down on those whose "conduct violated

political discipline" according to the 2018 Chinese Communist Party Disciplinary Regulations, such as those who "make a mockery of the Central Committee's major directives, undermining the Party's centralism and unity."

On Jan. 1, 2019, the Chinese app "Xuexi Qianguo" (which translates to "Study the Great Nation") was launched, designed for online study of Xi Jinping's Thought. According to a report by German cybersecurity company Cure53, the app has put individual users at risk of having their sensitive information decrypted and stored.

As Xi faces mounting pressure at home and abroad (i.e., over China's sluggish economy and pandemic response), rival factions within the regime want to hold Xi accountable.

In "Governance of China," Xi requires officials to be loyal to the Party and "not to take the old path of a rigid closed-door policy, nor an erroneous path by abandoning socialism." There's no alternative and this is the fundamental reason why Xi is trapped in a dead end. Where is his new path?

The only way out for Xi and his opponents is to abandon socialism. But are they willing to do so? It's hard to tell.

In short, Xi and his opponents are still trapped within the mindset of pledging their allegiance to the Party above everything else, then they would destroy themselves.

The elimination of the CCP will open up a path of a promising future for China.

Wang He has master's degrees in law and history, with a focus on the international communist movement. He was a university lecturer and an executive of a large private company in China. He was imprisoned in China twice for his beliefs. Wang lives in North America now and has published commentaries on China's current affairs and politics since 2017.

Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.

KEVIN FRAYER/GETTY IMAGES



Chinese leader Xi Jinping (bottom) arrives at the closing session of the Chinese regime's rubber-stamp legislature conference while other Communist Party officials applaud, in Beijing on May 28, 2020.

STR/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



People are lining up to take COVID-19 tests at a makeshift testing center in Dalian, in China's northeast Liaoning Province on July 26, 2020.

OPINION

The Chinese Regime Will Pay the Price for Concealing the Pandemic

TIAN YUN

China's state-run media can't prevent the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) from facing consequences for downplaying the severity of COVID-19 when it first broke out in Wuhan city last year and spread around the world. Many Chinese in the mainland and people around the world want to hold the CCP accountable for the pandemic.

A survey, called the "COVID-SCORE-10," was conducted around the world to rate governments' response to the COVID-19 pandemic such as providing personal protective equipment to medical workers, accessible COVID-19 testing, and mental health services; and cooperation with international partners such as the World Health Organization (WHO). It was done by the Barcelona Institute for Global Health in conjunction with City University of New York Graduate School of Public Health & Health Policy.

Chinese state media People's Daily cited the survey's results and boasted in a recent report that "China is the country whose response was rated most positively" [by its own citizens] while "the United States ranked ninth."

The survey was exploited by the CCP's mouthpiece media and used to cover up the regime's gross mishandling of the pandemic and promote its narrative.

According to the survey report, a total of 712 Chinese were sampled. How likely is this small number representative of the 1.4 billion population and were they really allowed to express their true opinions under tight censorship?

What the Chinese People Actually Said

On Jan. 24, a nurse in Wuhan, Hubei Province—the epicenter of the pandemic—told her friends and relatives in a video that the outbreak was actually much more terrifying than what was reported on television. "There are quite a lot of patients," she said. "A doctor estimated that there were 100,000 infected."

On Jan. 31, a doctor in Wuhan posted on social media that a lot of patients were dying at a local hospital, and many corpses were left in the corridor. "I don't need encouragement [referring to the political slogan "Wuhan, stay strong"] used all over the country at the time, I just need the entire nation to know what's happening in Wuhan," he said.

Meanwhile, Yan Cheng, a 17 year old with cerebral palsy, was left alone at

home in Huanggang city, Hubei Province. On Jan. 22, local authorities took his father away and put him in isolation after he developed symptoms of COVID-19. Despite the father's desperate plea for help on social media, local authorities failed to provide adequate care for the teen who was found dead in his home a few days later.

On Feb. 1, Caijing, an independent magazine in Beijing, posted a long report online, titled, "People Outside Statistics: Did They Die of Common Pneumonia?" It questioned the CCP's official pandemic narrative and evoked a strong response from the readers. But the report was removed by the regime's propaganda department.

On Feb. 7, Fang Bin, a citizen journalist and resident of Wuhan, posted his viral video "Report from Wuhan" on YouTube, saying: "This pneumonia is not only a natural disaster, but also a man-made disaster. The CCP began covering up and suppressing Dr. Li Wenliang. After the authorities were unable to cover things up, they imposed a lockdown on the city, causing crowds in hospitals, airports, and stores. Those who already had contracted the pneumonia were left together with the ones who hadn't, so they became infected too. And then 300,000 to 400,000 people were able to flee from the epicenter [Wuhan], and they spread the virus to all of China and the world."

On Feb. 29, a Wuhan resident, known as "Ershui Grapefruit Tea" on social media, witnessed patients being turned away by local hospitals in Wuhan. She wrote in a blog post: "On the morning of the 19th [February], my mother was finally taken by ambulance to the ER at Wuhan University People's Hospital. It was the last vacancy at the ER. There, I witnessed a humanitarian crisis: no matter how seriously ill [the patient is], no matter how much you plead, the doctor won't admit anyone because there are no beds. Crying, pleading, kneeling down and kowtowing, one by one they were taken to the ER, and then one by one they were driven away—an endless line of victims."

"Too many patients like my mother have been sacrificed. They are not counted in the statistics and will not be announced. Outside, there is a lot of praise that the situation is very good, as if [we're suffering from] collective amnesia. ... Ordinary people are all ants in the face of this catastrophe. Relief aid [has come to Wuhan] from all over the country but we have never seen a dime of it."

On March 13, a man from Hubei Province criticized the CCP and lamented

on the internet: "You can't imagine what kind of government this is. And what exactly is this government doing? Why are we, the Chinese, so badly hurt and living such a miserable life?"

On April 15, Tan Jun, a public civil servant in Yichang city, Hubei Province, sued the provincial government for covering up the virus outbreak, becoming the first person in the mainland to file a lawsuit against authorities for the pandemic.

A regime that doesn't care about human life and distorts the truth should not have the right to stay in power.

Tan told The Epoch Times that the CCP used the state machinery to deal with the people. "Someone must take responsibility for this. This matter is very serious. As a Hubei native, I think it is important to stand up and appeal. Let the Hubei provincial government take responsibility." He was later ordered by police not to talk about the matter, according to an AFP report.

On Sept. 23, Wuhan resident Yang Min filed a lawsuit against local authorities and to hold them accountable for her daughter's death, who died from the coronavirus on Feb. 6.

The CCP has ignored the pain and suffering of many Chinese pandemic victims and their families. The official death toll of around 4,600 is misleading and netizens claim the figures could be much higher.

Not only did the CCP conceal the pandemic, it then carried out an anti-American propaganda campaign to distract and confuse people about the facts of the origin of the virus.

Global Times Editor Spews Anti-US Propaganda

Hu Xijin, the editor-in-chief of the CCP's mouthpiece media Global Times, posted a few comments on Twitter, distorting the facts and shifting the blame for the pandemic to the United States.

On Oct. 2, after news broke that U.S. President Donald Trump and the first lady Melania Trump had tested positive for COVID-19, Hu tweeted, "President Trump and the first lady have paid the price for his gamble to play down the COVID-19."

Hu further suggested that Trump's infection will "impose a negative impact on the image of Trump and the US, and

may also negatively affect his reelection."

The post, which has since been deleted, was published about an hour after Trump first announced the test results.

'China Is Going to Pay a Big Price'
On Oct. 7, just days after testing positive for the CCP virus, President Trump posted a video on Twitter saying: "It was China's fault, and China is going to pay a big price for what they've done to this country. China is going to pay a big price for what they've done to the world. This was China's fault, and just remember that."

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo echoed Trump's message on Newsmax TV on Oct. 9, saying the CCP chose to hide information from the world and thereby caused "not only the loss of life here that's so tragic, but all the destruction of jobs and opportunity that's happened. The Chinese Communist Party is directly responsible for this. ... The world has turned against them. People have come to understand the threat that they pose. ... The Chinese Communist Party has already started to pay a price in so many ways."

Presently, more than one hundred countries have called for independent investigations into the origin of the novel coronavirus and the WHO's performance during the pandemic.

The U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Minority Staff and the UK's scientific advisory group Henry Jackson Society have both issued investigation reports that state: "It is an undeniable fact that the CCP concealed information, manipulated the WHO, and caused a worldwide pandemic."

The pandemic is a huge disaster inflicted by the CCP, and pressure is mounting around the world to hold the regime accountable.

The propaganda and lies spread by the CCP's media are meant to cover up the actual number of deaths caused by the coronavirus in the mainland and the truth exposed by many courageous netizens and activists.

A regime that doesn't care about human life and distorts the truth should not have the right to stay in power.

Tian Yun, M.A., specializes in education management and historical-cultural research. She has published articles on China-related current affairs in The Epoch Times since 2018.

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