

From: "Ice, John T" <IceJT@state.gov>
To: Gordon, Michael <michael.gordon@wsj.com>
CC: Zimmerman, Emily <ZimmermanE@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC Follow Up
Date: Fri, 12 Feb 2021 16:57:19 +0000

Hey Michael,

As discussed on the phone, we will look forward to hearing from you on Tuesday.
In the meantime, have a nice weekend.

J.T.

From: Gordon, Michael <michael.gordon@wsj.com>
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2021 11:24 AM
To: Ice, John T <IceJT@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC Follow Up

Can you give me until Tuesday to sort this out within the WSJ?

Michael Gordon

National Security Correspondent

The Wall Street Journal

202-550-5445 (cell, WhatsApp, Signal)

michael.gordon@wsj.com (work email)

MGWSJ@protonmail.com (encrypted email)

Book site: michaeltgordon.com

On Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 11:22 AM Ice, John T <IceJT@state.gov> wrote:

Dear Michael,

I hope this email finds you well and ready for the long weekend.

Just giving you a heads up that at this point we would like to go ahead and pitch this information to another outlet. If you are planning to publish something imminently, please let us know and we can hold.

We sincerely appreciate your interest, and we hope we can work on another project, soon.

Best,

J.T.

John T. Ice

Deputy Spokesperson

United States Department of State

Office: +1.202.647.9986 | Cell: +1.202.735.4760

✉: IceJT@state.gov

From: Ice, John T <IceJT@state.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 9:40 AM

To: Gordon, Michael <michael.gordon@wsj.com>
Cc: Zimmerman, Emily <ZimmermanE@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC Follow Up

Thanks, Michael! Can you share if you have a time frame in mind?

J.T.

From: Gordon, Michael <michael.gordon@wsj.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 9:03 AM
To: Ice, John T <IceJT@state.gov>
Subject: Re: GEC Follow Up

Yes. I will be back to you relatively soon. Got tied up with Myanmar, etc.

Michael

National Security Correspondent

The Wall Street Journal

202-550-5445 (cell, WhatsApp, Signal)

michael.gordon@wsj.com (work email)

MGWSJ@protonmail.com (encrypted email)

Book site: michaeltgordon.com

On Thu, Feb 4, 2021 at 8:41 AM Ice, John T <IceJT@state.gov> wrote:

Hi Michael,

I hope this email finds you well. Just to follow up on Emily's email, do you think you will do the article?

Happy to help with any questions you might have.

Best,

J.T.

John T. Ice

Deputy Spokesperson

United States Department of State

Office: +1.202.647.9986 | Cell: +1.202.735.4760

✉: IceJT@state.gov

From: Zimmerman, Emily <ZimmermanE@state.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, February 3, 2021 4:37 PM

To: michael.gordon@wsj.com <michael.gordon@wsj.com>

Cc: Ice, John T <IceJT@state.gov>; GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Subject: re: GEC Follow Up

Hi Michael,

Hope you are doing well. I wanted circle back with you on this to confirm receipt of the follow on information and to see if you had any other questions.

I'm also copying in our Deputy Spokesperson, J.T. Ice, in case you have any questions for him. Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Very best,

Emily

Emily K. Zimmerman

Public Affairs Officer

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

Accenture Federal Services Contractor

Cell: (202) 615-3162



From: Zimmerman, Emily <ZimmermanE@state.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 11:50 AM

To: michael.gordon@wsj.com <michael.gordon@wsj.com>

Cc: Brown, Cale <BrownC4@state.gov>; GEC Press <GECPress@state.gov>

Subject: GEC Follow Up

Hi Michael,

Thank you again for your time last week. Please find some follow-on information both below and attached. In addition, I wanted to see if you had a few minutes to chat quickly by phone today between 1pm-3:30pm, so that our Principal Deputy Coordinator could provide some further context off the record?

Information Provided:

1. GEC's Special Report (**On the Record**)
2. Links to each of the sites discussed (**Provided with No Attribution**).
3. Examples of disinformation spreading (**Provided with No Attribution**).
4. Current and removed social media presences by each of the sites in the matrix attached (**Provided on Deep Background**).

- **Off the Record:** *The GEC is in no way claiming a cause/effect relationship between any GEC exposure effort and the timing of any account removals. All takedowns are the decisions of the companies and based on their own terms of service.*

GEC's Special Report Pillars of Disinformation and Propaganda Ecosystem [On the Record]:

<https://www.state.gov/russias-pillars-of-disinformation-and-propaganda-report/>

Website Links [Provided with No Attribution]:

- **News Front:** [https://news-front\[.\]info/](https://news-front[.]info/); also accessible via [https://ambassadeur\[.\]info/](https://ambassadeur[.]info/)
- **New Eastern Outlook:** [https://journal-neo\[.\]org/](https://journal-neo[.]org/)
- **Oriental Review:** [https://orientalreview\[.\]org/](https://orientalreview[.]org/)
- **Rebel Inside:** [https://reblins\[.\]com/](https://reblins[.]com/)

Example 1 [Provided with No Attribution]:

Overview: The following five articles demonstrate how Russian state entities used similar propaganda and disinformation narratives to undermine the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. These websites are all a part of Russia's disinformation and propaganda ecosystem, and the articles here highlight how similar narratives are picked up across Russia's disinformation ecosystem and can be pushed to wider audiences globally.

Oriental Review: "Bill Gates, Vaccinations, Microchips, And Patent 060606"

- **Posted 04/29/2020**
- <https://orientalreview.org/2020/04/29/bill-gates-vaccinations-microchips-and-patent-060606/>
- The most popular article on the Oriental Review website as of January 14, 2021 is an article titled "Bill Gates, Vaccinations, Microchips, And Patent 060606."
- The article attempts to undermine the vaccine development efforts of Bill Gates, claiming that the "globalist media" defends his dark connections to a "supranational government" comprised of corporations and international organizations. It alleges that Microsoft registered a patent WO/2020/060606 for a technology that will use chips inserted into a person's body to monitor his/her daily activity.

New Eastern Outlook: "What's Not Being Said About Pfizer Coronavirus Vaccine"

- **Posted 11/13/2020**
- <https://journal-neo.org/2020/11/13/what-s-not-being-said-about-pfizer-coronavirus-vaccine/>
- The article promotes the idea that the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is unsafe, describing the mRNA gene-editing as a "radical" technology that lacks "precision."
- The author implies that the vaccine is not trustworthy, noting that even Pfizer's CEO "doesn't share the confidence" in his vaccine because he sold 62% of his stock in the company the day Pfizer announced vaccine trials.
- The article accuses Pfizer-BioNTech, the WHO, Bill Gates and the "notorious" Dr. Fauci of rushing through the vaccine approval and therefore "clearly playing fast and loose with human lives." The article quotes Robert F. Kennedy Jr to accuse Dr. Fauci, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases that he leads, of ignoring known issues with a dengue fever vaccine that had led to the death of 600 Filipino children.

Rossiya 1: "Weekly News with Dmitriy Kiselyov"

- **Posted on 11/29/20**
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPQpoHdN5zQ&t=1032>
- After praising the Russian vaccine Sputnik V, Dmitriy Kiselyov, the host of the flagship weekly news analysis program on the state-owned television channel Rossiya 1, pointed out alleged huge flaws in the Pfizer vaccine, claiming it is too costly to store and that there is no infrastructure in the world to transport it.

- Kiselyov argued that Pfizer's history is full of scandals worthy of a crime drama, including illegal deadly experiments on children, falsification of research, false advertising, and fraud. Pfizer executives, Kiselyov said, sold their shares in the company, implying that they might know something that will bring the share price down when the vaccine is actually used. Considering Pfizer's reputation, one can expect anything, he concluded.

RT Arabic: "Britain bans the Pfizer vaccine for those with allergies"

- **Posted on 12/09/2020**
- <https://euvsdisinfo.eu/report/6-people-died-because-of-the-pfizer-vaccine/>
- RT Arabic reported that 6 people who received the Pfizer vaccine died during the clinical trials. According to the EUvsDisinfo, this claim is partly false. "Six people did die during the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine trials, but only two of them were given the vaccine. The other four were given a safe placebo solution of salt and water. Furthermore, no causal relationship was established between the vaccine and the two deaths, which occurred in line with the normal death rate for the general population, as both of them were older than 55," EUvsDisinfo said.

Sputnik Georgia: "Mass vaccinations began in the EU, but will they save Europe from the pandemic?"

- **Posted on 12/29/20**
- <https://sputnik-georgia.ru/video/20201229/250479267/Massovaya-vaktsinatsiya-nachalas-v-ES-Spaset-li-eto-Evropu-ot-pandemii---video.html>
- Reporting on the start of mass vaccinations with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in Europe, Sputnik Georgia says that is unclear whether it will be effective against the new strains, while claiming that such effectiveness of Sputnik V has been proven. The report asserts that Europe refuses to buy the Russian vaccine for political reasons.

Example 2 [Provided with No Attribution]:

Overview:

New Eastern Outlook (NEO) describes itself disingenuously, claiming in its "About" section to be a "notable international networking platform offering unbiased expert opinions and open dialogue among all thinking people worldwide regardless of their nationality, race or religion." Outlined below are the many places that an article from NEO's website appeared across the internet and the globe. The article was originally posted on January 10, 2021 and is titled "Growing Protests Over Threat of US Bio Weapons." The article includes a litany of long-refuted disinformation about alleged U.S. biological weapons. These examples highlight how Russia's disinformation spreads and can be picked up both on purpose, by other Russian proxy sites and channels, and unknowingly by other sites.

Link to original NEO article: <https://journal-neo.org/2021/01/10/growing-protests-over-threat-of-u-s-bio-weapons/>

The article quickly appeared in:

- **New Age, (Bangladesh)**, posted on January 12, 2021
 - <https://www.newagebd.net/article/126917/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons>.
 - Full article published
- **Piazza Della Carina (Italy)** posted January 10, 2021
 - <https://piazzadcara.wordpress.com/2021/01/10/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons/>.
 - Lengthy excerpts posted on this site along with a link to full article on NEO.
- **The Free online, (Spain)** posted on January 10, 2021
 - <https://thefreeonline.wordpress.com/2021/01/10/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons-piazza-della-carina/>.
- **Qoshe, (location unknown)** posted on January 10, 2021
 - <https://qoshe.com/new-eastern-outlook/vladimir-platov/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons/96684538>.
 - Excerpts are posted along with a link to the original article.
- **Anarchist Federation (France)**, posted on January 10, 2021
 - <https://www.anarchistfederation.net/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons-piazza-della-carina/>.
 - Automatically posts "news from 377 anarchist collectives,"
 - Links to "The Free online" article.
- **Astute News, (location unknown)**, posted on January 13, 2021
 - <https://astutenews.com/2021/01/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons/>.
 - Full article published.
 - **This site appears to be part of the covert Russian disinformation ecosystem.**
 - Its single "partner blog" is "Oneworld Global Thinktank" (<https://astutenews.com/our-partners/>)
 - OneWorld described itself as a "new analytical and non-profit start-up" that doesn't have "any 'political correctness' or agenda," but merely seeks to "connect people from all across the world who share the same interest in international events."
 - But in July 2020, OneWorld was said by U.S. officials to have "[ties to the G.R.U.](#)" Russia's military intelligence agency.
 - Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/28/us/politics/russia-disinformation-coronavirus.html>.
- **Message of Wisdom (Iran)**, posted on January 12, 2020
 - <https://messageofwisdom.blogspot.com/2021/01/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio.html>.
 - Full article republished.
- **oc20.com (Cuba)**, (no date identifiable)
 - https://oc2o.com/en/cu/topics/World_Politics/kuts3z/growing-protests-threat-us-bio-weapons-the-united-states-1-495-biological-laboratories-25-countries-which-large-scale-outbreaks-infectious-diseases.
 - Full article published.
- **The Russophile (Sweden)**, (no date identifiable)

- https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:yiDgA_U2PVIJ:https://therussophile.org/growing-protests-over-threat-of-us-bio-weapons.html/+&cd=10&hl=en&ct=clnk&gl=us
- Full article published.

Thanks again for your time last week and I look forward to hearing back from you to set up a time to chat further.

Very best,

Emily

Emily K. Zimmerman

Public Affairs Officer

Global Engagement Center

U.S. Department of State

Accenture Federal Services Contractor

Cell: (202) 615-3162



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