

4. Email from Dr. Ron Fouchier

On 2 Feb 2020, at 08:30, R.A.M. Fouchier <(b) (6)> wrote:

Dear Jeremy and others,

This was a very useful teleconference. <(b) (5)>

(b) (5)

Thanks for organizing this on such short notice,
Kind regards

Ron's notes:

(b) (5)

... Given the evidence presented and the discussions around it, I would conclude that a follow-up discussion on the possible origin of 2019-nCoV would be of much interest. However, I doubt if it needs to be done on very short term, given the importance of other

activities of the scientific community, WHO and other stakeholders at present. It is my opinion that a non-natural origin of 2019-nCoV is highly unlikely at present. Any conspiracy theory can be approached with factual information.

... An accusation that nCoV-2019 might have been engineered and released into the environment by humans (accidental or intentional) would need to be supported by strong data, beyond a reasonable doubt. It is good that this possibility was discussed in detail with a team of experts. However, further debate about such accusations would unnecessarily distract top researchers from their active duties and do unnecessary harm to science in general and science in China in particular.