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The Secretary presents his compliments to their Excellencies and Messieurs and Mesdames the Chiefs of Mission and wishes to bring to their attention recent developments concerning the U.S. Government's response to the novel coronavirus ("2019-nCoV") outbreak.

The U.S. Government is implementing measures aimed at responding to and containing 2019-nCoV. The safety of members of the foreign mission community, who are in frequent contact with persons coming from all parts of the world, is very important to the Department. As a result, the Department seeks to ensure that foreign missions, international organizations, and their members in the United States are aware of these efforts and the coordinated resources used to counter the threat of 2019-nCoV.

On January 31, 2020, the President signed the *Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus*. By order of the Proclamation, starting at 5:00p.m. February 2, 2020, entry into the United States has been suspended for individuals who have been physically present within the People's Republic of

China, excluding the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry. This Proclamation exempts certain groups from the suspension of entry. Notably, the entry suspension is *not* applicable to individual foreign mission members seeking entry into or who are transiting the United States on A-1, A-2, C-2, C-3 (as a foreign government official or immediate family member of an official), G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, NATO-1 through NATO-4, or NATO-6 visas. However, even with respect to exempted individuals such as the visa holders listed above, such individuals may be medically screened, and where appropriate quarantined for up to a 14-day period to prevent the spread of the virus.

Given the serious public health risk posed by the 2019-nCoV, the Department expects all foreign mission members and foreign government officials identified as requiring medical screening and/or quarantine at ports of entry to submit to the screening and/or quarantine. The Department's Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) is working with Customs and Border Protection as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to ensure that OFM will be notified of such individuals being admitted pursuant to the exemption in the President's Proclamation who are in need of medical screening and/or quarantine. OFM will seek to notify the affected individual's mission and or employing organization and seek a waiver of personal inviolability where appropriate.

Mission members who have been physically present within the People's Republic of China, excluding the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, during the 14-day period preceding their entry or attempted entry into the United States who are not prepared to comply with these procedures should abstain from traveling to the United States at this time.

Foreign missions may contact OFM concerning this matter by telephone at (202) 647-3417 or by electronic mail at OFM-EmergencyMgt@state.gov.

Department of State,

Washington, February 3, 2020.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'Q' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.