

Israeli TV says U.S. intelligence warned Tel Aviv and NATO of coronavirus threat in November



Tel Aviv, April 18 (RHC)-- U.S. intelligence agencies passed an early warning about the coronavirus to Tel Aviv and NATO as far back as November, Israel's Channel 12 claims, even after a top U.S. medical intel officer dismissed a recent similar report.

The broadcaster aired a story on Thursday alleging that the U.S. intelligence community shared classified information about a new viral outbreak in China with the Israeli military and senior NATO officials. With no one willing to go on record to confirm the report, however, the story is based on anonymous sourcing, leaving it a mystery where the claim originated.

"Still in November, the IDF held a first discussion regarding what impact this unknown disease would have were it to reach the Middle East. How would we be affected? How would it affect our neighbors?" the Channel 12 broadcast said, as cited by i24 News.

A similar report from ABC last week stated that the Pentagon's National Center for Medical Intelligence (NCMI) warned that an outbreak in the Chinese city of Wuhan could become a "cataclysmic event" in a document compiled last November. But the story was swiftly shot down by NCMI director Colonel R.

Shane Day, who insisted “No such NCMI product exists” and that the report was simply “not correct.”

President Donald Trump -- who was said to have been alerted to the alleged NCMI document but chose not to act on the intelligence -- ran a victory lap over ABC after Day’s denial, gloating in a tweet that the news outlet “knew they were wrong when they went with this Hoax of a story!”

Much like the ABC report, the Channel 12 story alleges the U.S. government was provided the information, yet “did not deem it of interest,” also stating Israeli health officials were made aware, but still “nothing was done” to prepare for the impending pandemic.

The latest uncorroborated reports have further fueled the rage of the U.S. president's critics, who say the Trump administration knew of a coming disaster months in advance but did nothing to keep Americans safe, added to a barrage of criticisms in US media constantly slamming the government’s response to the crisis as sluggish and inept.

But as speculation swirls in the press, the White House has begun offering its own novel theories on early knowledge of the virus, tacitly encouraging rumors of its lab origins and alleging Beijing “covered-up” the outbreak in Wuhan with help from the World Health Organization, going as far as to freeze U.S. funding to the agency while the administration “reviews” the alleged Chinese conspiracy.

Beijing and the WHO have rejected Washington’s claims as baseless, insisting they provided timely and transparent information about the virus as soon as it was available -- both even creating timelines detailing their response step-by-step -- while the United Nations and much of the world have warned all sides to not politicize the pandemic.

<https://www.radiohc.cu/index.php/en/noticias/internacionales/220177-israeli-tv-says-us-intelligence-warned-tel-aviv-and-nato-of-coronavirus-threat-in-november>



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