

To: [REDACTED] 5.1.2e [REDACTED] 5.1.2e (@minvws.nl)
From: [REDACTED] 5.1.2e [REDACTED] 5.1.2e (@minvws.nl)
Sent: Thur 3/4/2021 2:32:55 PM
Subject: FW: Fwd: Safety of U.S. Preclearance Personnel
Received: Thur 3/4/2021 2:32:55 PM

Verzonden met BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

Van: [REDACTED] 5.1.2e <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e (@gobierno.aw)>
Datum: donderdag 04 mrt. 2021 3:28 PM
Aan: [REDACTED] 5.1.2e <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e (@minvws.nl)>
Kopie: [REDACTED] 5.1.2e [REDACTED] 5.1.2e (@minvws.nl)<[REDACTED] 5.1.2e (@minvws.nl)>
Onderwerp: Fwd: Safety of U.S. Preclearance Personnel

Beste [REDACTED]
Ter informatie het verzoek van de consul generaal van de VS.

Mvg,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [REDACTED] 5.1.2e <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e (@state.gov)>
Date: 4 March 2021 at 08:44:14 GMT-4
To: [REDACTED] 5.1.2e <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e (@gobierno.aw)>
Cc: [REDACTED] 5.1.2e @arubaforeignaffairs.com, [REDACTED] 5.1.2e @arubaforeignaffairs.com, [REDACTED] 5.1.2e <[REDACTED] 5.1.2e (@gobierno.aw)>
Subject: RE: Safety of U.S. Preclearance Personnel

Dear Mr. Minister

Good morning and thank you for your message.

I do understand the situation. Please be aware that I did inform the Dutch Representative [REDACTED] of my position on the issue.

Again, as I explained when we met in January, and in my discussions with DBB colleagues, I cannot insist on Aruba prioritizing CBP or anyone else. Those are matters for the Kingdom or Aruba itself to decide.

But I do hope you can understand my dilemma also – Right now the U.S. CDC is discouraging discretionary travel, domestic and international. In this context, it's very difficult for me to support the full deployment of Preclearance services, while we have illness among the staff and families there, and more might be done to protect them.

Thanks as always for your support and cooperation in these complicated days. In my opinion Aruba is doing a phenomenal job in managing the pandemic and still moving forward. I want to do what we can to keep that movement on track.

Sincerely

5.1.2e

From: 5.1.2e | 5.1.2e | < 5.1.2e @gobierno.aw>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 10:18 PM
To: 5.1.2e | 5.1.2e | < 5.1.2e @state.gov>
Cc: 5.1.2e @arubaforeignaffairs.com; 5.1.2e @arubaforeignaffairs.com | 5.1.2e | < 5.1.2e @gobierno.aw>
Subject: Re: Safety of U.S. Preclearance Personnel

Dear 5.1.2e

Thank u for your email.

We understand your concern and we know how important the CPB officers are for our tourism industry.

As you may know we depend on the Netherlands for the amount of vaccines we receive. We have received limited amount of vaccines the first batch which is intended for health care workers and the elderly (60 plussers)

Obviuosly given the importante of our longstanding relationship and also having the officers vaccinated we will discuss your request with the dutch government.

Kind regards,

Minister Tourism, Public Health and Sports

Bec. 5.1.2e | 5.1.2e

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 1, 2021, at 12:44 PM, 5.1.2e | 5.1.2e | < 5.1.2e @state.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Minister

Happy Monday! I hope all's well with you. We're very pleased to see the continued progress Aruba is making in recovering from both the public health and economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

In that context I need to raise with you the important issue concerning the safety of our Preclearance personnel there and the possibility of prioritizing them in Aruba's vaccination program.

You might know that the second Preclearance officer in less than one month is now unable to work due to COVID-19 – In this case a positive case in the family that results in quarantine for the entire family.

As I'm sure you know, the U.S. Center for Disease Control discourages travel at this time. While of course we want to do what we can to help Aruba's economy to recover, it's not easy to justify providing travel facilitation services at the same level that existed pre-pandemic, particularly in a place like Aruba, where the overwhelming majority of travelers are on holiday trips, under these circumstances.

The Foreign Ministry in the Netherlands has assured foreign mission members that they will be able to participate in local vaccination programs, and I understand it is possible for CBP personnel to register in Aruba to be vaccinated at an unknown future date. However Preclearance personnel of course are not performing ordinary office jobs, but by the nature of the work come in direct contact with large numbers of different people every day. It's risky. I consider it extremely fortunate that the level of infection among Preclearance personnel in Aruba has been as low as it has so far.

In other places, including the U.S. and Bermuda, where CBP also has a preclearance operation, law enforcement personnel have been given priority for vaccination, which has benefited CBP personnel in those locations. Before Aruba began its vaccination program, the Government of Aruba discussed the possibility of helping out with CBP or airport personnel in general with some form of prioritization. But

so far we have not seen any specific action in this direction.

To be clear, after all the efforts you and the people of Aruba have made to return to the level of normal activity we see today, I would not want to pull back or restrict services to the public or the air carriers now serving Aruba so effectively. But at the same time I consider myself responsible for the safety of all our U.S. Mission personnel.

Many thanks for your attention to this matter.

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U.S. Consulate General Curaçao
J.B. Gorsiraweg 1 | Willemstad
599 5.1.2e | Ex. 2234

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