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ADVANCING RECIPROCITY IN U.S.- CHINA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State | U.S. Department of State | September 2, 2020

For years, the PRC has imposed significant barriers on American diplomats working in the PRC that are far beyond diplomatic norms. PRC authorities implement a system of opaque approval processes designed to prevent American diplomats from conducting regular business and connecting with the Chinese people. U.S. diplomats' attempts to host cultural events, secure official meetings, and visit university campuses are regularly obstructed. In the United States, by contrast, PRC diplomats have enjoyed open access to American society, while ignoring sustained U.S. entreaties to improve the balance. In response to the PRC's longstanding restrictions on U.S. diplomats and refusal to engage in good faith on fundamental matters of reciprocity and mutual respect, the Department of State is compelled to impose certain new requirements on PRC diplomats. The Department of State will now require senior PRC diplomats in the United States to receive approval to visit U.S. university campuses and to meet with local government officials. Cultural events with an audience larger than 50 people hosted by the PRC embassy and consular posts outside of mission properties will also require Department of State approval. The Department of State will also take action to help ensure that all official PRC embassy and consular social media accounts are properly identified as PRC government accounts, since the U.S. Embassy is denied unfettered access to PRC social media and PRC citizens are blocked from using Twitter and Facebook, amongst other social media platforms.

Read the full statement [here](#).

RACE FOR CORONAVIRUS VACCINE PITS SPY AGAINST SPY

Julian E. Barnes and Michael Venutolo-Mantovani | The New York Times | September 5, 2020

Chinese intelligence hackers were intent on stealing coronavirus vaccine data, so they looked for what they believed would be an easy target. Instead of simply going after pharmaceutical companies, they conducted digital reconnaissance on the University of North Carolina and other schools doing cutting-edge research. They were not the only spies at work. Russia's premier intelligence service, the S.V.R., targeted vaccine research networks in the United States, Canada and Britain, espionage efforts that were first detected by a British spy agency monitoring international fiber optic cables. Iran, too, has drastically stepped up its attempts to steal information about vaccine research, and the United States has increased its own efforts to track the espionage of its adversaries and shore up its defenses. In short, every major spy service around the globe is trying to find out what everyone else is up to.

Read the full article [here](#).



U.S. TURNS UP HEAT ON COLLEGES' FOREIGN TIES. THAT MAY CHILL PARTNERSHIPS FOR YEARS.

Karin Fischer | The Chronicle of Higher Education | September 8, 2020

A letter notified Stanford University that it had joined an unpopular club: It was one of at least a dozen colleges under investigation by the U.S. Department of Education over foreign gifts and contracts. Sent in mid-August to President Marc Tessier-Lavigne of Stanford, the notice appears to have been prompted by the arrest of a visiting Chinese researcher on charges of hiding her ties to the Chinese military on her visa application. But the nine-page document refers to Stanford's numerous ties to China, from a joint research center at Peking University to its hosting of a Confucius Institute, a Chinese-funded language and cultural center. It even takes note of a photo posted on the university website of students and professors posing in front of a Korean War-era Chinese monument, calling it a "particularly bizarre (and extremely indecorous) image for Stanford to highlight," given the American servicemembers killed in the war.

Read the full article [here](#).

US INVESTIGATIONS OF CHINESE SCIENTISTS EXPAND FOCUS TO MILITARY TIES

Nidhi Subbaraman | Nature | September 3, 2020

When cancer researcher Juan Tang took refuge from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) at the Chinese consulate in San Francisco in July, she drew national attention. Days later, the FBI arrested Tang — a Chinese national who was on a months-long research assignment in the United States — on charges of concealing her role as a Chinese military officer from the US government. Tang has since entered a not-guilty plea and, as of early September, is in custody in California, though her team of attorneys is arguing for her to be released while she awaits a jury trial. Around the time of her arrest, the US authorities announced the arrests of a handful of other Chinese scientists for allegedly hiding ties they had to China's military on visa applications. Scholars of US-China policy say that the arrests mark a new front in the United States' battle against foreign interference in its universities and labs, in which government officials are increasingly scrutinizing researchers' links to China's People's Liberation Army (PLA). Scientists with ties to the Chinese military have been visiting the United States for years, says Brad Farnsworth, vice-president of the American Council on Education in Washington DC — but only now are officials "really looking very carefully at the background of the people who come here, particularly from China".

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA'S PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY (PLA) CONTINUES TO ABUSE US INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM TO ADVANCE ITS MILITARY CAPABILITIES

U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation | September 2, 2020

The FBI's Counterintelligence Division prepared this bulletin to inform academia, specifically faculty and administration at US universities, regarding the People's Republic of China's (PRC) information collection activities targeting intellectual property, sensitive information, and research at US academic institutions. Recent criminal prosecutions clearly demonstrate that the PRC is exploiting visa programs to covertly send its military officials to the United States posing as visiting scholars or students to collect information. The FBI is urging US academic institutions to become aware of the threat and remain vigilant of foreign adversaries' ulterior motive(s) while continuing to ensure an exchange of ideas in an open and transparent environment. Following are some recent case examples.

The full article is attached.



LETTER FROM UNDER SECRETARY KEITH KRACH TO THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

*Keith Krach, Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment
U.S. Department of State | August 18, 2020*

During this unprecedented period in modern history, American universities and colleges are on the frontlines of addressing many of the challenges presented by the pandemic. At the same time, these great institutions are at the forefront of an equally serious challenge brought on by the authoritarian influence of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). At the U.S. Department of State, one of our primary missions is to monitor and advocate for freedom, including academic freedom, around the world. American institutions of higher learning are the envy of the world and have always been an invaluable partner in that mission. That is especially true now as we join hands to work through myriad challenges brought on by the pandemic so that we can continue welcoming students from around the world to America's shores. This includes an orderly resumption of student visa issuances as the situation dictates at our embassies and consulates around the world. In that same spirit of partnership, I am writing to you about a real and urgent threat that has broad implications for ensuring academic freedom, honoring human dignity, protecting university endowments, and safeguarding intellectual property. As a former Chairman of the Board of a major university, I recognize that when addressing a long-term strategic issue of this magnitude, the responsibility sits squarely on the shoulders of each and every board member.

Read the full letter [here](#).

POMPEO HOPEFUL CHINA'S CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES WILL BE GONE FROM U.S. BY YEAR-END

David Brunnstrom | Reuters | September 1, 2020

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday he was hopeful that Chinese Confucius Institute cultural centers on U.S. university campuses would all be shut down by the end of the year. "I think everyone's coming to see the risk associated with them," Pompeo told Lou Dobbs on the Fox Business Network, accusing the Chinese-government funded institutes of working to recruit "spies and collaborators" at U.S. colleges. "I think these institutions can see that, and I'm hopeful we will get them all closed out before the end of this year." Last month, Pompeo labeled the center that manages the Confucius Institutes in the United States "an entity advancing Beijing's global propaganda and malign influence" and required it to register as a foreign mission.

Read the full article [here](#).

MILITARY-CIVIL FUSION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

U.S. Department of State

Military-Civil Fusion is a national strategy of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to develop the People's Liberation Army (PLA) into a "world class military" by 2049. Under MCF, the CCP is acquiring the intellectual property, key research, and technological advances of the world's citizens, researchers, scholars, and private industry in order to advance the CCP's military aims. The CCP is systematically reorganizing the Chinese science and technology enterprise to ensure that new innovations simultaneously advance economic and military development. PRC President and CCP General Secretary Xi Jinping personally oversees the strategy's implementation. He chairs the CCP's Central Military Commission and the Central Commission for Military-Civil Fusion Development.

Read the full article [here](#) and read the fact sheet [here](#).



THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY ON CAMPUS: OPPORTUNITIES & RISKS

U.S. Department of State

The United States welcomes international students, researchers, and scholars to participate in America's outstanding academic environment. The vast majority are valuable contributors to campus life, embracing international academic values and posing no threat to American research integrity or security. However, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) entices or compels some individuals to engage in coercive, deceptive, or illegal activity. The United States must protect its interests against these efforts that threaten academic freedom, misuse access to world-class institutions, and seize research to enhance the PRC military.

- Educational and research exchanges are valuable and long-standing. The U.S. welcomed more students from China in 2019 (370,000) than from any other country—a number that has quadrupled over the last decade.
- The strength of America's global leadership in science and technology (S&T) rests on core principles of research, including openness, transparency, reciprocity, and merit-based competition.
- Unfortunately, the PRC ignores international norms and exploits the openness of the United States and other nations for its own benefit, harming the integrity and security of the international research enterprise.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO SET GLOBAL DATA-SECURITY RULES

Chun Han Wong | The Wall Street Journal | September 7, 2020

China is launching its own initiative to set global standards on data security, countering U.S. efforts to persuade like-minded countries to ringfence their networks from Chinese technology. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is scheduled to announce the initiative on Tuesday at a seminar in Beijing on global digital governance, according to people briefed on the matter.

Read the full article [here](#).

INSIDE THE COALITION'S FOREIGN VETO LAWS OVER STATES AND TERRITORIES: WHAT'S INCLUDED AND WHY

Daniel Hurst | The Guardian | September 3, 2020

The Morrison government has proposed new laws giving the foreign affairs minister the power to veto international agreements reached by Australian state, territory and local governments and public universities. Since the prime minister announced the planned powers last week, there has been disquiet within Labor ranks and universities initially said they had been blindsided. The 77-page bill was introduced into the lower house on Thursday and affected groups are digesting the details, which are a lot more complex than the headline announcement. Here's how it will work. The government says the new review power is needed to ensure arrangements entered into with foreign governments "do not adversely affect Australia's foreign relations and are not inconsistent with Australia's foreign policy".

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINA HEADS LIST OF INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY THIEVES



U.S. trade secrets are being stolen by Chinese espionage at an alarming rate, and a Justice Department initiative is focusing on stopping the stealing. While cyber espionage is well known and hugely effective, the insider threat has shown to be equally damaging as the Middle Kingdom fuels its economic and military sectors with state-of-the-art U.S. technology. The past two years has seen a pronounced increase in China's state-sponsored theft of trade secrets, reports Jay I. Bratt, chief of the counterintelligence and export control section in the National Security Division of the Justice Department. China is actively seeding academia and research institutes with people who would have an incentive to provide technology, and it has aggressively targeted former members of the U.S. intelligence community who have not been successful in their private sector lives. Bratt explains that his section's main focus is the nation-state threat, as opposed to the counterterrorism section's non-state actor threat. His section deals with counterintelligence, state-sponsored cyber, foreign influence and export control and sanctions. China is active across all of these portfolios, he states.

Read the full article [here](#).

UNT CANCELS VISA PROGRAM FOR CHINESE RESEARCHERS

Marshall Reid | Denton Record Chronicle | August 31, 2020

Fifteen Chinese researchers must leave the country after the University of North Texas cut ties with the organization that funds them. All researchers were in the country and working with UNT based on funding from the Chinese Scholarship Council. The council provides scholarships to people wanting to attend Chinese universities, as well as Chinese researchers who want to conduct research internationally. Funding is provided through the Chinese government as well as Chinese embassies around the world, among other sources. It was not clear Monday afternoon if any other American universities had cut ties with the group. The researchers were notified of the change on Wednesday in a letter signed by Jennifer Evans-Cowley, provost and vice president for academic affairs, and Mark McLellan, vice president for research and innovation. "As a result of this change, access to UNT email, servers, and other materials has been terminated," they wrote in part.

Read the full article [here](#).

AUSTRALIA'S PLAN TO END FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN SCIENCE: DID IT WORK?

Dyani Lewis | Nature | August 13, 2020

Almost a year after Australia introduced a pioneering system for minimizing the risk of foreign interference in research — in particular, from overseas militaries — observers are divided about whether it is working. The guidelines, which were introduced last November and are widely assumed to be a response to concerns about the Chinese military's ties to universities, encourage institutions to perform risk assessments on potential collaborators, communicate the risk of foreign interference to staff and bolster cybersecurity. They also urge universities to ensure that they comply with laws that restrict exports of certain technologies, such as those that have military uses. Although other countries, including the United States, the United Kingdom and Japan, are grappling with similar concerns, Australia is the first to set such a specific set of guidelines for its universities. But some specialists warn that Australia's guidelines and export laws aren't sufficient to help universities identify collaborations in which research could lead to military applications.

Read the full article [here](#).



U.S. CONSIDERS BLACKLISTING CHINA'S LARGEST CHIPMAKER AS TECH TENSIONS ESCALATE

Emma Newburger and Amanda Macias | CNBC News | September 5, 2020

The Trump administration is considering imposing export restrictions on Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corporation, China's largest manufacturer of semiconductors, according to a Defense Department spokesperson. The Department of Defense is in discussions over whether SMIC should be added to the Commerce Department's entity list, which essentially restricts those companies from receiving specific goods made in the United States. The U.S. entity list now includes more than 300 China-based companies. "DoD is currently working with the interagency in assessing available information to determine if SMIC's actions warrant adding them to the Department of Commerce's Entity List," a Defense Department spokesperson said. "Such an action would ensure that all exports to SMIC would undergo a more comprehensive review." The potential move by the administration, which was first reported by Reuters, is part of a continued effort to put pressure on China's technology firms and would mark a major escalation in the tech battle between Washington and Beijing.

Read the full article [here](#).

CHINESE STUDENTS FACE INCREASED SCRUTINY AT US AIRPORTS

Zhaoyin Feng | BBC News | September 5, 2020

When Boston Logan International Airport's announcement asked Keith Zhang to come to the boarding desk, he thought it was a regular boarding check. But when he saw two armed American officers expecting him there, his heart sank. "They questioned me under the premise that I am here to steal technology," Keith Zhang - not his real name - tells the BBC. Zhang, a 26-year-old PhD student from China, was a visiting researcher at Brown University's department of psychological sciences for a year. He had not expected to spend his last two hours on US soil being interrogated about his potential ties with the Chinese Communist Party. So what might have happened? FBI director Christopher Wray recently said, in response to Beijing's "far-reaching campaign" of economic espionage, the FBI is now opening a new China-related counterintelligence case every 10 hours. In July, Washington closed the Chinese consulate in Houston, calling it a "spy centre".

Read the full article [here](#).

IT WILL COST \$1.8 BILLION TO PULL HUAWEI AND ZTE OUT OF US NETWORKS, FCC SAYS

Russell Brandom | The Verge | September 4, 2020

Removing Chinese equipment will cost small carriers as much as \$1.8 billion, according to a new report from the Federal Communications Commission. The report estimates that as much as \$1.6 billion of the cost would be eligible for federal reimbursement — but Congress has yet to appropriate the necessary funds. Significant national security concerns have been raised about the use of Huawei and ZTE equipment in US networks — but many small carriers are still struggling with the cost of replacing it. In one instance, Eastern Oregon Telecom told The Verge that replacing the \$500,000 of Huawei equipment was likely to cost as much as \$1.5 million — a cost too high for the small carrier to shoulder on its own. Today's report makes clear that story is all too common among US providers. The FCC report looks specifically at carriers who receive support from the Universal Service Fund, meant to subsidize coverage of underserved areas. It does not cover all carriers in the US using Huawei or ZTE equipment, and there may also be eligible carriers who have yet to report their equipment.

Read the full article [here](#).



WECHAT IS CHINA'S EVERYTHING APP, AND THE 'WE' IS LOOKING SUSPICIOUS

Jamie Tarabay and Zheping Huang | Bloomberg Businessweek | September 2, 2020

When the Trump administration issued executive orders on Aug. 6 that would essentially ban the Chinese apps WeChat and TikTok over national security concerns, executives at TikTok were quick to distance themselves from any user anxiety over the social media phenomenon's relationship with the mother country and authorities there. WeChat was less quick to push back. That's because Tencent Holdings Ltd., the company that owns WeChat, has for years worked to keep the app aligned with the values of China's ruling Communist Party. The day after the ban was announced, Tencent—which has a market cap of more than \$660 billion—simply said it was “reviewing the potential consequences” of the executive order; it later tried to make a distinction between the app's Chinese and overseas versions but didn't address U.S. security allegations.

Read the full article [here](#).

THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

The Academic Security and Counter Exploitation Program is coordinated by The Texas A&M University System Research Security Office as a service to the academic community.

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