



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C St., NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Blinken,

We write to strongly recommend that the Administration *not* renew the *Agreement Between the United States and the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Science and Technology* (STA) that will expire on August 27, 2023. We are concerned that the PRC has previously leveraged the STA to advance its military objectives and will continue to do so.¹

Reports suggest that research partnerships organized under the STA could have developed technologies that would later be used against the United States. In 2018, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) organized a project with China's Meteorological Administration—under the STA—to launch instrumented balloons to study the atmosphere.² As you know, a few years later, the PRC used similar balloon technology to surveil U.S. military sites on U.S. territory—a clear violation of our sovereignty.

We have also seen very concerning reports regarding collaboration in sensitive agricultural technologies. CCP Chairman Xi Jinping recently called on the PRC to boost self-reliance in agriculture technology, which he linked to national security.³ The U.S. and the PRC are cooperating under the STA on agriculture—the U.S. Department of Agriculture has over a dozen active research projects with PRC entities. Those projects include technologies with clear dual-use applications, such as developing techniques for analyzing satellite and drone imagery for irrigation management.⁴

¹ U.S. Department of State. 2018. "Protocol Between the United States of America and China Amending and Extending the Agreement of January 31, 1979, as Amended and Extended." <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/18-922-China-Scien-and-Tech-Amd-Exten.pdf>

² National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. 2018. "Global Monitoring Division 2018-2022 Research Plan." https://gml.noaa.gov/about/GMD_Research_Plan_2018-2022.pdf

³ Reuters. 2022. "China must raise self-reliance in agricultural technology, Xi says." <https://www.reuters.com/world/china/china-must-raise-self-reliance-agricultural-technology-xi-says-2022-12-25/>

⁴ Agriculture Research Service, USDA. 2020. "Improve Irrigation Management with Remote Sensing Technology." <https://www.ars.usda.gov/research/project/?accnNo=438032>

It should come as no surprise that the PRC will exploit civilian research partnerships for military purposes to the greatest extent possible. The PRC openly acknowledges its practice of military-civil fusion.⁵ According to the State Department’s website, military-civil fusion “is the elimination of barriers between the PRC’s civilian research and commercial sector, and its military and defense industrial sectors.”⁶ The PRC uses academic researchers, industrial espionage, forced technology transfers, and other tactics to gain an edge in critical technologies, which in turn fuels the People’s Liberation Army modernization.

The PRC continues to practice military-civil fusion, seeking to leverage civilian and commercial research for military and defense purposes. The evidence available suggests that the PRC will continue to look for opportunities to exploit partnerships organized under the STA to advance its military objectives to the greatest extent possible and, in some cases, to attempt to undermine American sovereignty. The United States must stop fueling its own destruction. Letting the STA expire is a good first step.

The House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party has broad authority to “investigate and submit policy recommendations on the status of the Chinese Communist Party’s economic, technological, and security progress and its competition with the United States” under H. Res. 11.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Mike Gallagher
Chairman
Select Committee on China



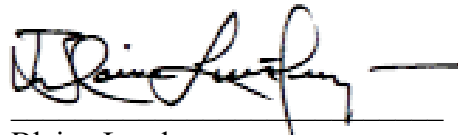
Elise Stefanik
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⁵ U.S. Department of State. 2020. “Military-Civil Fusion and the People’s Republic of China.” <https://2017-2021.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/What-is-MCF-One-Pager.pdf>; U.S. Department of Justice. 2020. “Researchers Charged with Visa Fraud After Lying About Their Work for China’s People’s Liberation Army.” <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/researchers-charged-visa-fraud-after-lying-about-their-work-china-s-people-s-liberation-army>; Bloomberg News. 2023. “China Emphasizes ‘Whole Nation’ Stance on Tech as US Curbs Bite.” <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-03-05/china-emphasizes-whole-nation-stance-on-tech-as-us-curbs-bite#xj4y7vzkg>.

⁶ U.S. Department of State. 2020. “Military-Civil Fusion and the People’s Republic of China.” <https://2017-2021.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/What-is-MCF-One-Pager.pdf>



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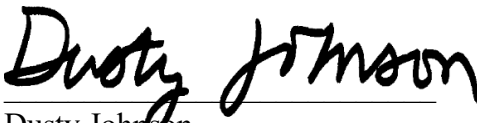
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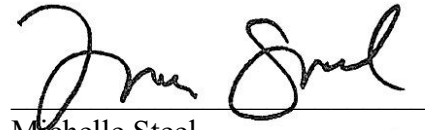
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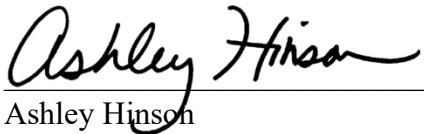
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cc: The Honorable Lloyd Austin, Secretary
U.S. Department of Defense

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm, Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
U.S. Department of Agriculture

The Honorable Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of East Asian and Pacific Affairs
U.S. Department of State

The Honorable Monica Medina, Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International
Environmental and Scientific Affairs
U.S. Department of State