

DON'T FUND OUR ENEMY

April 25, 2020

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

You have rightly taken the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) to task for its “knowing responsibility” for the current, deadly pandemic that has cost our nation and the world dearly. We strongly support your determination to get to the bottom of whether it did so accidentally or intentionally.

In the meantime, we believe nothing should be done to cause the Chinese government to believe that accountability can be avoided for the global crisis it has perpetrated through sustained deception, lack of transparency and malfeasance. Under no circumstances should we *reward* the CCP for such unconscionable behavior.

Unfortunately, the impending implementation of a decision first taken three years ago by the [Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board](#) (FRTIB) risks not only conveying a decidedly mixed signal. Such a step can also empower the Chinese Communist Party and the corporations it uses to endanger our security and betray our values.

Unless you act immediately to interdict the transfer now in the offing – one that would result in the Thrift Savings Plan’s \$50 billion International Fund “mirroring” the MSCI All-Country World ex-U.S. Index, then billions of dollars of U.S. government employees’ pension funds will soon be invested in the PRC and some of its most problematic companies. The latter include the following:

- **AviChina Industry & Technology Ltd.:** AVIC and its subsidiaries develop and produce a range of aircraft, unmanned aircraft systems and airborne weapons for the People’s Liberation Army. AVIC and its subsidiaries have been repeatedly sanctioned by the U.S. for missile proliferation activities in Iran.
- **China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation:** Naval equipment produced by CSIC includes: guided missile destroyers, frigates, conventional submarines, nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) systems, and, most notably, aircraft carriers.
- **Hikvision Digital Technology:** Hikvision manufactures video cameras and other security technology integral to the CCP’s surveillance state apparatus, its “social credit” system and the network of large-scale concentration camps used to incarcerate certain religious minorities. Hikvision has been sanctioned by the U.S. government for human rights and other activities “contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States.”
- **Zhongxing Telecommunications Equipment Corporation (ZTE):** ZTE is a telecommunications company that has engaged in economic and trade activities in sanctioned states in violation of U.S. laws and regulations.
- **China Communications Construction Company:** As of 2015, CCCC owned over half of China’s dredging industry capacity. Several CCCC subsidiaries have been observed conducting dredging (and other) activity in support of Beijing’s illegal island-building activity in the South China Sea.

- **China Unicom:** China Unicom is providing telecommunications systems to the contested Paracel Islands and Spratly Islands in the South China Sea to service China’s civilian and military personnel and also reportedly to support signals intelligence activities.
- **China Mobile Ltd.:** China Mobile provides telecommunications services to illegal fortified Chinese-constructed islands in the Paracel and Spratly Island chains. In May 2019, the U.S. FCC denied China Mobile’s application to provide international telecommunications services between the U.S. and foreign destinations, saying it “raises substantial national security and law enforcement risks.”
- **China Telecom Corporation:** In April 2020, the U.S. government pulled a license from this Chinese telecommunications company’s American subsidiary on the grounds that it entailed unacceptable risks of Chinese espionage and disruption of U.S. networks.

The appalling prospect that, among others, our men and women in uniform would, as a result of this outrageous FRTIB initiative, be compelled to invest their personal retirement savings in companies building advanced weapons systems designed to kill them prompted eleven influential flag, general and non-commissioned officers – including two former National Security Advisors to the President – to take action. They recently [urged the Joint Chiefs of Staff](#) to recommend that you intervene to prevent this outrage, something you have the authority to do pursuant to the International Economic Emergency Powers Act (IEEPA).

By acting in this way, these military leaders are echoing [bipartisan](#) and [bicameral](#) congressional requests that the FRTIB suspend further implementation of its decision, originally taken in 2017 under very different circumstances. Such recommendations are also aligned with overwhelming public sentiment – as documented in [a national poll](#) of likely voters conducted by John McLaughlin in January, *before* the pandemic further sharpened popular attitudes towards Communist China.

For all these reasons, we strenuously endorse such appeals and call on you to act *before* any Thrift Savings Plan funds begin enriching the Chinese Communist Party, and enabling its further malevolence directed at the United States.

Sincerely,

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