



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Hearing Statement of Transportation & Maritime Security Subcommittee Ranking Member LaMonica McIver (D-NJ)

Beijing's Air, Space, and Maritime Surveillance from Cuba: A Growing Threat to the Homeland, Part II

May 6th, 2025

The threats posed by the People's Republic of China towards the United States requires serious attention, as China works aggressively to gain a foothold within the Caribbean.

In Cuba, China has provided almost \$8 billion dollars in monetary incentives over the past twenty years, seeking to strengthen ties with a country just 90 miles from U.S. shores. China has invested heavily in Cuba's infrastructure, technology, communications, and biotechnology. Within the transportation and maritime sectors, Cuba has benefited from China's partnership by gaining security equipment for airports, seaports, and customs facilities.

Nuctech Company, a Chinese state-owned subsidiary company, has provided inspection technology to be installed throughout much of Cuba's transportation networks. The Department of Homeland Security has assessed that Nuctech screening systems likely have deficiencies in detection capabilities and that China could potentially access the systems remotely to gather intelligence on shipping manifests and passenger information.

In 2021, Cuba signed onto China's Belt and Road Initiative, and now, China is further developing sites in Cuba to collect intelligence on the United States through monitoring of ship movements, emails, phone calls, and radio and satellite transmissions.

The knowledge of these sites is not new, as U.S. security officials have confirmed awareness of their existence since at least the first Trump Administration. The United States and our partners face tremendous challenges in responding to China's aggression. A solid partnership among the United States and Latin American allies aids in advancing U.S. interests in the region and strengthening our national security.

Unfortunately, the Trump Administration is actively undermining those efforts. By suspending foreign aid and dismantling USAID, the Trump Administration has weakened our national security, allowing China to apply influence within Latin America without competition.

In fiscal year 2023, USAID dedicated \$1.8 billion dollars in funding to the Western Hemisphere, including funding to support independent Cuban media organizations providing objective, uncensored journalism. The dismantling of foreign aid programs benefits authoritarian governments, like the Cuban regime, by undermining groups working to advance human rights and democratic ideals.

To make matters worse, President Trump has ceded significant power to an unelected billionaire in Elon Musk, whose deep ties with the PRC are cause for great concern. I am glad there is bipartisan agreement on the need to counter China's aggressive activities in Cuba and Latin America.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in speaking out about how the Trump Administration is actively undermining efforts to counter the PRC and advance U.S. interests around the globe.

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