



# EIB World Trade Headlines

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March 15, 2023 - Volume 18, Issue 6



## DDTC Webinar: DECCS 101 Refresher

Please join the U.S. Department of State, Directorate of Defense Trade Controls' (DDTC) IT Modernization Team for a 101 refresher of the Defense Export Control and Compliance System (DECCS) application suite and an overview of new updates for DECCS. The webinar will take place on March 21st from 2:00-3:00pm (EST) and will be hosted by the U.S. Census Bureau, Census Academy. The webinar will cover general user management functionality within DECCS, as well as a brief overview of Commodity Jurisdictions, Advisory Opinions, Registration, and Licensing applications. We will also cover important process updates to Electronic Export Information (EEI) filings through the Automated Export System (AES) when citing United States Munitions List (USML) Category XXI. Please share this invite with new users of DECCS in your organization as well as those who would like a refresher on what DECCS has to offer.

Watch webinar:

<https://www.census.gov/data/academy/webinars/2022/directorate-defense-trade-control.html>

## NEWSLETTER NOTES

- DDTC Webinar: DECCS 101 Refresher...
- Enforcement Release: March 1, 2023...
- For Immediate Release March 2, 2023...
- China accuses US of attacking...
- China accuses US of attacking updated...
- US General Warns China is aggressively...
- Secretary Raimondo to Travel to New Delhi...
- Iran and Saudi Arabia set to restore...
- Joint Statement by the Department of the Treasury...

## OFAC Settles with Godfrey Phillips India Limited for \$332,500 Related to Apparent Violations of the North Korea Sanctions Regulations

Godfrey Phillips India Limited (“GPI”), a tobacco manufacturer registered in Mumbai, India, has agreed to pay \$332,500 to settle its potential civil liability for five apparent violations of the North Korea Sanctions Regulations (NKSr). These apparent violations resulted from GPI’s use of the U.S. financial system to receive payments for tobacco it indirectly exported to the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK or “North Korea”) in 2017. In doing so, GPI relied on several third-country intermediary parties to receive payment, which obscured the nexus to the DPRK and caused U.S. financial institutions to process these transactions. This settlement amount reflects OFAC’s determination that GPI’s conduct was non-egregious and not voluntarily disclosed.

### Conduct Leading to the Apparent Violations

On November 27, 2015, a vice president of GPI made contact with a representative for a Thailand-based company (the “Thai Intermediary”), which served as an intermediary for a DPRK tobacco company (the “DPRK Customer”). In their introductory email, the vice president represented that GPI could provide the Thai Intermediary with “the most competitive rates” should they provide GPI with the “grades and type of leaf required.” At the Thai Intermediary’s request, GPI then exported free samples of tobacco and cigarettes to the DPRK Customer in the DPRK via courier on at least five occasions between 2015 and 2017.

In late 2016, a GPI assistant manager and the representative from the Thai Intermediary began emailing about a prospective order of tobacco from the DPRK Customer. A different vice president, a manager, and an assistant manager then proceeded to discuss the logistics of exporting a shipping container full of tobacco (rather than a small package) to the DPRK, including whether they could export the tobacco directly to the DPRK. In the course of this exchange, the GPI assistant manager wrote: *As I informed to [sic] you yesterday, right now the question is whether GPI as a company is willing to write DPR Korea on the BL [bill of lading], like other companies are doing or not. If we can write DPR Korea consignee on the BL then it is easy otherwise we will need to take the help of [the Thai Intermediary] to help us make the shipment from Dalian, China....*

The manager informed the other parties in copy that they would confer with GPI’s finance department on how to proceed. Ultimately, the team decided not to include the DPRK Customer or the DPRK in the trade documentation for the order—it instead listed the Thai Intermediary as the customer and China as the destination.

Several months after these internal discussions, the Thai Intermediary, acting on behalf of the DPRK Customer, placed orders of tobacco with GPI totaling 79,200 kg (approximately 174,600 lb). GPI issued three corresponding invoices to the Thai Intermediary, and requested payment in USD either to GPI’s bank account at a non-U.S. bank in India or the India-based branch of a U.S. bank. The Thai Intermediary informed GPI that four Hong Kong-organized intermediaries (the “Hong Kong Intermediaries”) would remit funds to GPI for these shipments. The Hong Kong Intermediaries subsequently made five payments for the tobacco totaling roughly \$369,228 to GPI in July and August 2017. The Hong Kong Intermediaries sent four of these USD payments to the non-U.S. bank, causing three U.S. financial institutions to clear the payments, and the final payment to the India-based branch of a U.S. bank. GPI then shipped the tobacco from India to Dalian, China in September and October 2017; the tobacco was then shipped onward to the DPRK by the Thai Intermediary. (*\*Continued On The Following Column*)

By directing the Hong Kong Intermediaries to remit payments in USD, GPI caused U.S. correspondent banks that processed payments, as well as the foreign branch of a U.S. bank, to export financial services to or otherwise facilitate the exportation of tobacco to the DPRK. Accordingly, GPI appears to have violated § 510.212 of the NKSr, 31 C.F.R. part 510, when it caused U.S. banks to apparently violate §§ 510.206 and 510.211 of the NKSr (the “Apparent Violations”). Penalty Calculations and General Factors Analysis.

The statutory maximum civil monetary penalty applicable in this matter is \$1,782,895. OFAC determined that GPI did not voluntarily self-disclose the Apparent Violations and that the Apparent Violations constitute a non-egregious case. Accordingly, under OFAC’s Economic Sanctions Enforcement Guidelines (“Enforcement Guidelines”), the base civil monetary penalty amount applicable in this matter is \$475,000.

The settlement amount of \$332,500 reflects OFAC’s consideration of the General Factors under the Enforcement Guidelines. OFAC determined the following to be aggravating factors:

- (1) GPI acted recklessly when it failed to exercise a minimal degree of caution or care for U.S. sanctions laws and regulations and caused U.S. financial institutions to export financial services or otherwise facilitate the exportation of tobacco to the DPRK;
- (2) Several GPI managers had actual knowledge that the conduct at issue concerned the exportation of tobacco to the DPRK; and
- (3) GPI harmed U.S. foreign policy objectives by involving U.S. persons in its indirect exportation of tobacco to the DPRK and by providing a sought-after, revenue-generating good to the North Korean regime.

2

OFAC determined the following to be mitigating factors:

- (1) GPI has not received a Penalty Notice or Finding of Violation from OFAC in the five years preceding the date of the earliest transaction giving rise to the Apparent Violations;
- (2) GPI’s remedial response upon learning of the Apparent Violations, namely implementing its Sanctions Compliance Policy, Procedures, and Framework in January 2022, which includes screening, know your customer measures, and recordkeeping requirements; and
- (3) GPI cooperated with OFAC throughout the course of the investigation by providing OFAC with the documentation in a timely and organized manner, and agreeing to toll the statute of limitations.

### Compliance Considerations

This action highlights how non-U.S. persons engaged in business with sanctioned actors and jurisdictions can violate U.S. sanctions regulations by causing U.S. persons to engage in prohibited transactions. These circumstances can arise when financial transactions that pertain to commercial activity with an OFAC-sanctioned country, region, or person are processed through or involve U.S. financial institutions, including foreign branches of U.S. financial institutions. Involving a U.S. financial institution in such commercial activity may violate OFAC regulations by causing U.S. persons to inadvertently export financial services, or facilitate the export of goods, to North Korea, or other comprehensively sanctioned jurisdiction.

(*\*Continued On The Following Page*)

The absence of a compliance program that accounts for potential U.S. sanctions risks, moreover, may increase the likelihood of such a violation. Utilizing the U.S. financial system while exporting valued goods such as tobacco to North Korea or other comprehensively sanctioned jurisdiction may increase a person's exposure to OFAC penalties given the harm such conduct causes to U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives.

This action further highlights the deceptive practices DPRK entities use to evade U.S. and international sanctions and acquire revenue-generating goods, such as by employing intermediaries in various countries to coordinate shipping and make payments.

### OFAC Enforcement and Compliance Resources

On May 2, 2019, OFAC published A Framework for Compliance Commitments (the "Framework") in order to provide organizations subject to U.S. jurisdiction, as well as foreign entities that conduct business in or with the United States or U.S. persons, or that use U.S.-origin goods or services, with OFAC's perspective on the essential components of a sanctions compliance program. The Framework also outlines how OFAC may incorporate these components into its evaluation of apparent violations and resolution of investigations resulting in settlements. The Framework includes an appendix that offers a brief analysis of some of the root.

3

causes of apparent violations of U.S. economic and trade sanctions programs OFAC has identified during its investigative process.

Information concerning the civil penalties process can be found in the OFAC regulations governing each sanctions program; the Reporting, Procedures, and Penalties Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 501; and the Enforcement Guidelines. These references, as well as recent final civil penalties and enforcement information, can be found on OFAC's website at [www.treasury.gov/ofac/enforcement](http://www.treasury.gov/ofac/enforcement).

For more information regarding OFAC regulations, please go to: [www.treasury.gov/ofac](http://www.treasury.gov/ofac).

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 02, 2023

[www.bis.doc.gov](http://www.bis.doc.gov)

### BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY

Office of Congressional and Public Affairs

Media Contact: [OCPA@bis.doc.gov](mailto:OCPA@bis.doc.gov)

### Commerce Adds 37 to Entity List for Unsafeguarded Nuclear and Missile-Related Activities, Supporting PRC Military Modernization, Violations of Human Rights, and Support for Russia's Military and/or Defense Industrial Complex

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, the Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) issued a rule that adds 37 entities to the Entity List for, among other activities, contributing to Russia's military and/or defense industrial base, supporting PRC military modernization, and facilitating or engaging in human rights abuses in Burma and in the People's Republic of China (PRC).

"The foundation of U.S. national security and foreign policy is our values. When we act to stand against proliferators, oppose military aggression in the case of Russia and PRC military modernization, and protect and advance human rights, we are putting those values into action and enhancing our shared security in the process," said **Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves**. "We will not hesitate to use the tools at our disposal to achieve those goals."

(\*Continued On The Next Column)

"We will continue to send the world a simple message—the United States will not allow diversion of peaceful trade in ways that undermine our values and weaken our security. That's exactly what we are saying today," said **Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security Alan F. Estevez**.

"When we identify entities that pose a national security or foreign policy concern for the United States, we add them to the Entity List to ensure we can scrutinize their transactions," **Assistant Secretary Thea D. Rozman Kendler**. "In addition to screening against the Entity List, exporters and those transacting in items subject to our regulations need to exercise careful due diligence to determine whether such items may be diverted to prohibited end-uses or end-users."

"We cannot allow our adversaries to misuse and abuse technology to commit human rights abuses and other acts of oppression," said **Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement Matthew S. Axelrod**. "That's why we're committed to preventing bad actors from siphoning off our technology. We will take an all-tools approach to combat this threat, including through the actions announced today and the newly-formed Disruptive Technology Protection Strike Force."

The text of the rule, which includes the list of all entities, released today is available on the Federal Register's website here: <https://www.federalregister.gov/public-inspection/2023-04558/additions-and-revisions-of-entities-to-the-entity-list>. The effective date is March 2, 2023.

### Additional Information on Today's Entity Listings:

**Supporting Russia's Military and/or Defense Industrial Complex:** Three entities in Russia, Belarus, and Taiwan are being added based on information that they significantly contribute to Russia's military and/or defense industrial base.

**PRC Military Modernization and Support for Sanctioned Parties in Iran:** Eighteen entities based in the PRC are being added to the Entity List for acquiring and attempting to acquire U.S.- origin items in support of the PRC's military modernization efforts, and for supplying or attempting to supply a sanctioned entity in Iran.

**Human Rights Violations:** Six entities based in the PRC and Burma are being added for violations of human rights. The PRC entities have been engaged in the collection and analysis of genetic data, which poses a significant risk of contributing to monitoring and surveillance by the PRC government, including the targeting, detainment, and repression of ethnic minorities in the PRC as well as diversion of such information to PRC military programs. The Burmese entities provide surveillance equipment and services to Burma's military regime, enabling it to carry out human rights abuses through the trafficking and identification of individuals, and the military's continued repression of Burma's people, including through surveillance and imprisonment.

**Ballistic Missile and Unsafeguarded Nuclear Activities:** Fourteen entities based in the PRC and Pakistan are being added to the Entity List for contributing to ballistic missile programs of concern, including Pakistan's missile program, and for involvement in unsafeguarded nuclear activities.

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**Additional Background on the Entity List Process**

These BIS actions were taken under the authority of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 and its implementing regulations, the Export Administration Regulations (EAR). The Entity List (supplement no. 4 to part 744 of the EAR) identifies entities for which there is reasonable cause to believe, based on specific and articulable facts, that the entities—including businesses, research institutions, government and private organizations, individuals, and other types of legal persons—that have been involved, are involved, or pose a significant risk of being or becoming involved in activities contrary to the national security or foreign policy interests of the United States. Parties on the Entity List are subject to individual licensing requirements and policies supplemental to those found elsewhere in the EAR.

Entity List additions are determined by the interagency End-User Review Committee (ERC), comprised of the Departments of Commerce (Chair), Defense, State, Energy, and where appropriate, the Treasury.

The ERC makes decisions regarding additions to, removals from, or other modifications to the Entity List. The ERC makes all decisions to add an entity to the Entity List by majority vote and makes all decisions to remove or modify an entity by unanimous vote. Additional information on the Entity List is available on BIS’s website at: <https://bis.doc.gov/index.php/policy-guidance/faqs>.

For more information, visit [www.bis.doc.gov](http://www.bis.doc.gov).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 06, 2023**

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**BUREAU OF INDUSTRY AND SECURITY**  
**Office of Congressional and Public Affairs**  
[OCPA@bis.doc.gov](mailto:OCPA@bis.doc.gov)

**COMMERCE, NASA BEGIN U.S. CIVIL SPACE INDUSTRIAL BASE ASSESSMENT**

Joint Project will Collect Data on Supply Chains Affiliated with NASA and NOAA

Washington, D.C.—The Commerce Department’s Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), Office of Technology Evaluation (OTE) is conducting a comprehensive assessment of the U.S. Civil Space Industrial Base (CSIB) in partnership with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

For the purposes of this study, the domestic civil space industrial base consists of non-military/DOD space-related work primarily supporting NASA and NOAA, as well as the Federal Aviation Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, and the Department of Energy, including prime contractors, commercial companies, federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs), universities, and laboratories.

(\*Continued On The Following Column)

To collect data for the assessment, OTE will deploy a survey instrument to hundreds of U.S. space companies and suppliers. The principal goal of this survey is to better understand the CSIB supply chain network. The data collected will help identify the structure and interdependencies of organizations that participate in the CSIB, especially NASA and NOAA systems and subsystems. This effort will enable NASA and NOAA to understand and respond to supply chain deficiencies and disruptions related to diminishing manufacturing sources and material shortages (DMSMS), foreign sourcing and dependencies, cyber security incidents, critical minerals and materials, COVID-19 pandemic impacts, and other challenges. The resulting data and subsequent analysis will allow industry representatives and government policy officials to better monitor trends, benchmark industry performance, and raise awareness of potential issues of concern.

**FAQs**

**Q. What authority does the BIS/OTE have to conduct this survey?**

A. BIS has authority under Section 705 of Defense Production Act of 1950 (DPA) (50 U.S.C. § 4555), as amended, and Executive Order 13603 to conduct research and analysis of critical technologies and industrial sectors to advance U.S. national security and economic competitiveness. BIS uses industry-specific surveys to obtain production, R&D, export control, employment, and other relevant data to inform U.S. Government policies and proposals.

**Q. Who requested the CSIB assessment?**

A. The assessment was requested by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS), and NOAA’s Office of Space Commerce (OSC).

**Q. Who are NASA and NOAA?**

A. NASA is America’s civil space program and the global leader in space exploration. At its 20 centers and facilities across the country – and the only National Laboratory in space – NASA studies Earth, including its climate, our Sun, and our solar system and beyond.

NOAA provides secure and timely access to global environmental data and information from satellites and other sources to promote and protect U.S. national security, the environment, the economy, and quality of life. NOAA’s mission is to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts, to share that knowledge and information with others, and to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources as the Nation’s authoritative environmental intelligence agency.

**Q. Who is required to complete the survey?**

A. Organizations representing multiple facets of the civil space industrial base and related supply chains supporting NASA or NOAA missions and programs are required to participate in this mandatory data collection pursuant to Section 705 of the DPA (50 U.S.C. § 4555) and Executive Order 13603. Companies that do not receive a survey notification but believe their participation is warranted should contact OTE at [CSIBStudy@bis.doc.gov](mailto:CSIBStudy@bis.doc.gov) for more information.

(\*Continued On The Following Page)



Q. Is this an annual or repeated collection?

A. This assessment is a one-time information collection performed by OTE, though similar assessments were performed in the past and may be necessary in the future.

Q. Has OTE conducted similar studies in the past?

A. Yes. Since 1986, OTE has conducted over 60 assessments and 150 surveys on a wide range of topics, including the U.S. defense industrial base, healthcare products, information and communications technology (ICT), microelectronics and semiconductors, NASA's rocket propulsion sector, and strategic materials, among others. The results of most of OTE's industrial base assessments can be found here: <https://www.bis.doc.gov/dib>

Q. What are the uses for the information collected by the assessment?

A. The information collected will help benchmark industry performance and evaluate the current health and competitiveness of the U.S. CSIB. More specifically, this multi-year collaboration will build upon a substantial record of space sector analysis conducted with NASA, NOAA, and the broader U.S. Government (USG). The primary purpose is to evaluate the current health and competitiveness of the civil segment of the U.S. space industrial base (SIB) and inform the planning and execution of the civil space provisions of the 2020 National Space Policy (NSP) and subsequent U.S. national space policy priorities.

This information will be used to afford NASA and NOAA visibility into the current and prospective civil space industry, specifically, the supply chain impacts resulting from the trends in mergers and acquisitions (M&A), advances in emerging technology (e.g., artificial intelligence, quantum computing, additive manufacturing, etc.), foreign sourcing and dependencies, workforce/STEM practices, cybercrime and trends in cybersecurity investments, U.S. federal acquisition constraints and reforms, supply chain disruptions, impacts of export controls, and more.

Q. Will the findings from this assessment be publicly available?

A. To safeguard the U.S. civil space industrial base and associated suppliers, as well as ensure the integrity of respondent information, data will be released only in aggregate form. Data provided by industry is deemed business confidential under the DPA and can be withheld from release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

For more information on the assessment and overall program, contact Jason Bolton, Director, Defense Industrial Base Division, Office of Technology Evaluation, Bureau of Industry and Security, at [CSIBsurvey@bis.doc.gov](mailto:CSIBsurvey@bis.doc.gov).

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China accuses US of attacking companies after export curbs

By JOE McDONALD The Associated Press, Updated March 3, 2023, 5:23 a.m.

BEIJING (AP) — China accused Washington on Friday of improperly attacking Chinese companies after genetics analysis giant BGI Group and 17 others were hit with curbs on access to U.S. technology on security or human rights grounds.

*(\*Continued On The Following Column)*

The Commerce Department said it saw a danger that two BGI units might contribute to the government's surveillance apparatus, which human rights groups say is trying to create a database of genetic samples that Muslims and other minorities were compelled to provide.

Other companies were cited for their role in the ruling Communist Party's military modernization or weapons development by Iran and Pakistan and suspected human rights abuses in Myanmar.

Washington has accused China of trying to use civilian companies to obtain processor chip, aerospace and other technologies that can be used to make weapons. Beijing retorts that the U.S. government is trying to stop potential commercial competitors.

The United States is "fabricating excuses to suppress Chinese companies," said a foreign ministry spokeswoman, Mao Ning. She called on Washington to "abandon ideological prejudice" and "stop abusing various excuses to unreasonably suppress Chinese enterprises."

Mao said Beijing would "firmly safeguard the legitimate rights" of its companies but gave no indication of possible retaliation. The government has made similar statements following previous U.S. restrictions but often takes no action.

BGI Research and BGI Tech Solutions (Hongkong) Co., Ltd. were added to an "Entity List" that requires them to obtain government permission to acquire sensitive U.S. technology.

Their genetic analysis "poses a significant risk of contributing" to surveillance and repression of minorities, the Commerce Department said. It said there was a "significant risk of diversion" to military programs.

BGI Group didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

BGI previously denied accusations it provided technology to surveil Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in China's northwest.

Beijing retaliated for earlier U.S. restrictions by creating its own "unreliable entity" list of foreign companies that might endanger China's national sovereignty, security or development interests.

Lockheed Martin Corp. and Raytheon Technologies Corp.'s Raytheon Missiles and Defense unit were added to the restricted list last month after they supplied weapons to Taiwan, the island democracy claimed by Beijing as part of its territory. They are barred from importing goods into China or making new investments in the country.

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## **US generals warn China is aggressively expanding its influence in South America and the Caribbean**

**By Haley Britzky, CNN**

**Updated 3:46 PM EST, Wed March 08, 2023**

(CNN)Senior US generals issued stark warnings to lawmakers about what they described as an "aggressive" expansion of Chinese influence in South America and the Caribbean encroaching on American interests in the region.

"The [People's Republic of China] has the capability and intent to eschew international norms, advance its brand of authoritarianism, and amass power and influence at the expense of these democracies," Gen. Laura Richardson, commander of US Southern Command, said on Wednesday. "The PRC has expanded its ability to extract resources, establish port, manipulate governments through predatory investment practices, and build potential dual-use space facilities — the most space facilities in any combatant command region."

*(\*Continued On The Following Column)*

Indeed, Richardson and Gen. Glen VanHerck, commander of US Northern Command, told the House Armed Services Committee that China's expansion has included increased work on the Belt and Road Initiative, a massive international infrastructure project that seeks to expand Chinese influence around the world, as well as "economic coercion" in the Bahamas and "investment" on South American projects.

"We've got to pay more attention to this region," Richardson said. "The proximity matters. They are on the 20-yard line of our homeland. We are in a neighborhood, these are our neighbors, and we have got to pay attention to them."

American officials have voiced similar concerns about Chinese activities in other regions of the world including Africa as Beijing looks to compete with Washington not just militarily but also economically and in terms of soft power.

US intel chiefs say China likely to press Taiwan and seek to undercut US

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In the Caribbean, China is "very aggressive" in the Bahamas, VanHerck said, where they have built the largest embassy in the world complete with an ambassador who "uses the information space to undermine us each and every day."

He added that the US has not had a permanent ambassador to the Bahamas since 2011, and appointing one would "vastly help."

VanHerck also noted that there is "significant" investment from China in Mexico, and that 80% of Mexico's telecommunications is provided by Chinese companies.

Richardson added that while the US also has a "lot of investment" in South America, the US does not advertise it enough. And while many of those countries will seek contracts for big projects, she said, they only see "PRC and Chinese bidders," which makes them feel they've "got no choice" but to work with China.

At the same time, however, Richardson said China's investments do not actually benefit countries in the region and claimed Beijing is "taking advantage" of South American nations by pushing them into a "debt trap associated with the multiple loans" they provide.

TikTok could be a valuable tool for China if it invades Taiwan, FBI director says

TikTok could be a valuable tool for China if it invades Taiwan, FBI director says

"They don't invest in the country, the extract ... they bring their own workers, Chinese laborers, to the country and build these high-rise apartments. So the investing, you don't see the investment in the country," she said.

The hearing comes amid heightened tensions between the US and China, following the shutdown of a Chinese surveillance balloon off the coast of South Carolina last month, and reports that China is considering assisting Russia in its war against Ukraine.

Chinese officials have denied claims that they are considering providing lethal military aid to Russia, but US officials have maintained that China would face "real costs" if they went forward with the support.

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Chinese officials have denied claims that they are considering providing lethal military aid to Russia, but US officials have maintained that China would face "real costs" if they went forward with the support.

China has also denied that the balloon shot down off the US coast into the Atlantic Ocean was a surveillance balloon. But on Wednesday, VanHerck said the event displayed "one of the ways our competitors target us each and every day."

"Candidly, the internal discord of this event just showed one of the ways our competitors target us each and every day in the information space," VanHerck said, "and they're becoming increasingly adept at driving wedges between the American people."

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### **Secretary Raimondo to Travel to New Delhi to Deepen U.S.-India Commercial Ties, Participate in U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue and CEO Forum**

Export and investment promotion  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, March 6, 2023  
Office of Public Affairs  
publicaffairs@doc.gov

Today, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo will travel to New Delhi, India to meet with Indian public and private sector leaders and participate in the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue and CEO Forum. The Secretary will convey the importance that the Biden Administration places on U.S.-India relations and emphasize the significant opportunity to deepen commercial ties between the two countries.

This trip comes on the heels of last month's successful special negotiating round for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework in New Delhi, which was attended by senior U.S. Department of Commerce officials.

During the visit, the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue and CEO Forum will be held on March 10th, 2023, to discuss cooperation in various sectors that could unlock new trade and investment opportunities between the two countries.

The U.S.-India CEO Forum was soft-launched by Secretary Raimondo and Indian Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in November 2022 during a meeting between the two leaders. During the meeting, they identified key priorities as increasing supply chain resilience; enhancing energy security & reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions; advancing inclusive digital trade; and facilitating post-pandemic economic recovery, especially for small businesses.

"This is an optimistic time for U.S.-India relations, and I am excited to visit India during such a special time of year, the celebration of Holi," said U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo. "Through the CEO Forum, the Commercial Dialogue, and IPEF, we are making excellent progress in bringing our countries closer together by creating new markets for trade, expanding those that already exist, and reinforcing our shared commitment to democracy."

Secretary Raimondo will return to Washington, D.C. on Saturday, March 11th, 2023.  
BUREAUS AND OFFICES  
International Trade Administration

(\*Continued On The Following Column)

### **Iran and Saudi Arabia set to restore ties after mediation by China**

By Sarah Dadouch, John Hudson and Claire Parker Washington Post, Updated March 10, 2023, 7:51 p.m.

BEIRUT — Saudi Arabia and Iran announced an agreement in China on Friday to resume relations more than seven years after severing ties, a major breakthrough in a bitter rivalry that has long divided the Middle East.

The agreement was a result of talks in Beijing that began Monday as part of an initiative by Chinese President Xi Jinping aimed at "developing good neighborly relations" between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the three countries said in a joint statement. Signed by top Iranian security official Ali Shamkhani and Saudi national security adviser Musaed bin Mohammed al-Aiban, the agreement said embassies would be reopened within two months.

Saudi Arabia cut diplomatic ties with Iran in 2016 after the Saudi Embassy in Tehran was attacked and burned by Iranian protesters, angered by the kingdom's execution of prominent Shiite cleric Sheikh Nimr Baqr al-Nimr. The cleric had emerged as a leading figure in protests in Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province, a Shiite-majority region in the Sunni-majority nation.

Saudi Arabia accused Iran of sowing strife in its minority-Shiite communities, which have long complained of discrimination and neglect from authorities in Riyadh. A month after Nimr's execution, the kingdom put 32 people on trial on charges of spying for Iran, including 30 Saudi Shiites. Fifteen were ultimately given death sentences.

In the years since, Saudi Arabia has accused Iran of supplying weapons to the Houthis, Shiite rebels in neighboring Yemen who have waged a grinding war against a Saudi-led coalition seeking to restore the country's Western-backed government.

Tensions reached new heights in 2019 after a wave of Houthi drone attacks on Saudi oil facilities, knocking out half of the kingdom's oil output. At the time, US officials said they believed the assault was launched from Iranian territory. Tehran denied involvement.

[https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/03/10/world/iran-saudi-arabia-set-restore-ties-after-mediation-by-china/?et rid=1876204030&s\\_campaign=todayshadlines:newsletter](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2023/03/10/world/iran-saudi-arabia-set-restore-ties-after-mediation-by-china/?et rid=1876204030&s_campaign=todayshadlines:newsletter)

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### **Joint Statement by the Department of the Treasury, Federal Reserve, and FDIC - March 12, 2023**

WASHINGTON, DC -- The following statement was released by Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen, Federal Reserve Board Chair Jerome H. Powell, and FDIC Chairman Martin J. Gruenberg:

Today we are taking decisive actions to protect the U.S. economy by strengthening public confidence in our banking system. This step will ensure that the U.S. banking system continues to perform its vital roles of protecting deposits and providing access to credit to households and businesses in a manner that promotes strong and sustainable economic growth.

We are also announcing a similar systemic risk exception for Signature Bank, New York, New York, which was closed today by its state chartering authority. All depositors of this institution will be made whole. As with the resolution of Silicon Valley Bank, no losses will be borne by the taxpayer.

(\*Continued On The Following Page)

Shareholders and certain unsecured debtholders will not be protected. Senior management has also been removed. Any losses to the Deposit Insurance Fund to support uninsured depositors will be recovered by a special assessment on banks, as required by law.

Finally, the Federal Reserve Board on Sunday announced it will make available additional funding to eligible depository institutions to help assure banks have the ability to meet the needs of all their depositors.

The U.S. banking system remains resilient and on a solid foundation, in large part due to reforms that were made after the financial crisis that ensured better safeguards for the banking industry. Those reforms combined with today's actions demonstrate our commitment to take the necessary steps to ensure that depositors' savings remain safe.

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

***Given the geopolitical state of affairs with China, Russia, and Crimea, the Occupied territories of UKRAINE, Donetsk and Luhansk Oblast, embargoed countries and other specific threatening end users and entities, located in the United States and around the globe;***

***Evolutions in Business and the companies we serve, armed with robust compliance to the Export Administration Regulations, will adhere to best practices to protect our revenue and yours, and ensure the national security interests of the United States.***

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