

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Blinken,

Last week, the Wall Street Journal reported that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the Communist Republic of Cuba have reached a “several billion dollar” agreement for the expansion of “an electronic eavesdropping facility” on the Caribbean Island nation.<sup>i</sup> Roughly 100 miles from Southern Florida, pouring several billion dollars to expand the a Chinese spy facility on Cuba will be an intentionally provocative threat. Reuters has also reported that additions to the facility would allow the CCP to “gather electronic communications” from our southeastern military bases, including U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command Headquarters in Tampa, among others.<sup>ii</sup>

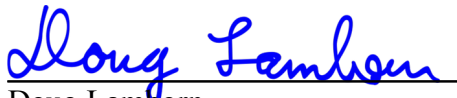
The Cuban communist government has long harbored a malign view towards the United States, most prominently during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 when they brought the world to the brink of nuclear crisis by partnering with the Soviet Union to host nuclear missiles on their territory. However, the Obama and Biden Administrations have taken a naïve approve to Cuba in a misguided attempt to restore diplomatic relations. During his administration, then-President Obama relieved sanctions on Cuba by removing them from the U.S. State Sponsors of Terrorism list, only for them to be restored by President Trump. Earlier this year, President Biden invited the Cuban Border Guard and Ministry of Foreign Relations to tour U.S. Coast Guard facilities.<sup>iii</sup> Despite reopening consular services in Cuba, in the past year 250,000 Cubans, more than 2% of the island’s population, have been detained after attempting to cross the U.S. border illegally.<sup>iv</sup>

The provocative decision of the Chinese and Cuban governments to formulate this agreement should come as no surprise to the Biden Administration. After Venezuela, China is Cuba’s largest commercial partner with \$1.3 billion in trade this last year. Just this past November, China agreed to restructure the Cuban governments debt and create a new strategic trade partnership.<sup>v</sup> As this administration has groveled to the Chinese Communist Party time and time again, the American people are now faced with a large and advanced adversarial spy facility in their backyard. This imminent national security threat must be immediately addressed, and our diplomatic relations with Cuba must be urgently reassessed.

Given the decision by the communist Cuban government to allow the CCP to significantly expand an intelligence collection facility on their island, we call on you to cancel your planned trip to China. Given that you previously postponed your previously scheduled trip to China following the discovery of a CCP spy balloon, we believe another cancellation is warranted. Pouring billions of dollars into expansion and advancement of a spy facility 100 miles away from the United States is just the latest in a string of provocative actions, including a Chinese warship cutting across an American destroyer in the Taiwan Strait just days ago.<sup>vi</sup> While Administration officials have attempted to downplay this action, we believe that a significant investment deliberately aimed at spying on the American government, military, and people warrants a strong response. We

must avoid appeasing China's provocative behavior, and respond accordingly to this imminent threat to the United States.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress



Lisa C. McClain  
Member of Congress



Mark Alford  
Member of Congress



Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress

- <sup>i</sup> Warren P. Stobel & Gordon Lubold, *China to Host Secret Chinese Spy Base Focusing on U.S.* Wall Street Journal. (June. 8, 2023)
- <sup>ii</sup> Reuters. *China to establish spy facility in Cuba off southeastern U.S.* (June. 8, 2023)
- <sup>iii</sup> Ruairidh Nicoll. *As the Cuban exodus continues, Biden adjusts immigration policy.* The Guardian. (Jan. 10, 2023)
- <sup>iv</sup> Ruairidh Nicoll. *As the Cuban exodus continues, Biden adjusts immigration policy.* The Guardian. (Jan. 10, 2023)
- <sup>v</sup> Marc Frank. *Cuba wins China debt relief, new funds.* Reuters. (Nov. 27, 2022)
- <sup>vi</sup> David Rising. *US Releases Video Showing Close-Call in Taiwan Strait with Chinese destroyer.* Associated Press. (June 5, 2023)