



20th PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE-SECURITY FORUM

WASHINGTON, DC

DECEMBER 6th, 2021

SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

Opening Remarks.

- Hon. Robert Pittenger, Chairman, Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum



To begin the 20th Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum, host and Chairman Hon. Robert Pittenger offers some opening remarks. First, he thanks everyone and expresses his gratitude to all who traveled to Washington to attend the forum; in fact, 208 parliamentarians from 50 different countries registered to attend.

Next, Hon. Pittenger recognizes the large representation from both Paraguay and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Upon thanking the National Archives Center for being a beautiful host, Hon. Pittenger thanks the PI-SF board. Lastly, before introducing Senator Bill Cassidy via video, Hon. Pittenger pays respects to his dear, lifelong friend, colleague, and pioneer Sir David Amess, who tragically died in a terrorist attack earlier this year.

- U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy (video message)

Senator Bill Cassidy stated that over the past several decades, Congress, Private Industry, law enforcement, Regulatory Agencies have an active reform making it harder for illicit organizations to move money to the formal banking system, as a result, criminals have been forced to turn

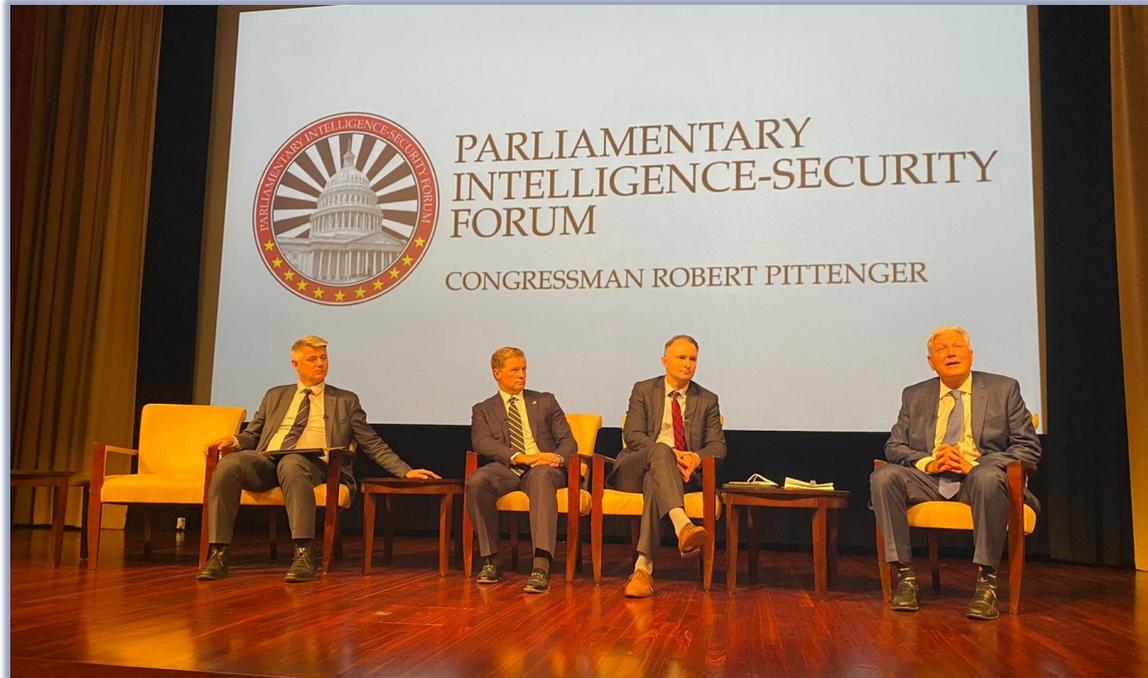


to trade markets, legal trade, to launder money rather than traditional money laundering schemes. They misrepresent the price, quantity, or quality of imports and exports, and when an undervalued product moves at a below market price through illicit networks, those networks sell them for a profit, that exchange of value is how they move illegal money through a legal trade system. He then stated that the Allies have to follow the money, then identify the sources behind these Illicit Trade networks.

What are the solutions?

- Modernize the custom system
- Stepping up law enforcement activities under the existing laws is another key component
- Sustain a meaningful relationship between the public and private sectors

Panel 1 – Digital Assets: Cryptocurrencies, Stablecoins and CBDCs.



- Mr. J.C. Boggs, Partner and Co-lead, Fintech, Blockchain and Cryptocurrency Practice

Mr. Boggs kicked off the discussion by hitting upon basics of cryptocurrency, explaining that blockchain acts as a public ledger of every transaction made with a particular cryptocurrency and allows for the verification of a transaction's authenticity. That public ledger is shared across all computers in the network. The public nature of the ledger makes tracking most cryptocurrency transactions fairly straightforward, even more so for cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, which publishes the location and the individual wallets taking part in a transaction. He also pointed out that blockchain's use is not limited to just crypto. For example, it is being used for smart contracts, banking, video games, supply chain logistics and more.

He then discussed the uses of cryptocurrency. Like traditional fiat currencies, crypto can be used for both speculation as well as for a method of payment. Cryptocurrency appeals to users do to: (1) the ability to make transfers without an intermediary or geographic limitation, (2) finality of settlement, (3) lower transaction costs compared to other forms of payment, and (4) the ability to publicly verify transactions.

While cryptocurrency is used for legitimate, legal transactions, it also appeals to bad actors because of its pseudonymity, varying oversight and regulatory requirements by

country, convenience and quick transfer speeds. Illicit uses include money laundering, payment for illegal goods or services, terrorist financing, sanctions evasion and ransomware. Countries with weak or unenforced AML regulations serve as an ideal location to launder money, regardless of whether it is fiat or cryptocurrency.

Mr. Boggs said that the U.S. Congress has been focusing much more attention on cryptocurrency issues and as introduced approximately 20 bills just this year, including legislation that would exclude cryptocurrency from the definition of security and another measure that would amend the Securities Act to create a safe harbor providing a grace period of exemption from Securities Act registration requirements. In addition to federal legislation, Mr. Boggs also referenced that some 31 states have introduced legislation relating to blockchain and cryptocurrency.

Finally, he discussed the President's Working Group on Financial Markets Report on Stablecoins that was issued on November 1, 2021. That report recommends that custodial wallet providers be subject to federal oversight, giving regulators the authority to mandate risk management standards, including capital and reserve requirements, and to limit the issuance of financial products tied to stablecoins.

- Hon. Brian Quintenz, former Commissioner, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission

Former CFTC Commissioner Brian Quintenz provided a brief overview of cryptocurrency and focused on how U.S. and other regulators are looking at this new technology. Specifically, Mr. Quintenz said he admires cryptocurrencies as they cleverly avoid the double spending problem. In the past, regulators and companies have struggled to keep a digital item safe from pirating. Through its first 13 years, Bitcoin has really seen no hacks, just minor tampering. The Bitcoin blockchain even holds a value of around \$1.3 trillion.

Commissioner Quintenz offered a rundown of the current regulatory system. After citing such organizations as the SEC, CFTC, FDIC, and others, he addressed the question of whether or not cryptocurrencies are a pure commodity/should be managed as such. Because each crypto differs in one way or another, which evokes the SEC's jurisdiction? Which will not? Mr. Quintenz pointed out that there are many negative consequences that may arise if regulation is too stringent. He also noted that it is short-sighted to fit cryptos into a current model, where they are regulated as financial instruments.

Commissioner Quintenz also addressed the logistics of finding illicit financiers, and the idea that crypto can be used as a currency. Regarding the first point, Mr. Quintenz discussed certain advantages to law enforcement when criminals use crypto in ransomware incidents, as their wallets and timestamps are known to all, and can further be tracked and investigated in trials. He also cited that less than 1% of bitcoin payments are payments for ransomware.

- Hon. Andreas Jahn, Bundestag Foreign Policy Senior Advisor

Next, Mr. Andreas Jahn from German Bundestag thanked the Forum for providing such a platform year after year. He explained that in Germany, cryptocurrency continues to be a subject in which all parties take interest and stated it is important for Western democracies to adopt an “innovation friendly, legal framework.”

Mr. Jahn also addressed how cryptos are reaching levels of value equivalent to entire nations’ currencies. At that, it is difficult for parliaments to address such a big issue when many members lack sufficient information. He also emphasized that legislators need to harmonize their efforts into order to combat money laundering, illicit finance, and other forms of crime and terrorism.

- Hon. T.J. Donovan, Vermont Attorney General

Vermont Attorney General T. J. Donovan focused primarily on law enforcement and consumer protection issues around this new technology. He remarked that technology can often outpace the law and regulators at the state and federal level need to find ways to protect consumers without stifling innovation that can benefit the consumer. General Donovan stated that just like FDR established the SEC in the early 30s, the USA must figure out how to deal with cryptos before it is too late.

General Donovan also remarked that it is important to educate legislators and regulators on cryptocurrency and consider thoughtful steps to implement regulation. The Attorney General also referenced how many questions crypto brings with it. For example, how does crypto affect the average citizen? How does law enforcement manage an entity that is all anonymous? How does law enforcement address scams? There are so many unknowns at play here, that law enforcement needs a playbook that works for everyone, and once authorities are on the same page, progress can be made.

The Attorney General concluded that States could use more resources to keep up with these developments and underscored the need for closer partnerships between state and federal government, as well as greater collaboration at the international level.

Panel 2. - Neurocognitive Warfare - includes psychological and biological weapons (including Havana syndrome) / Dual use of AI/5G/cybersecurity security threats.

- Dr. Steve Bennett, Ph.D., Director Global Public Sector at SAS; former Director of the National Biosurveillance Integration Center, U.S. Department of Homeland Security



The Second Panel discusses neurological warfare. Director of Global Public Sector at SAS, Dr. Steve Bennett, starts the conversation. He opens with famed Pokémon Pikachu. Upon displaying the animated, little yellow creature, Dr. Bennett then delves into Pokémon GO, a popular,

virtual reality mobile app from a few years ago. In his analysis, he draws to the “Don’t Shoot Us” movement within the app. Dr. Bennett explains how figures linked to the Kremlin hijacked the movement, promoting that players trek to controversial sites of police killings. On top of encouraging attendance to the sites (often filled with protests and riots), the Kremlin-backed “Don’t Shoot Us” group encouraged players to rename their Pokémon after the names of the victims of the sites. Dr. Bennett explains that the Kremlin is well-informed of race relations and conflict raging in the USA, especially at the time of the app’s release; therefore, Russia used and continues to use discreet neurological warfare with such topics in order to cause separation in the United States. Social media is their go-to in such situations.

After Dr. Bennett’s opening example, he enters the meat of his argument - Putin and the Kremlin try their best to infiltrate our democracy and culture at any cost. He insists, though, that though Russia tried to hack the USA’s voting systems in the 2016 elections, they failed to do so. Instead, they relied on methods such as the example of neurological warfare mentioned above.

To conclude his presentation, Dr. Bennett introduces some key policy actions. Democratic nations need to recognize the material threat that modern psychological operations present to freedom, and democratic nations need to commit to effective citizen engagement and information sharing. Also, such nations can use advanced tools (analytics and artificial intelligence) to mitigate advanced threats. Nations need to modernize the oversight of their media platforms that can serve as vectors for Psychological Operations.

- Dr. Robert McCreight, Adjunct Professor, George Mason University, Lecturer, National Defense University

To open his portion of the panel, Professor and Dr. Robert McCreight introduces the audience to “Havana Syndrome” - the name given to the reports of mysterious neurological symptoms among US embassy staff starting in 2017.

To date, preliminary data show up to 313 attacks now across the intelligence community, the military, and other diplomatic communities have caused long term cognitive harm and injury, but not killed several Americans and allies. Dr. McCreight emphasizes that the “Havana Syndrome” technology is not lethal but rather causes pain, nausea, loss of balance, memory problems and other negative effects to the brain on those who are victimized by it. He also cites that experts and authorities have an arduous time in detecting the suspect technology used to cause the syndrome. It appears thus far



that a mix of nano-pulsed RF microwave along with some ultrasound acoustic waves lead to the symptoms.

Lastly, Dr. McCreight notes that there is a variety of different and interesting media reports on the topic, as well as published medical studies and asks that the audience take a look themselves.

After delving into “Havana Syndrome”, Dr. McCreight begins to discuss how the syndrome and related forms of cognitive warfare can properly be termed “neurostrike.” It will prove an ongoing threat to the United States and allies until or unless it is identified and stopped. He claims that an era of continuing cognitive warfare has arrived, and it begs the strategic question of how to defeat and defend against it. The neurostrike threat is real and symbolizes an array of cognitive warfare technologies which can inflict genuine injuries and it challenges all allied nations to devise technologies to identify and nullify it.

- Mr. John Strand , CEO, Strand Consulting, Denmark (virtual)

Fortunately, Mr. John Strand, CEO of Strand Consulting, joined the forum from his home in Denmark via Zoom. Unlike Dr. Bennett and Dr. McCreight, Mr. Strand really hones in on cyber-attacks and how criminals are moving from hacking the government to the private sector - a cornerstone to the



American way and democracy. He first touches on how the entry barrier to create warfare and chaos continues to lessen. Eventually, everything will be connected in one way or another. He cites that an example is 5G; 5G is here to stay and it serves as an accelerator for criminals all over the world to hack into allied systems. Despite his focus on 5G and the cloud, Mr. Strand emphasizes that the hardware of cybersecurity is the blind spot.

Regarding China, Mr. Strand explains that any personal information, either stolen or given to China voluntarily, is accessible by the Chinese Communist Party, as any firm or entity under Chinese rule by law must hand over any or all its information to the Party. This data also helps China with further hacking. Mr. Strand mentions, too, that enemies especially like to wreak havoc upon the USA and allies, through ransomware hacks such as the Norsk Hydro Hack, the Maersk Hack, Oticon Hack, and even the Colonial Pipeline Hack - all attacked and shut down for days.

That being said, Mr. Strand notes the Federal Communications Commission is making strides in putting restrictions on equipment authorizations to other countries and their companies. The USA cannot take chances in the compromise of security.

Panel 3. - Human Trafficking/Illicit Finance.



- Ms. Anne Basham, Chief Executive Officer at Anti-Trafficking International (ATI)

To kick off the third panel, Anne Basham, CEO at Anti-Trafficking International, introduces the crowd to the issues surrounding human trafficking and illicit finance. Ms. Basham first touches upon the crisis in Afghanistan. After the devastating decision to withdraw from the country, the US left millions of young girls and women to the tenacious and abhorrent Taliban. Since the exit, poor and destitute families either sell their young daughters, or the Taliban just takes them. Ms. Basham explains that some are

as young as 8 years old, and there will be an estimated 110 million child and forced marriages within the next decade globally. Though most often just see human trafficking as a humanitarian crisis, it also is a financial crisis for the US and its allies.

Ms. Basham goes on to say that if the USA and its allies stopped human trafficking today, more than \$4 Trillion could be saved by 2030. The issue not only transcends a humanitarian crisis, but it transcends a financial crisis too. Human trafficking and the funds gained from it escalate into a security issue. The funds that thugs and terrorists gain from it help them fund their weapons, vehicles, gas, and other operations - putting the USA at serious risk.

Ms. Basham then finishes her portion of the forum on a better note, claiming that the 1st member of notorious ISIS has been charged with both genocide and human trafficking thanks to the Germans. On top of that, we here at the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum have drafted a letter to the UN to bring human trafficking as the central, priority issue at the next meeting in September in NYC. Ms. Basham concludes, "At the end of the day, there are changes that all parliamentarians can make in all countries to end modern slavery and human trafficking.

- Hon. Karen Bradley, Member of UK Parliament and Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery (United Kingdom)

Hon. Karen Bradley, a member of the UK Parliament and the Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery, joins the forum and offers keen insight to the panel. Ms. Bradley begins with a short background of her work with the British government, specifically in her work on the Modern Slavery Act in junction with former PM Teresa May. Ms. Bradley continues to say that at first she thought it would be nearly impossible to pass such an act in such



a large country, but through persistence she prevailed. It shows that in all countries, all parliamentarians can bring real action and success in such matters.

After touching on her success in the British Parliament, Ms. Bradley makes the interesting and distinct point that human trafficking is too often seen through immigration or an humanitarian crisis (similar to Ms. Basham), when in reality the profits and finances from it prove to cause the most world-wide trouble. Human trafficking is a financial crime, and it is used to exploit money in every single town, city, and country in the world.

Ms. Bradley then enters into how the USA and its allies can work to stop such a business model. First, she says that the Allies need to identify exactly what sectors and fields these criminals are benefiting from, so the Allies can seize the criminals' assets. Next, Ms. Bradley says the hardest part of the work is bringing to light the criminals' supply chains. Even large American corporations need to be investigative, transparent, and specific in their supply chains, because at root many of the victims of human trafficking end up in the factories producing the raw materials for such companies. Upon such investigating, allied governments can use data and financial modeling to trace where slavery may be occurring. Ms. Bradley pleads how getting victims to plead/admit they are slaves is so important, as then the testimonies can help allies find and prosecute the criminals.

To finish, Ms. Bradley touches on the intersection of all issues. Human trafficking is the center point and intersection of terrorism, climate change, illicit finance, deforestation, and most other foreign, non-governmental issues. If the USA and allies can spend more on human trafficking prevention, such countries can save so much in the long run, because all other issues slowly disappear. Ms. Bradley ends with a quote on the outside statue of the National Archive Building - "Eternal Vigilance is the price of liberty."

- Mr. Joseph Humire, Executive Director, Center for a Secure Free Society



To continue the discussion, Mr. Joseph Humire begins by talking about how he normally talks about how terrorism and illicit finance, but over time he has come to realize that human trafficking is not at all just a humanitarian issue. He delves into the fact that there are more than 1.7 million encounters and apprehensions at the Southern Border this year. A new record to date. Then he proposes the numbers that there are nearly 7,000 border encounters a day - 4x the capacity of border facilities.

After introducing the border situation, Mr. Humire brings the issue of the "Special Interest Alien" (SIA) to the table. He defines them as irregular migrants travelling from all parts of the world, specifically from 35 countries that have a "high density of terrorists." Especially over the past 4 years, there has been a surge in these people, much coming

from Latin America. In fact, says Mr. Humire, in 2020 US law enforcement arrested 66 human-smuggling facilitators, and he also cited that these facilitators make over 10-15k per migrant, which equals about \$350 m a year.

Mr. Humire continues to cite a case study from Venezuela. He lays out how the country operates the largest humanitarian crisis on the Western Hemisphere.

1. SIMA contact facilitators.
2. For \$5k, they issue a new passport to migrant and send them to Mexico.
3. Next, SIMA contacts state airlines and sets up the flights
4. Migrants connect to facilitators in Mexico, who bring them across border.
5. New, illegal passports are shipped to an address for the immigrants to pick up.

Mr. Humire then touches on the convergence of international terrorist organizations and trans-continental criminal organizations. Just as Ms. Bradley said that human trafficking was the intersection of all issues, Mr. Humire says that human smugglers themselves now serve as the logistical centerpiece, as terrorist and criminal organizations align due to logistics. Terrorists have a political motive, and criminals have a financial motive. In the end, they all, though, are what Mr. Humire calls the “Three F’s”: financiers, fixers, and facilitators. Lastly, Mr. Humire offers some solutions: the USA should potentially insert Venezuela onto that list of interest for the DHS. Also, Humire just thinks that more time should be spent on issues such as these.

- Hon. John Richmond, Former U.S. Ambassador at Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Person

To finish the panel, Hon. John Richmond, former U.S. Ambassador at Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Person, offers three policy trends, then some solutions for hope. First, Richmond makes sure to point out, similar to the others, that Human Trafficking is a crime of coercion and finance. It is an act very distinct from human smuggling, as human smuggling includes borders and sometimes can be a willing situation.



Hon. Richmond first introduces his first policy trend. He claims that illicit finance floats, therefore the USA and its allies can often track money to get a trail. The Allies can look at ledgers of countries and the hubs of such brothels. In order to do this, the Allies can use algorithms to scrape and see where the money lies. Once that is known, Hon. Richmond

suggests that the Allies need to find out whether the people are trafficked through coercion or voluntarily. Access to financial flows and information is needed.

Next, Hon. Richmond describes the second policy trend - goods that are made by forced labor. Though banned in 1930, many companies, sometimes unknowingly, employ supply chains that root themselves back to other countries where forced labor permeates. After some tampering with the original bill in 2015, Hon. Richmond explains that slow progress was made in helping companies break down their supply chains. Lastly, Hon. Richmond tells the audience that since the US began to block goods made with forced labor, the new NAFTA agreement and the EU has made strides in revealing information on where, what, and how Allied nations' supply chains operate.

Hon. Richmond's final policy trend lies in "disclosure to diligence." As he stated earlier in his discussion, companies in states and other countries need to first disclose the details of their supply chains, and once they have investigated and disclosed their supply chains, due diligence must be brought to companies who discover human trafficking within their chains.

Hon. Richmond makes the final argument that poverty does not cause human trafficking, but rather is correlated with it. Traffickers target the vulnerable because they are the easiest to coerce. Hon. Richmond finishes by saying that the root cause of human trafficking is the traffickers, and causation and correlation are not the same.

Special Remarks.

- U.S. Senator Larry Pressler



Senator Pressler first addresses the crowd, and he states his enthusiasm for how long the forum has been able to run. He cites how important it is to world safety that world leaders and parliamentarians come together to meet on foreign policy.

From his days back in Vietnam and Congress, Senator Pressley begins to discuss the difference between "hard power" and "soft power." Yes, in the past the United States and Allies have used soft power to and policy change to try to slowly influence unstable countries and regions into the realm of democracy; yes, in the past United States and Allies have used hard power to directly fight and take land in the name of democracy too. Regardless, Senator Pressley makes the important point that for the United States and Allies to find true success in establishing an influence in power in foreign lands, they must use a calculated and strategic combination of both.

Lastly, Senator Pressley commends China in their ability to exert influence in Africa. Africa is indeed one of the fastest growing regions in the world, and the Chinese surely notice this. As they gradually help African countries build infrastructure and government/public institutions, the Chinese become more important in regions, and Africans slowly begin to rely on them more and more. Pressler finishes with the idea that African dependence is Chinese power.

- Dr. Hamad Al Muftah, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Qatar

Right before the break for lunch, Dr. Hamad Al Muftah speaks on behalf of the people of Qatar. He tells the audience that he only has two short remarks.



First, Dr. Al Muftah admits that he is not the keenest on cybersecurity in the crowd, but he and his colleagues have used all their skills in Qatar to bring extreme security efforts and measures as the World Cup inches near in his country. He then thanks Congressman Pittenger for the opportunity to speak, and just like others before he emphasizes how important it is that parliamentarians from across the world come together to discuss terrorism, illicit finance, cyber-attacks, among other security threats.

Lastly, Dr. Al Muftah pays respect for Sir David Amess and his friends and family. Upon a brief explanation of Sir Amess's contributions to the forum, Qatar, and the world, the audience engages in thirty seconds of silence for the Knight.

“Religious Freedom for All or Genocide”.

- U.S. Senator Sam Brownback, Former Ambassador for International Religious Freedom

To reconvene the parliamentarians after lunch, Senator Brownback joins the forum. Right away, the Senator dives into his message: “Without religious freedom for everyone, there will be huge security problems that will be the clash of civilizations and result in genocide in some places.” After repeating the theme (the quotation above) for his discussion a few slow times, Senator Brownback begins.



First, Senator Brownback pays his respects to his friend and fellow Kansas Senator Bob Dole, who recently died the day before.

Then, Senator Brownback cites Article 18 from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in which 192 member countries signed. 80% of people worldwide live under the declaration. For how many member countries have signed the document into place, way too many humans live under religious oppression, oppressive governments, and even modern slavery today.

“Who actually stands up for religious freedom?” Senator Brownback then asks. Yes, Americans and other Allied countries stand for religious freedom and the principles that come with it, but at the end of the day it is the people themselves in such countries that make a difference. Senator Brownback cites that the USA and its Allies need a global grass roots movement against religious oppression and human trafficking if the world wants to see a difference.

Senator Brownback finishes his segment in the forum. He claims that with the internet, 5G, AI, among many other marvels of technology, the entire world is converging on itself, and a clash of cultures and nations is inevitable. For the world to set a general base for democracy, religious freedom in all communities is necessary.

Panel 4. - Abusive practices in global economic expansion.

Opening Remarks: Congressman David Rouzer, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

To initiate the panel on Abusive Practices in Global Economic Expansion, Congressman Rouzer offered some remarks. Congressman Rouzer, Mr. Pottinger, and the others on the panel take a hard stance against China and its recent infringement and violation of human rights.

Congressman Rouzer makes the claim that especially after covid, the USA and its Allied forces even more realize that communist countries simply do not have and abide by the same value systems as the West does. To further his argument, Congressman Rouzer cites the recent action in Hong Kong and Taiwan. As the communist giant continues to expand its influence, China especially takes interest in Hong Kong and Taiwan, both long-time allies.



On top of their infringements in lands close to themselves, Congressman Rouzer cites China's recent attempt at a foothold in the Atlantic, and even its new missile. When looking at the culmination of each problem, supply chains sit at the top.

Congressman Rouzer further addresses that the USA cannot too much rely on China for supplies, the USA needs to develop support for its basic needs, and needs to take an aggressive approach on China before it is too late.

Congressman Rouzer proposes to set up a committee to address such problems.

- Hon. Matt Pottinger, Former Deputy National Security Advisor (virtual)



Hon. Pottinger joins the forum via zoom, and he continues Congressman Rouzer's theme of staying both tough and aware on China. First, Hon. Pottinger asserts that China is not merely an authoritarian regime, but rather totalitarian. President Xi continues to expand the ruling party's role in all aspects of Chinese life, culture and the economy.

Hon. Pottinger recommends parliamentarians focus on three areas: limiting the flow of capital, technology, and data to China. The West needs to ensure that we never become dependent on China for the manufacture of semiconductors, for example.

- Mr. Milos Ivkovic, MA, LL.M., LL.M., International Arbitrator / Advisor to Governments



Mr. Ivković commenced his speech by acknowledging the dependence of virtually all governments and sovereigns on direct foreign investments. Such dependence, as witness by crystalized records of evidence, has been repeatedly weaponized by abusive governments and corrupt regimes to illicitly

appropriate host countries' essential structural elements, such as infrastructure, energy, and natural resources.

Mr. Ivković at that stage noted the critical importance of recognizing and strictly regulating illicit investments. While the definition of illicit investments depends on each country's present challenges and structurally important industries, public international law makes a distinction between ab initio illicit investments, i.e., investments achieved through illicit means (e.g., corruption) and investments used to further illicit purposes or otherwise employing illicit means (e.g., predatory loans, environmental violations, human rights abuses, intellectual property crimes, national security relevant issues such as

infrastructural control, energy independence, ownership over natural resources, etc.). If not addressed, both types of illicit investments may lead to significant limitations to each affected country's sovereignty and independence.

Therefore, Mr. Ivković invited the parliamentarians to confront the threat by examining and enacting legislation and forming administrative bodies which would prevent negative national security implications of foreign investments in domestic companies or operations. For those allied nations who do not have the political or economic power to confront abusive illicit investments singlehandedly, Mr. Ivković reiterated the importance of joining and protecting the alliances which could form a common defense mechanism.

- Dr. Roslyn Layton, Founder ChinaTech Threat



To begin her portion of the panel, Dr. Roslyn Layton first delves into her work with her company, ChinaTech Threat - dedicated to identifying and studying the threats that the Peoples' Republic of China poses to the free world. She then explains her inspiration for starting the group, and the challenges and benefits of the group.

Next, Dr. Layton thanks Congressman Pittenger for his work with the Foreign Investment Risk and Review Modernization Act of 2018. Dr. Layton continues to discuss how all Americans agree that China poses a threat to the USA, but it is not a simple friend vs. foe battle. Many businesses and economies thrive off of both the United States' and China's economy, so the debate goes much deeper. Recently, China has been taking advantage of their relations with the USA, and cleverly uses intellectual property theft and investments into the US as ways to gain a cunning edge. Dr. Layton further explains that FIRRMA, which Rep. Pittenger sponsored, has been an important policy reform. New challenges arise, though, in apps such as Tik Tok and others that limitlessly and indirectly supply the Chinese government with valuable American information.

After adding to the earlier discussion on semiconductor chips, Dr. Layton finishes her discussion citing recent success in the Secure Equipment Act, in which the FCC can deny equipment authorizations to entities deemed national security threats by the relevant national security agency. These policy ideas offer inspiration for Allies to address technological threats from China.

Panel 5. - Illicit finance, financial integrity software solutions, biological warfare.

- Mr. John Walsh, President and CEO of SightSpan Inc.



Mr. Walsh initiated the panel by introducing all the expert speakers who will be addressing this panel, and then he proceeded moderating the panel and requested Mr. Timm to take the floor and start with his presentation.

- Mr. Craig Timm, Managing Director, Financial Crimes Compliance Executive at Bank of America

To start his portion of the discussion, Mr. Timm explains how his main job with Bank of America (and what can greatly help public institutions) is to “follow the money.” Mr. Timm first states that \$2 Trillion serve as proceeds to criminal activity each year, and if one counts money laundering, tax evasion, and other forms of financial-based crime not accounted for, the number jumps to \$8.5T, which is around 8 to 9% of global GDP. Mr. Timm states that the financial sector spends around 180 billion annually on such measures, so why are there no solutions?



Mr. Timm then jumps into the fact that the financial sectors and others need to define exactly what they want to achieve. He cites that Bank of America spreads its counter-criminal finance wings too thin, resulting in little gains in any sector. Also, many of the world’s top financial institutions operate in completely different silos than financial criminals. Understanding criminal methods and where they operate is crucial to preventing illicit finance. Mr. Timm then proposed three different solutions.

First, Mr. Timm notes that the USA and its Allies need to develop national priorities, that way both the private and public sectors can allocate most of their funds to only a few different places where an impact will be made. Next, Mr. Timm proposes information

sharing. Through different countries and institutions sharing all in which they have learned, they can make faster progress. The private sector is just as important as the public sector. Lastly, with all of the cutting-edge technology in the hands of Americans and Europe, the US and its Allies can use it to make a difference.

- Mr. Mariano Federici, Managing Director at K2 Integrity, Former Chair, Egmont Group



Next, Mr. Mariano Federici speaks on behalf of Risk of Corruption stemming from Latin America. To him and his peers, political context greatly matters in the efforts in line to stop financial crime. Mr. Federici then dives into recent troubles in Latin America. Democracy in countries such as Cuba, Venezuela, and Nicaragua have has greatly backtracked in recent years; in its place, totalitarianism has expanded and only continues to grow in

foothold. The US and its Allies need a plan to end such a virus.

As of late, such countries backed by illicit finance seem to operate in primitive manners. Mr. Federici cites that it is greatly obvious to even the most uninformed on the situation through a simple question: “Where does all of their money come from?” As anti-American Chavismo continues to run through Latin America, countries like China, Iran, and Russia also hop onto the opportunity and exert more of their own influence. Mr. Federici finishes in his predicament to help parliamentarians everywhere, especially in Latin America, continue to fight against countries directly using crime to fund their evil strategies.

- Dr. Steve Bennett, Ph.D., Director Global Public Sector at SAS; former Director of the National Biosurveillance Integration Center, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

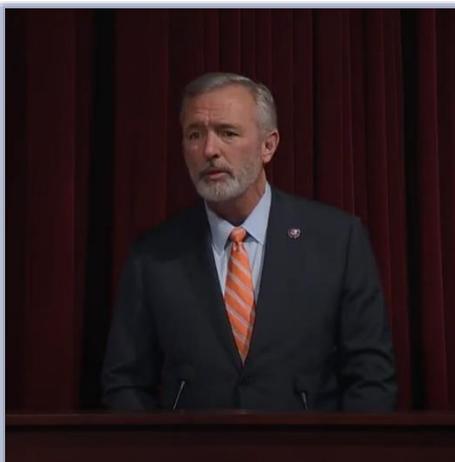
To finish the panel, Dr. Bennett once again joined to speak on biological warfare. First, Dr. Bennett introduces the audience to an interesting point in history, as he cites the largest bioterrorism attack in the history of the USA. Dr. Bennett goes back to the Rajneesh movement in Oregon in the 1980s. In short, for political and electoral purposes, the Rajneesh used salmonella infections among others in salad bars and food stations across the town in an attempt to rig elections through the eliminations of voters. They killed almost 800 for their cause.



Dr. Bennett then goes on to discuss the attributes of bioterrorism. First, there is a very low barrier to entry - individuals, groups, and of course countries can access the needed materials, and then execute their plan on their own. There is proof of Asymmetric use. With Chinese and Russian capabilities, Dr. Bennett cites the importance of Allied science in staying up to date in their studies.

Lastly, the USA and Allies need to stay alert regarding viruses “passed from animal to man.” Dr. Bennet cites that in the relatively recent past, SARS 2013, MERS 2012-2013, the Spanish Flu, and China’s H7N9 have all taken their toll on the world, and Allied scientists have done a pretty decent job in containing them and developing treatments for them. That being said, new technologies such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, and other investigative tactics need to be used to keep up with new viruses and their variants. Lastly, Dr. Bennett cites that if Allies can use contact tracing and patterns in trade and commerce, humans may be able to trace viruses’ destinations before the actual virus gets there.

Panel 6. – Illicit trade, trade-based money laundering, adversarial foreign investments, adversarial threats.



Opening Remarks: Congressman John Katko, Ranking Member, Homeland Security Committee Congressman Katko of Syracuse, New York, first thanks Congressman Pittenger for the opportunity to talk at the forum. First, the Congressman coins his line for his talk - Economic Security is Homeland Security. He argues that right now is the tipping point in the US’ history in regard to foreign intelligence. He cites some facts about the Southern border; for example, each person pays about \$4-5k to cross the border illegally, and those in cartels and such that help such people enter the

USA illegally earn up to \$350k each year, and cartels make up to \$750 million - \$1 billion a month. Not only is the border a problem though; China poses the biggest threat to foreign intelligence in the USA.

Congressman Katko claims the US needs to counter, curb, and compete. First, the US and Allies need to counter China’s infiltrating efforts through smart policy. Then, once brought to the table, Allies need to curb China’s long-term efforts. For example, the Chinese government pays universities in the United States millions each semester in order for students to just study in the US, then take their talent back home. The USA needs to learn how to play the long game, then win at it. Lastly, Congressman Katko argues, Allies and China will be in a stage of competition. In coordination with the Department of Homeland Security, entities across the country need to work to end Chinese theft of American innovation, and work to play the long game to win.

- Mr. Alejo Campos, Regional Director – CEO, Caribbean, Bermuda and Latin America Crime Stoppers

First, Mr. Campos offers his gratitude to Congressman Pittenger not only for the opportunity to speak, but for the many years in which they have worked together with the same aim to end illicit finance and other forms of crime in South America. Next, Mr. Campos offers some facts to the audience. 200m people represent corruption and poverty across Latin America, Also, there are 1.9m people who suffer in labor, and 40k are children. There are 23 different Ganges in Panama, and MS-13 has slowly grown throughout South America.



Mr. Campos explains the need for resource-filled countries to offer their assistance to countries like Panama, as it is beneficial to all parties. China already has its hand in play, and the USA needs to do the same.

Mr. Campos ends with a brief explanation of the supply chains of the cartels and gangs, then he explains every country in the world faces such threats. Illicit trade is universal and needs to be treated as so. At that, through parliamentarians and all global governments uniting, progress can be made against illicit trade and trade-based money laundering.

Prof. Celina Realuyo, Professor of Practice, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, National Defense University



To begin the panel on illicit trade, trade-based money laundering, and adversarial investments and threats, Prof. Realuyo speaks about maritime trade that constitutes 80% of global trade and is vulnerable to illicit trafficking and criminal exploitation – a fact that all countries must take into consideration in national security issues.

Prof. Realuyo discusses how security, prosperity, and governance are directly threatened by global illicit trafficking exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and global supply chain disruptions. She points out that human trafficking and drug trafficking between South America and the USA takes place in the maritime as well as land domain and that China,

Iran, Russia, and other external actors are playing an increasing role in illicit trafficking in the region. The situation in Venezuela is worsening under the Maduro regime with the assistance of these external actors. Competition with these countries has always existed, but now is developing in an evolving battlefield. Now that all countries face a convergence of national security threats, the USA and partner countries need to expand their understanding of illicit trade, leverage financial intelligence to combat illicit trafficking including in the maritime domain, and promote international cooperation to combat enemies.

- Dr. Mario Mauro, Former Italian Minister of Defense, Expert in defense and security, and former VP of the European Parliament

To begin his talk, Dr. Mario Mauro of Italy establishes that his goal is to share information, documentation, opinions, and anything else he may know about the European Union's new rules against money laundering and illicit finance. He explains that actually because of recent efforts, not just in Europe but across the globe, new logistics and strategies on how to combat illicit finance and terrorism have been flowing through the European Union. Dr. Mauro further explains, just as many others explain earlier in the forum, that the logistics and proposals that the EU proposes are not unique to Europe, but greatly contribute to global safety and the efforts currently made by the Americans, South Americans, and others.



Dr. Mauro then lays out the general six ideas of the new legislation, developed by the EU. First, the EU must stick to its current laws, of course, and execute them the best they can. Secondly, a single, universal rulebook must be developed for all EU countries. The second point ties into point three, in that the EU needs unilateral supervision. Fourthly, explains Dr. Mauro, the EU needs to establish various support mechanisms in case of issues. Lastly, information exchange and internal strengthening will prove helpful in the European Union's new framework to combat illicit finance and money laundering. Dr. Mauro briefly lays out the structure of the committee that would be formed by new legislation.

Dr. Mauro finishes, claiming that the EU needs to "follow the money", and many nations need to work with the European Union in its efforts.

- Dr. Emanuele Ottolenghi, PhD, Senior Fellow, Foundation for Defense of Democracies



To finish off the panel, Dr. Ottolenghi thanks the parliamentarians for the opportunity to address them, as he has enjoyed the privilege since 2015. He begins by wanting to talk about something a little different than the others. Dr. Ottolenghi wants to address the convergence between organized crime and terrorist organizations across the globe. The convergence exists in that terrorist organizations provide the platform to move money that local drug cartels do not. Dr. Ottolenghi notes that though very different motives, their journeys to their said motives align.

First, Dr. Ottolenghi attributes the convergence to globalization. Through shifting drugs and other valuable objects across the globe, criminal organizations and terrorists can greatly assist each other in liquidizing cash into formal means. Cash, drugs, cars, precious metals, and other objects flow through many countries across the globe, and that is where the convergence and its consequences pose a threat to everyone across the globe.

Lastly, Dr. Ottolenghi offers some syndicates to the audience. First, he offers a macro and micro example of the convergence in Paraguay trade data and the Lebanese Hizballah. Then, he claims that the first solution to the convergence is the need for more prosecution and harsher sentencing. Then, governments need more law and action, as any criminals do not fear the white-collar punishment for their crimes. Lastly, governments, especially the USA, need to offer more transparency. If other countries across the globe want to listen to the United States, the United States needs to be more open about its operations.

Remarks.



- Congressman French Hill, House Financial Services Committee

Fortunately, Congressman French Hill made it to the forum despite a delayed flight. Congressman Hill jumps right into his discussion, as he notes his status as the Republican Representative to the UN in New York. He sits on a panel dedicated to adjusting the 2010 UN Resolution on Human Trafficking, and Congressman Hill notes that he has learned very much from the experience and is eager to work with

fellow congressmen in Washington. Next, Congressman Hill notes his recent trip to the Vatican, where he also discussed the issues surrounding human trafficking with the clergy there.

From both experiences, Congressman Hill explains that the United States and Allies need to connect illicit finance and human trafficking. Both are greatly intertwined and investigating both can greatly help law enforcement draw connections.

Lastly, Congressman Hill notes that many voters misconceive the problem of illicit finance and human trafficking. After discussing an anecdote from his own state of Kentucky, the Congressman emphasizes that the issues do not just exist in some foreign land across the Atlantic, but right at home, in the USA, Europe, Asia, and all continents.

To finish his talk, Congressman Hill cites his hopes that the Republicans retake the House in 2022, as he believes the party will fairly address impeding China, human trafficking issues, and of course illicit finance more than the current congress.

Panel 7. – Enhancing cooperation of Parliaments, Best Practices.

- Hon. Pavel Popescu, Member of Parliament, Romania



Hon. Popescu of Romania starkly begins the panel, explaining that each parliamentarian, each person present, has a great influence on their government; each just needs to fight and have a purpose. Then, Hon. Popescu cites a recent quote from the Wall Street Journal from former Director of National Intelligence - John Ratcliffe. In the quote, Ratcliffe mentions that based on his extensive knowledge, China poses the biggest threat to democracy since the Second World War.

Hon. Popescu takes great alarm to this statement. The Romanian claims that China has a plan, and the Allies do not, and that needs to change. Popescu then notes that though voters always tend to care most about the economy, what should matter most is the direction of democracy.

Hon. Popescu finishes his portion of the panel by explaining that Congressmen in the United States and parliamentarians in Europe all need to pay great attention to one another, and each needs to work to his or her best ability in order to build a sustainable wall against China.

- Hon. Marco Zanni, Italian MEP



Hon. Zanni first introduces himself as an Italian from the European Parliament. Then, the Italian goes to speak about how dialogue is one of the most important assets of the human race, and that parliamentarians (especially from all over the world) need to use it to their advantage. After serving 8 years in the European Parliament, Hon Zanni wants to speak with others in an attempt to bring about change and a safe future in economics, defense, intelligence, and many other topics. Though everyone has a different opinion, Hon. Zanni has learned that different opinions and backgrounds bring the most effective plans and results.

Lastly, due to the distance, difference, and complexities of Allied governments, dialogue, cooperation, and delegation are the only answers to achieve the most with each different country's interest. To end his piece, Hon. Zanni once again emphasized conversation and how though different, all democracies and allies share the same values and goals.

- Hon. Karen Bradley, MP, United Kingdom

Hon. Bradley highlights that the meaning of the word parliament is rooted in the Nordic-French word "speak." Hon. Bradley then emphasizes the importance of such forums and meetings between world power, powers who all align on the same basis of values. Only through discussion, understanding, and cooperation will progress be made, and the world be a safer place.



- Mr. Denis Zvizdić, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Before the final panel took the stage Congressman Pittenger acknowledged, Mr. Zvizdić's diligence and attention in his note taking throughout the forum.

To start, Mr. Zvizdić makes the important notation that more than ever, globalization and the internet has brought the world even closer together; all parliamentarians need to take advantage of such assets. With such parliamentarians present, Mr. Zvizdić notes, the forum has only the best representatives at hand, and the forum needs to take advantage of such an opportunity.

Mr. Zvizdić brings the issues of his own country, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to the table. The Speaker mentions how the nation consists of different religions, races, and cultures that live together out of solidarity and mutual respect. Unfortunately, tension has gotten worse, and the government and all of its values are crumbling as of now. Mr. Zvizdić claims it is one of the saddest moments he has seen since the 1990s, and he begs upon the United States for guidance and assistance. Mr. Zvizdić greatly thanks Congressman Pittenger for the opportunity to attend and speak at the forum, and he hopes to continue such cordial relations in the future.

- Hon. Guests from the Democratic Republic of Congo



For the first time, the forum takes high gratitude in hosting representatives from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Upon speaking, Congo's representatives express great gratitude, and they too emphasize an importance in working together, sharing ideas, and networking with other democracies. Through cooperation, Allies can help the DRC move even further into a democratic future. The Hon. Guests from the

Democratic Republic of Congo offer great thanks to Congressman Pittenger for the opportunity to attend the forum.

Remarks.

- Hon. Alejandro Giammattei, President of Guatemala



Before President Giammattei takes the stage, Guatemala sends a video to the forum, outlying the recent progress in fighting cartels and organized crime in the country.

Congressman Pittenger proudly presents a fellow ally and fighter for freedom, President Alejandro Giammattei, he first greets the distinguished guests, then thanks the United States, specifically the forum, for the opportunity to speak on matters of such importance to himself and his country. The President then explains how Covid-19 greatly affected Guatemala, just as it did to every other country. Though a challenge, President Giammattei thanks the USA for covid vaccinations. The United States and

Guatemala have been great allies for many years, and both countries find value in such relations. The President hopes such relations continue into the future.

Regarding the fight against cartels and drugs, Hon. Giammattei claims that the Guatemalan security forces have seized more than 12 tons worth of drugs and over \$176 million. Several times both the United States and Europe have applauded Guatemala on such efforts.

That being said, for the progress to continue, the President asks for more tools, aircraft, and other assets that can help erode more of the cartels. Also, he insisted on the need to work on reducing the demand for drugs. The work is not done. The huge amounts of power, violence, and influence the cartels have over voters put election integrity in danger, as well as the fight against corruption and impunity, since drug trafficking is the main source of corruption. With a growing economy, stabilizing bank, and growing job sector, the future of Guatemala must be bright and must be protected.

President Giammattei asks for the continued support of the US and Europe, and hopes that a fruitful connection between the three entities can help all thrive into the future. He ends with the line: "We need more trade, than aid." In the future, Guatemala may be the only US ally in the region. Their value is of great importance.

Closing Remarks.

- Hon. Robert Pittenger, Chairman, Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum

Hon. Robert Pittenger concluded the forum by thanking everyone who have attended the forum and watched the live stream.

Pictures from the Forum











Article about the Forum

<https://chinatechthreat.com/international-lawmakers-join-ctt-in-washington-to-learn-about-chinas-tech-threats/>