

20 F St. NW – Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20001
United States of America



Mobile/WhatsApp/Signal/WeChat:
704 307 3500
Skype: live:RobertPittenger
Robert@PI-SF.com
www.PI-SF.com

CONGRESSMAN ROBERT PITTENGER
Chairman
Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum

Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum
106 Dirksen Building – United States Senate - Washington, D.C.
December 6 – 7, 2022

SUMMARY REPORT



Ominous Security Challenges from Adversarial Nation States (9:00 – 9:30)

- Ambassador John Bolton, former National Security Advisor

Ambassador John Bolton stressed that it is critical that parliamentarians from all over the democratic world have opportunities to exchange views on the entire range of issues that the world is confronting now, but especially on national security issues. Ambassador Bolton expressed that he believes political leaders do not spend enough time talking about national security, despite its importance to our country and our friends and allies. He mentioned that, because of the threats that the world is facing now, it's really important that we get to know each other and that we have communications at all levels, but especially at the legislative level.

War in Ukraine (9:30 - 10:45)

- Hon. Victor Gonzalez, Member of Congress of Deputies of Spain

Hon. Victor Gonzalez expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak about what is currently happening in Ukraine and expressed concern about how it is possible that such a large number of nations in the world are willing to accept the violation of a state of law from 1949, where the nations' borders were determined. Hon. Gonzalez stated that Ukrainians have been extremely brave and urged us to stand by them regardless of national unity.

- Hon. Jaak Madison, Member of the European Parliament from Estonia

Hon. Jaak Madison shared, through pictures, the history of Russia and the current situation that Ukraine is going through. He commented that he has often heard, particularly in Europe, that Russia is no longer the Soviet Union, but if we just look at the facts and the invasions and attacks by Russia after 1991, there isn't a difference. Hon. Madison lamented that the fear of having thousands more victims forces the only solution to be more military AIDS, to end the war there, and to demonstrate to Russia that there is no point in launching any further aggression for the next 10 to 20 years. Finally, Hon. Madison stated that he does not believe we can permanently change the Russian mentality generation system, but that we can at the very least avoid the next war in the next case.

- Hon. Amb. Volodymyr Arieu, Member of Ukraine Parliament

Hon. Amb. Volodymyr Arieu stated that the current events are taking place because Russia wishes to revert to the empire that existed prior to 1991. He expressed the view that Russia is a dying empire trying to survive and control its former territories, but the only thing it will achieve is a good process in the future. He called democratic world for unity of democratic states in fighting against aggression of dictator regimes and supply Ukraine with all necessary weapons and resources to defeat invaders that will stop spreading of aggressive interventions around the world.

- Hon. Yehor Cherniev, Member of Ukraine Parliament

Hon. Yehor Cherniev described the enemies that are against Ukraine now in addition to Russia: the cold winter and the missile strikes that have disabled their energy system, and they still cannot fully restore it. He stated that thousands of schools, kindergartens, and hospitals are still without power, heating systems, or water, as are millions of Ukrainians at home, but the Ukrainians are still willing to fight for victory. Hon. Cherniev expressed his gratitude for supporting and providing military support, financial support, and humanitarian support to Ukraine in this terrible war.

- Hon. Cristian Bacanu, Partner, Member of Parliament, Chamber of Deputies of Romania

Hon. Cristian Bacanu began his remarks by thanking the Ukrainian diplomats and politicians who spread their message around the world about their fight, because it is important to never forget what is happening with them.

He explained that it is relevant to understand how Vladimir Putin portrays himself: he strongly believes that he is the continuator of the Russian tsars, carrying out an imperialistic vision of the world that is in opposition with the international order that is based on rule of law.

Hon. Bacanu stated that he has no doubt that if we stick together and if we pass along the message that Russia cannot be trusted and its imperialistic ambitions must be defeated, Ukraine will win. He explained that we need to be vigilant in respect of Russia in the future, we must help the free civil society in that country, but we must not be naive thinking that this actor will change its posture anytime soon.

A united euro-atlantic community is exactly what Vladimir Putin does not want, because he bets that our differences are clearer than our convictions and values. We must prove that we stand by our values no matter what.

Illicit Finance (10:45 – 12:00)

- Senator Larry Pressler, Former United States Senator

Senator Pressler started the panel discussion by introducing the expert presenters and mentioning that Illicit Finance is a Key Subject to be discussed.

- Hon. Jerome Beaumont, Executive Secretary, Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence

Hon. Jerome Beaumont stated that financial intelligence units do three things: they receive information from reporting entities such as banks; they analyze and enrich that information; and they disseminate that information, primarily to law enforcement agencies but also to other agencies, it can be seen that the anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing chain begins with Reporting Entities. Hon. Beaumont explained that the Egmont Group is the only global organization that brings together 166 financial intelligence units. He also explained that the Egmont Group also provides capacity building through the Egmont Center for FIU Excellence and Leadership, or ECOFEL, and that since its establishment in 2018, this program has very successfully supported over 109 jurisdictions by providing innovative technical assistance and developing the very first and unique learning platform.

- Hon. Andreas Frank, AML/CFT advisor for the Bundestag, Council Europe and the European Parliament

Hon. Andreas Frank explained that hundreds of billions of Euros from Russia were laundered in the EU under the control of the Russian Secret Service (FSB) with the help of EU banks according the 2019 Council of Europe (CoE) resolution 2279. Money laundering on this scale is a serious threat to democratic stability, the rule of law and human rights according to the CoE. Hon. Frank stated that the fast-changing geopolitical situation requires a reassessment of the fight against illicit financial flows. Hon. Frank commented that the best non-conventional

weapon against the autocracies' aggressions would be the enforcement of an effective AML/CFT and sanction regime. He stated that there are good arguments that the war in Ukraine could have been prevented. Current estimates for money laundering worldwide stand at 4.2 \$ trillion. This is more than double of the worldwide military expenses every year. The huge illicit financial flows and money laundering are the new battlefields, according to Hon. Andreas Frank.

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

Prof. Celina Realuyo explained and showed through a PowerPoint presentation the gravity of the opioid crisis the U.S. is experiencing: the epidemic of synthetic drugs killed over 100,00 Americans just last year and is affecting other countries like Canada as well. Prof. Realuyo emphasized the key role China is playing as the supplier of fentanyl and pre-cursor chemicals for these drugs and in laundering millions of dollars of Mexican cartel drug proceeds. She highlighted on this illicit finance panel that there are no financial crimes that don't directly attack the health and welfare of our populations, and more importantly, and that this lucrative synthetic drug trade and epidemic is coming to all our countries; it's just a matter of time.

- Mr. Mariano Federici, Senior Managing Director, K2 Integrity

Mr. Mariano Federici explained three of the most relevant issues around global financial integrity: Russia sanctions, corruption, and crypto; he also explained the importance of partnerships to combat illicit finance, both in the public and private sectors. He commented that bank collaboration is fundamental to the success of such programs in the anti-corruption field, and the private sector is contributing by implementing a number of important preventive obligations such as customer due diligence obligations, particularly the identification and monitoring of PEP regulations regarding beneficial ownership identification, verification, and monitoring obligations, or the criminalization of foreign corrupt practices, among others.

Cybersecurity (12:00 – 1:15)

- Senator Thom Tillis, United States Senator

Senator Thom Tillis explained that it is essential to understand cyber threats because the smartest hackers use the simplest path to get into our systems to bring ransomware or

implement denial of service attacks, while the more sophisticated ones, as we've seen reported frequently, are going after our infrastructure. Senator Tillis stressed that there's no doubt that the U.S. is well prepared to face the threat, but it takes perseverance to understand all the elements. He believes that data security, breached data privacy, and different approaches need to be harmonized at some point so that we're better prepared to take on this challenge.

- Mr. N. MacDonnell Ulsch, Founder & Chief Analyst, Gray Zone Research & Intelligence-China Series

Mr. N. MacDonnell Ulsch expressed his concerns about China's plans. He explained that China's strategy is comprised of two massive, technologically sophisticated, and complex initiatives that are truly unprecedented in terms of their complexity, and each one strengthens China's economic, geopolitical, and military ambitions.

- Mr. Christopher Porter, Head of Threat Intelligence, Google Cloud

Mr. Christopher Porter discussed what cyber is and how it affects our lives. He explained that we are living in a revolutionary era with the invention of not just the internet but cyber-offensive tools as well, and if war is a continuation of politics through other means, it may turn out that most cyberwar is more akin to trench warfare in the long run. Mr. Porter expressed that it is important to be forward-leaning on the support we offer one another in the use of leading technological services, making sure those are available to all NATO and other democratic members.

- RT Hon Baroness Neville-Jones, DCMG, Member, House of Lords of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern

Hon. Baroness Neville-Jones commented that the UK has developed not just a cyber-security strategy but also something called an Equals Cyber Strategy. She explained the difference between them. She expressed the view that cyberspace has spread into every nook and cranny of life. It's defense, resilience at home, our economy, future competition, and the stability of our societies, both from external attack and internally in how we conduct our affairs. Hon. Baroness Neville-Jones also stated that national security is also the economic future and economic agenda, and she stressed that we have to protect both.

Global Supply Chain (2:00 – 3:15)

- Mr. Carl Delfeld, President, Hay Seward Economic Security Council- Managing Director, Blackthread, LLC

Mr. Carl Delfeld explained that supply chain security has been neglected for decades. He talked about Apple's issues in China with their production and their idea of planning to move production to other countries. He also mentioned the meeting in Arizona for the symbolic opening of a 12-billion-dollar semiconductor fab facility.

- Congressman David Rouzer, United States House of Representatives

Congressman David Rouzer commented that global supply chains, and the issues presented through the pandemic and beyond, deserve solutions, not only for the United States of America but for the whole world. A major issue among supply chains through the national and global security lens is the dependency on China, as Congressman Rouzer mentioned. The industrial components, pharmaceuticals, and critical goods derived from China present a clear danger to the United States and our allies when global events alter supply chains. The United States policy towards the Chinese Communist Party stands at a pivotal moment. Along with our allies, we must take coordinated and significant action to protect and diversify our supply chains.

- Mr. Derek Scissors, Senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI)

Mr. Derek Scissors mentioned his perspective on the global supply chain. He commented that the current supply chain organization, in which we minimize costs and, not coincidentally, maximize stock prices, is based on a global economy that does not exist now and will not exist indefinitely, and the primary reason for this is that China under Xi Jinping is not going to be a reliable partner now and will not be a reliable partner in the future.

Energy Security (3:15 – 4:30)

- Ms. Victoria Coates, Senior Research Fellow, International Affairs and National Security, Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom, The Heritage Foundation

Ms. Victoria Coates explained that after the invasion of Ukraine, we realized that energy is now more than a commodity; it has become a currency and a basic necessity, whose production is now out of most people's control. Ms. Coates also mentioned strategies to build a responsible

international energy security policy in which the United States' role could be harnessed to our benefit and the benefit of our partners and allies.

- Hon. Cristian Buşoi, Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy at the European Parliament

Hon. Cristian Buşoi stated that when Russia began an aggressive war against Ukraine, the world changed dramatically for Europe. He explained that in addition to the physical battles being fought on the Union's borders, there is an intangible but equally important battle being fought here in Europe: the energy war Russia is waging on us, which is already being felt at all levels of our societies and governance. Hon. Buşoi also expressed that the European Parliament fully supports and commits to pursuing synergies and shared foreign and security objectives through deeper cooperation in the framework of the EU-US transatlantic dialogue.

- Ambassador Carla Sands, Vice Chair, Center for Energy and Environment, America First Policy Institute - US Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark (ret.)

Ambassador Carla Sands explained that energy security is a constant balancing act between modern energy sources. She commented that our modern energy approach is largely influenced by the 1970s oil crisis, which was precipitated by the Arab Oil Embargo and the nuclear disasters at Chernobyl and Three Mile Island. She commented that in response to these events, many nations focused on mitigating supply disruptions by diversifying energy sources, supplies, and routes, including in the U.S. Ambassador Sands commented that we experienced an energy revolution through hydraulic fracturing, she stated that the United States is the global superpower of energy.

- Mr. Paul N. Watkins, JD, Fusion Law, Former Director of Innovation, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

Mr. Paul N. Watkins talked about the private sector and the private sector's push for ESG through financial institutions. He commented that there's a "radical change" with dramatic ramifications for the world and the electricity industry. He also explained that the assumption for Net Zero by 2050 is that the economy doubles energy usage and declines by 8%. He expressed his concern about the situation.

Human Trafficking (4:30 – 5:45)

- Congressman Burgess Owens, United States Representative

Congressman Burgess Owens explained that the way we fight and overcome evil is through participation in education. He commented that it's very easy for us to look at the environment we're in and think that everything's fine, that we're all safe, that nothing really bad can happen, and that's how evil introduces itself in those areas where we don't know any better, so it's really important to educate children and young people regarding the dangers that can happen anywhere and at any time.

- Ms. Anne Basham, CEO of Ascend Consulting, Chair of PI-SF Taskforce on Human Trafficking

Ms. Anne Basham stated that every country in the world is involved in modern slavery and that every country that is currently threatening the security of our world uses modern slavery to fund their operations. She lamented that according to a new report by the ILO, almost 50 million people are enslaved in some form of human trafficking globally. She expressed the view that any discussion about human trafficking prevention should not only focus on preventing potential victims but also on preventing potential buyers of human trafficking. She explained that there are ways to prevent and fight human trafficking globally, and since this happens everywhere, she urged the leaders of each country to join forces to fight against this big problem that grows every year.

- Hon. Tanya Gould, Vice President of the US Advisory Council

Hon. Tanya Gould explained that she's served the US federal government, sharing her lived experience as a human trafficking survivor to give insight into the world of trafficking. She explained that their labor is to give in-depth ideas and initiatives on how to deal with issues surrounding sex and labor trafficking; she expressed that when survivors are able to tell their stories from a place of wholeness, they help those who are allies understand more about what has happened in their experience. And that helps identify what went wrong and give input on what works.

- Arnold Viersen, Member of Parliament, Canada

MP Arnold Viersen talked about what Canada has done and is doing to fight human trafficking. He also mentioned that human trafficking in Canada is very much a growing and profitable

crime; 90 percent of the victims in Canada are female, and about 40 to 50 percent of them just come from our indigenous communities. MP Viersen also lamented that the majority of prostitution cases they handle involve victims who began prostitution as children under the age of 18. Finally, MP Viersen highlighted the importance of governments and law enforcement to target the demand that fuels human trafficking.

- Hon. Sonia Krimi, Former Member of Parliament, France

Hon. Sonia Krimi talked about child sexual exploitation. She explained that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in the United States received over 29 million reports as a result of COVID-19, of which 94 percent were from locations outside the United States. Hon. Krimi expressed that the use of online platforms to exploit children through online child sexual abuse has become a growing method of exploitation and trafficking. Most countries have national anti-trafficking laws, but fewer countries today have laws that protect children from online trafficking and sexual abuse. Hon. Krimi gave some basic recommendations to prevent and fight child sexual exploitation: what is illegal online should be illegal offline, and what is illegal offline should be illegal online. For this, Hon. Krimi recommended some points: first, providers of electronic services do not enable traffickers or those seeking harm to children; second, providers have clear rules and specific obligations for the detection of children; and third, providers have clear rules and specific obligations for the detection of children. To conclude her speech, Hon. Krimi requested that we keep working and try to work our hardest to fight against child sexual exploitation.

Trade-Based Money Laundering (9:00-10:15)

- Senator Bill Cassidy, United States Senator

Senator Cassidy mentioned that laundering causes transcontinental social disruption and transcontinental deaths. He commented that the United States lost 53 000 men over 10 years in Vietnam, but 100 000 Americans died last year from overdoses, and that means that we're losing almost double the number of people we lost in Vietnam. Senator Cassidy lamented that the deaths of so many people occur every year due to overdoses by the cartels. He emphasized that these are primarily drugs that have been shipped or mailed across our borders, and the cartels are now laundering those dollars with the potential for more to follow.

- Mr. John Cassara, Board Member, Global Financial Integrity

Mr. Cassara commented that trade-based money laundering is the least recognized, understood, and enforced money laundering methodology in the world. He mentioned that it's also the largest TBML involved with customs fraud and tax evasion, export incentive fraud, value-added tax fraud, capital flight, and the transfer of wealth offshore. He remarked that black markets make up a significant portion of the overall world economy. It is estimated that black markets average about 36 percent of the developing world's GDP and about 13 percent of GDP in developing countries.

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

Dr. Ottolenghi mentioned that trade-based money laundering is an ingenious but essentially simple way to move dirty money around. He also commented that trade-based money laundering is essentially the movement of value from point A to point B by using merchandise, which can be any merchandise in any volume, quantity, size, or form. Dr. Ottolenghi gave clear examples of trade-based money in different everyday situations, demonstrating how simple and dangerous this can be.

- Mr. Alejo Campos, Regional Director, Crime Stoppers, Americas and Caribbean

Mr. Campos expressed his concern about the criminal phenomenon that involves illicit trade and trade-based money laundering. He mentioned as an example that in Panama, more than 18% of the market is contraband, and the benefits include financial support for guns. Mr. Campos commented that corruption and kleptocracy are critical components of this operation; they send cocaine to Europe or Asia and receive a small amount of goods to launder the money, and at the same time, they sell the goods to support the daily criminal activities with the money from illicit markets. Finally, Mr. Campos emphasized that cooperation between the public and private sectors is very important to fight against illicit trade, human trafficking, and trade-based money laundering.

- Mr. Tom Cardamone, Director of Global Financial Integrity (GFI)

Mr. Cardamone mentioned the role that international trade and the global commercial shipping industry play in the hiding and laundering of illicit funds. He commented that two years ago, Global Financial Integrity did an in-depth study of financial crime in Latin America and the Caribbean. The results showed that trade-based money laundering was one of the top three concerns they had in the financial crime area. Mr. Cardamone explained that the concern is not only in Latin America and the Caribbean but across the globe too. He also stated that, while

global trade is the lifeblood of developing-country economies and, indeed, any economy, Global trade can also help launder proceeds and deliver all kinds of illicit or legitimate goods.

Cryptocurrency, Stablecoins and CBDCs (10:15-11:30)

- Mr. J.C. Boggs, Partner, King & Spalding LLP moderated the Panel
- Senator Tommy Tuberville, United States Senator

Senator Tuberville stressed that it's critical to continue to have these discussions because of the recent events in the last few weeks with cryptocurrency. He mentioned that the thing that we're going through right now is critical; it's probably one of the most critical things that we're going through right now to accomplish all the goals. Senator Tuberville mentioned that most people in the United States don't know much about cryptocurrency; they're learning. He said he's learned more about it in the last two years. Senator Tuberville commented that crypto is a new frontier, that times are changing, and that the technology underlying digital assets has the potential to be revolutionary. He mentioned that FTX's collapse in the last few weeks has made it clear that the United States needs to act quickly to put strong regulations in place for cryptocurrency, and we've been working on it for the last couple of years.

- The Honorable Hester Peirce, Commissioner, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
Hon. Peirce stressed that more and more people in Washington, both at the regulatory level and in Congress, are taking an interest in matters related to crypto. She mentioned her proposal for a safe harbor that would allow us to achieve the goal of getting information out to people who are buying crypto assets while also allowing those crypto asset comp projects to progress to a point where they are decentralized, which Hon. Peirce said she believes we did not do. She commented that she got some really useful feedback for putting it out for comment, and she said she still thinks that there is a need for us to recognize some of the unique aspects of crypto and to build a regulatory framework that makes sense for crypto specifically.

- Mr. Peter St Onge, Research Fellow, Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies, The Heritage Foundation

Mr. Peter St. Onge mentioned the impact of Airbnb and Uber and their greatest successes over the last ten years. He stated that they had an impact on millions of lives, but that they were both illegal for many years. Mr. Onge emphasized that crypto has the same potential as the internet because it reduces the costs of collaboration by orders of magnitude. He mentioned that Commissioner Pierce has actually done some great work advocating for a regulatory sandbox so that we can see what potential crypto has.

- Mr. Chris Land, General Counsel, U.S. Senator Cynthia M. Lummis

Mr. Land commented that the responsible financial innovation act that Senator Lummis co-sponsored with Senator Gillibrand deals with three categories: commodities, ancillary assets, and pure securities or pure investment contracts. He mentioned that this situation is happening because US law treats investment contracts and securities differently than the rest of the world; what is an investment contract or security in the US may not be construed to be so in your home jurisdiction. Mr. Land expressed that this whole concept of an ancillary asset is what Senator Lummis and Senator Gillibrand hope for, and it kind of reflects the case law around the Howey test. He commented that Senator Lummis and Senator Gillibrand have looked at all of the case law that interpreted Howie from the 1940s and determined that if you're providing an asset with an investment contract, it's not necessarily security or part of that investment contract, so Senator Lummis and Senator Gillibrand's bill would rewrite that. It requires most digital asset companies to make disclosures and provide tailored information to the SEC, which will help people make better market decisions.

Adversarial Foreign Investments (11:30-12:45)

- Hon. Cordell Hull, Former Undersecretary of Commerce

Hon. Hull traced the history of how the United States treats foreign adversarial investments. He also explained that CFIUS is designed to assess foreign investment transactions for national security risk. It has the ultimate power to recommend to the president that a specific transaction be blocked. Hon. Hull mentioned U.S. adversaries are getting more creative and

that a number of transactions several recent transactions resulted in presidential blocks. He stressed that, as we heard in the first trade-based money laundering lecture, a number of our adversaries are using variable interest entities to set up shell companies offshore in order to avoid a CFIUS review or at least obscure the nature of the transaction. In addition, the U.S. government is increasingly scrutinizing transactions involving personally identifiable information. Hon. Hull emphasized that the government needs to continue to increase resources and work with allies and partners to harmonize their review processes.

- Hon. Mario Mauro, Former Italian Minister of Defence

Hon. Mauro shared some European information about the European strategy against adversarial foreign investment, He commented that the European Union has believed in the free movement of capital but has also believed that in some cases, foreign direct investment can pose a risk to security and public order, a risk that is a function of the sector in which the foreign company wishes to invest and the control of the company itself, a factor that is frequently linked to the political and economic characteristics of the country in which the company is based. Hon. Mauro stressed that as a result, most member countries have rules in place to protect security and public order.

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

Mr. Humire talked about Latin America and its relationship with China. He started mentioning that Latin America is a region that is very new to democracy; many countries gained independence no more than 200 years ago, and for those that did gain independence, many only got out of dictatorships in the twentieth century, some in the late twentieth century, so it is very new to the democratic experiment. Mr. Humire explained that China's story in Latin America is one of malign intent, He commented that the United States has neglected the region, and It can be seen some specific results. Mr. Humire expressed his concern about the investments that China has made in ports and in satellite tracking stations in terms of ports. China has more than 40 port infrastructure projects in Latin America. He emphasized that China is essentially going to try to use investment and trade to hoodwink the countries, like they've done to Argentina, like they're potentially doing to Peru, to bring countries into a geopolitical conflict that's not theirs.

- Hon. Pavel Popescu, Chairman of the Committee on Defence, Public Order and National Security, Romania

Hon. Popescu expressed his concern about Africa and Latin America; he mentioned that nowadays they're lost in terms of CFIUS and foreign direct investment. He expressed that one of his biggest concerns is that we do not manage to put these two continents in a position to speak freely and directly about what should actually be done under CFIUS.

Hon. Popescu also stressed that it's very important to talk about how politicians will decide morally whether to stand with their countries, economies, and citizens or those countries that will pose a threat. Hon. Popescu advised public servants to start educating themselves about CFIUS; it's going to be the main topic for our economies, and it's going to protect us from the biggest threat to our economies and our future generations.

Greetings (12:45-12:50)

- Honorable Andrew M. Holness, Prime Minister of Jamaica

Hon. Holness stressed the importance of the forum with the representatives of countries all around the world to have a deeper understanding of the various security threats that exist. He mentioned that some threats are well known, like terrorism; others are less well known, like adversarial investments; but they all work together to do one thing, which is undermine the values that we hold dear, like freedom, democracy, and human rights. Finally, Hon. Holness offered his country to be the host of the next forum to talk about concerns that are affecting countries like Jamaica, Africa, and Haiti today.

Space Force (1:30-2:30)

- Mr. J.P. Parker, Former Intelligence Community Space Executive and Special Advisor to the Vice President of the U.S. for Space

Mr. Parker commented that the intelligence community provides a very vital function to the United States by operating their eyes and ears in space, so we observe things on the ground from space, we listen to things that are transpiring on the ground in space, and we move a lot of data in space. He expressed that the intelligence community is a co-equal partner of the Department of Defense in providing an integrated intelligence and defense suite of capabilities to protect the United States' interests.

- Hon. Stephen L. Kitay, Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy; Senior Director, Azure Space Microsoft

Hon. Kitay explained that there are tremendous changes that are happening in space, and space is not only important to scientific achievement, but it's also important for security and economic reasons, and they're intertwined in many ways, from technologies to workforces to global impacts. Hon. Kitay expressed that space is inherently global; there is no sovereignty in space; there are no sovereign regions as there are in airspace and on land; it is a global resource.

- Dr. Kiron Skinner, Taube Professor of International Relations and Politics, School of Public Policy, Pepperdine University. (AUSENTE)
- Dr. Scott Pace, Director, Space Policy Institute - Professor of Practice of International Affairs, Elliott School of International Affairs

Dr. Pace talked about the U.S. Space Force, which is the newest armed service for the United States. He explained and answered the most important questions about it. Dr. Pace also expressed that the allies of the U.S. have been going in a very similar direction by creating a space force, but not only the allies but also the adversaries, both Russia and China, reorganized their own strategic and space forces to put more of an emphasis on space war fighting, and the U.S. allies have paid more attention to this, so there's a symbiotic relationship. Dr. Pace explained that the function of the U.S. Space Force is primarily to provide services. It is not about fighting a war in space; it is about providing services to combatants who require space, organizing and equipping them, which then, on a joint basis with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, provide combatant solutions for each particular region.

Rare Earth Minerals (2:30-3:45)

- Congressman Christopher Smith, United States House of Representatives

Congressman Smith shared about the illegal practices and human rights abuses in China and in DR Congo, he mentioned that the world may see a 40-fold increase in lithium demand and a 20-fold increase in cobalt demand by 2040. Congressman Smith commented that 70 percent of it comes from the DR Congo and this could mean an increase in the abuses that already occur in the country.

- Mr. Carl Delfeld, President, Economic Security Council - Managing Director, Blackthread, LLC

Mr. Delfeld talked about the rare earths and rare metals, and he commented that they have properties that allow us to have items like an iPhone; from jet engines to semiconductors to satellites, they are really crucial for technology. Mr. Delfeld commented that the Japanese call rare earths and rare metals industrial or technology vitamins because a very small amount makes everything work better and with much higher performance, which is why they're so important in the technological century that we live in now.

- Prof. Milos Ivkovic, MA, LLM, LLM

Prof. Ivkovic reflected on over a decade long experience in legally confronting illicit practices and abusive parties with respect to critical minerals. I contended that free nations have a legal obligation to act and confront what has become an unprecedented spread of suffering caused by child labor and corruption-fueled neocolonialism. Prof. Ivkovic therefore urged all legislators worldwide to consider and adopt legislation prohibiting the importation of minerals illegally excavated through child labor or otherwise whose mining fuels conflict in the country of origin, as well as sanctioning all individuals and companies at whose hands these atrocities are committed.

- Hon. Duncan Wood, Vice President for Strategy and New Initiatives at the Wilson Center

Hon. Wood explained how the energy transition is driving a massive jump in demand, not just for rare earths but for critical minerals in general. He commented that it's necessary to talk about the fact that geopolitics are really at the heart of all of this. Hon. Wood mentioned that it's important to think about geopolitics in a much more advanced way, not just who our enemies are and not just who our rivals are, but who our friends and allies are, and we also need to think about ways in which we can actually cooperate with our rivals because there are ways in which that can help us.

5G, AI and Quantum Computing (3:45-5:00)

- Mr. John Strand, CEO, Strand Consult

Mr. Strand stated that the world is changing in such a way that the world is getting tutorialized. He mentioned that in the past, we used telecommunications only to communicate with each

other, but now its role is fundamental. Banks connect businesses; all of our information, such as our health insurance or our driver's license, is digitalized. All of these things are becoming more digital and more connected. Mr. Strand mentioned that he's been speaking with many governments about the most vital infrastructure: telecommunications infrastructure. He stressed that the telecommunications infrastructure has been vital in the war in Ukraine. He expressed that telecommunication has actually been very important in Ukraine for getting Ukraine's voice out to the world so they understand what's going on in Ukraine; the president of Ukraine has been talking online to parliaments all over the world.

- Dr. Sohan Dasgupta, Partner, Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP; Former Deputy General Counsel, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Dr. Sohan Dasgupta articulated the advantages and disadvantages of fifth-generation wireless technology (5G) as far as the peace, prosperity, and security of the Free World are concerned. Dr. Dasgupta explicated that 5G has significant promise but also extreme vulnerabilities due to the national security risks it creates or amplifies. Capitalizing on those vulnerabilities and suppressing the free flow of information are some of the tools of nefarious actors. To this end, Dr. Dasgupta pointed out that the U.S. Government's responses through sanctions, export controls, control lists, Team Telecom, the Secure Equipment Act, and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) will need to address and resolve numerous 5G-related risks. In this endeavor, the United States and the rest of the Free World can be productive and prolific partners. Recent governmental actions in this space have reflected the heightened risk that 5G presents. Time is running out. Unless governments promptly and seriously address these risks, the Free World's security will be irreparably harmed, Dr. Dasgupta concluded.

- Mr. Curt Levey, President, The Committee for Justice

Mr. Levey focused his remarks on one specific application of AI that's very relevant to national security: facial recognition. He explained how facial recognition works and stated that it is most likely the most important type of biometric we have right now. Mr. Levey also explained the risks that facial recognition could have and the measures that should be taken to combat these risks.

- Mr. John Walsh, CEO, Sightspan

Mr. Walsh talked about the IA and its relationship with what's coming in the future. He mentioned that with the combination of quantitative analysis, quantum computing, and

artificial intelligence, we're going to prove things beyond the reasonable doubt of our understanding.