



# Issue Brief

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## China's Foreign Missions in the United States

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### Key Findings

- In 2020, the U.S. Department of State's Office of Foreign Missions designated 17 Chinese entities as foreign missions after it determined each entity qualified as a mission under the Foreign Missions Act (FMA). These new foreign missions designated under the FMA included official Chinese media outlets and entities linked to the united front.\* Like China's embassy and consulates in the United States, they provide its government with platforms to influence U.S. policymakers, business leaders, academics, and the public.
- There is a lack of reciprocity in the U.S.-China relationship regarding the treatment of diplomatic personnel. While U.S. diplomats are restricted or supervised in travel, contact, and engagement with Chinese civil society, historically, members of Chinese foreign missions have had far more freedom in the United States.
- There have been no congressional hearings or public forums to specifically discuss the United States' process for designating foreign missions or the enforcement of related policies. The dearth of publicly available information on designation and enforcement creates several challenges for Congress and the public to understand the full scope of Chinese foreign missions' activities in the United States. It remains unclear whether all Chinese entities that act like foreign missions are designated as such and how consistently those that are designated comply with the FMA and other requirements.

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\* United front work is a Leninist approach to foreign and internal affairs that involves rallying support for the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and neutralizing opposition to its policies and authority. This paper focuses on China's overseas united front work, but it also conducts these activities toward a variety of constituencies within its own borders. For more on China's united front work, see U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, Chapter 2, Section 2, "Battling for Overseas Hearts and Minds: China's United Front and Propaganda Work," in *2023 Annual Report to Congress*, December 2023.

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## Introduction

This issue brief provides an overview of publicly available information about the United States’ policies on foreign missions, Chinese entities that have received a foreign mission designation, and China’s response to these requirements. This brief also raises several policy considerations for Congress.

Foreign missions in the United States carry out the foreign policy of another country through the activities of personnel at various facilities, including embassies, consulates, and other organizations.<sup>1</sup> China has an embassy and several consulates in the United States through which it conducts official diplomatic activities and engages with counterparts from the United States and other countries.<sup>2</sup> It also has a number of other foreign missions, such as Chinese state media outlets and united front-linked entities,<sup>\*</sup> which support Beijing’s efforts to influence the perceptions of the U.S. public and the activities of various constituencies, including federal, state, and local leaders.<sup>3</sup>

## The Foreign Missions Act

Chinese foreign missions in the United States are subject to several laws and regulations, including the Foreign Missions Act (FMA) of 1982.<sup>†</sup> <sup>4</sup> The FMA established the Office of Foreign Missions (OFM) at the U.S. Department of State to ensure reciprocity between U.S. diplomatic and consular missions and their personnel overseas and U.S.-based foreign missions and their personnel.<sup>‡</sup> <sup>5</sup> (For more on U.S. legislative efforts on foreign missions and related policies, see Appendix 2.) OFM also provides assistance to the foreign mission community, including issuing driver’s licenses, license plates, and vehicle titles and registrations.<sup>6</sup> In addition, OFM assists foreign missions in acquiring property by helping them navigate local zoning laws, and it oversees all acquisitions and sales of foreign missions’ property.<sup>7</sup> This process could include approving or denying a foreign mission’s request to acquire, renovate, or dispose of a property in the United States used for its official work.<sup>8</sup> According to OFM, there are currently more than 2,600 foreign missions in the United States that collectively host more than 124,000 personnel and dependents, including 62,000 personnel who are entitled to some degree of diplomatic or consular immunity.<sup>9</sup>

The FMA defines the term “foreign mission” as:

*Any mission to or agency or entity in the United States which is involved in the diplomatic, consular, or other activities of, or which is substantially owned or effectively controlled by— (A) a foreign government, or (B) an organization (other than an international organization [...]) representing a territory or political entity which has been granted diplomatic or other official privileges and immunities under the laws of the United States or which engages in some aspect of the conduct of the international affairs of such territory or political entity, including any real property of such a mission and including the personnel of such a mission.<sup>10</sup>*

By this definition, any entity that is controlled by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), is operating in the United States, and is “engag[ing] in some aspect of the conduct of international affairs” would qualify as a foreign mission under the FMA. While this definition has traditionally been applied to formal diplomatic missions in the United States, during the Cold War the State Department also applied the designation to other types of entities, such as Soviet media outlets.<sup>11</sup> In 2010, the State Department also designated the Vietnam News Agency as a foreign

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<sup>\*</sup> For more, see U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, Chapter 2, Section 2, “Battling for Overseas Hearts the Minds: China’s United Front and Propaganda Work,” in *2023 Annual Report to Congress*, November 2023.

<sup>†</sup> Personnel of foreign missions are also subject to the Diplomatic Relations Act of 1978, which aligned U.S. law with the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. U.S. Department of State Office of Foreign Missions, *Diplomatic and Consular Immunity: Guidance for Law Enforcement and Judicial Authorities*, 2019. [https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2018-DipConImm\\_v5\\_Web.pdf](https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2018-DipConImm_v5_Web.pdf).

<sup>‡</sup> OFM has six regional offices in addition to the headquarters in Washington, DC, including Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and San Francisco. U.S. Department of State, *About Us – Office of Foreign Missions*, 2024. <https://www.state.gov/about-us-office-of-foreign-missions/>; Office of Foreign Missions U.S. Department of State, *Foreign Missions Act 22 U.S.C. 4301-4316*. <https://2009-2017.state.gov/documents/organization/17842.pdf>.

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mission because of its role as the official news agency of the Vietnamese government.\*<sup>12</sup> Similarly, in 2019 and 2020, the State Department newly designated a series of Chinese state media and united front-related entities under the FMA. To strengthen reciprocity, the State Department also announced new rules that aimed to improve transparency surrounding the activities of China’s foreign missions in the United States.<sup>13</sup>

## Updates to FMA Rules and Policies, and Other Responses

A variety of developments in U.S.-China relations provided context for the State Department’s update to policies relating to activities of foreign missions, including Chinese restrictions on private U.S. media in China and China’s influence and intelligence activities in the United States.† For example, in September 2019, the State Department expelled two Chinese diplomats and their spouses after they were caught driving onto a military base in Virginia.<sup>14</sup> Over the next year, the Administration introduced new restrictions on China’s foreign missions.<sup>15</sup> These actions included:

- **Restrictions on engagements with subnational and academic leaders:** In October 2019, the State Department announced a new rule to require all members of China’s foreign missions to provide advanced notice to OFM of their planned engagements with any U.S.-based state and local government officials, universities, colleges, and research institutions.<sup>16</sup>
- **Restrictions on travel of Chinese military personnel:** In October 2019, the State Department announced a new rule requiring China’s military personnel stationed at its embassy or one of its consular posts in the United States to notify OFM in advance of their travel plans beyond a 25-mile radius of their assigned post.<sup>17</sup>
- **Closure of China’s Houston Consulate:** In July 2020, the State Department used OFM authorities to close China’s consulate in Houston, Texas.<sup>18</sup> The department alleged that the Houston Consulate was part of an espionage network through which the Chinese government was attempting to steal intellectual property from U.S. research institutions, universities, and businesses.<sup>19</sup>
- **Advanced approval for hosting large external cultural events:** In September 2020, the State Department announced a new rule requiring Chinese foreign missions to obtain advanced approval from OFM to host a cultural event outside of any mission with more than 50 attendees.<sup>20</sup>

## Designation of Chinese Entities as Foreign Missions

China has five traditional foreign missions in the United States—one embassy and four consulates—that were established in the 1970s and 1980s.<sup>21</sup> In 2020, the U.S. government designated 17 additional Chinese entities as foreign missions on the grounds that they each meet the definition of being “substantially owned or effectively controlled by” the government of the People’s Republic of China, in many cases by nature of their subservience to the CCP.<sup>22</sup> These more recently designated entities include Party and state media outlets subject to the guidance of the CCP’s Propaganda Department as well as nonprofit organizations known to be subordinate to the United Front Work Department or to contribute to broader united front activities (for more on China’s foreign missions, see Appendix 1).<sup>23</sup> Chinese entities designated as foreign missions by the State Department as of May 2024 include the following:<sup>24</sup>

- Embassy of China in the United States, Washington, DC
- Consulate General of China, San Francisco
- Consulate General of China, Chicago

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\* The Vietnam News Agency has 18 overseas branches, including two in the United States: Washington, DC, and New York. Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United States, *Mass Media*, 2024. <https://vietnamembassy-usa.org/vietnam/public-services/mass-media>.

† For more on China’s restrictions on U.S. media in China and on foreign missions in the United States and their interplay with the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), see Stephen P. Mulligan, “The Law of Foreign Missions and Media in U.S.-China Relations,” *Congressional Research Service*, CRS LSB10601, May 20, 2021.

- Consulate General of China, New York City
- Consulate General of China, Los Angeles
- Xinhua News
- China Global Television Network
- China Radio International
- China Daily Distribution Corporation
- Hai Tian Development USA
- China Central Television
- *People's Daily*
- *Global Times*
- China News Service
- Confucius Institute U.S. Center
- Yicai Global
- *Xinmin Evening News*
- Social Sciences in China Press
- *Economic Daily*
- *Beijing Review*
- *Jiefang Daily*
- National Association for China's Peaceful Unification

### **China's Foreign Mission Policies and Reactions to U.S. Policy**

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' (MFA) Department of Protocol provides foreign missions in China with a protocol guide\* that explains the rules regarding their travel and access to various parts of the country.<sup>25</sup> U.S. diplomats wishing to conduct official business by visiting provincial, autonomous region, or local officials must notify and receive advanced permission from the MFA.<sup>26</sup> In addition, while Chinese diplomats have broad access to all states within the United States and its territories, U.S. diplomats are restricted from visiting certain regions of China, including Tibet,<sup>†</sup> where U.S. diplomats must apply and receive approval from the MFA's Foreign Affairs Office to visit.<sup>27</sup> If their request is approved, U.S. diplomats may only travel to Tibet through an organized visit arranged by the Foreign Affairs Office.<sup>28</sup>

\* This protocol guide includes information on the current protocol regulations and practices to which foreign missions and organizations are expected to adhere. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, *Protocol Guide of the Embassy in China (English version)* 驻华使馆礼宾指南 (英文版), December 2020. [https://web.archive.org/web/20240117111346/https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/lbfw\\_673061/lbzn\\_673063/202201/t20220114\\_10495538.shtml](https://web.archive.org/web/20240117111346/https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/lbfw_673061/lbzn_673063/202201/t20220114_10495538.shtml).

† U.S. diplomats are restricted from visiting the Tibetan Autonomous Region and other Tibetan areas, including Tibetan autonomous prefectures in Gansu, Qinghai, Sichuan, and Yunnan Provinces. U.S. Department of State, *2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: China (Includes Hong Kong, Macau, and Tibet) – Tibet*, February 2024. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/china/tibet/>; U.S. Department of State, *Report to Congress on Tibet Negotiations*, October 2023. <https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Tibet-Negotiations-Report-2023.pdf>; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, *Protocol Guide of the Embassy in China (English version)* 驻华使馆礼宾指南 (英文版), December 2020. [https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:jZqEMyh0sUQJ:https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/lbfw\\_673061/lbzn\\_673063/202201/t20220114\\_10495538.shtml&hl=en&gl=us](https://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?q=cache:jZqEMyh0sUQJ:https://www.mfa.gov.cn/web/lbfw_673061/lbzn_673063/202201/t20220114_10495538.shtml&hl=en&gl=us).

China has taken actions in response to U.S. efforts to create more reciprocal conditions for foreign mission personnel since 2020. These include:

- *Journalist expulsions:* Many of the Chinese entities designated as foreign missions in 2020 were Chinese Party or state media outlets.<sup>29</sup> In March of that year, the U.S. government decided to limit the number of Chinese citizens working for five state-run media outlets to 100.<sup>30</sup> That same month, China retaliated by refusing to renew the press passes of nearly a dozen U.S. journalists from the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, effectively expelling them.<sup>31</sup> These journalists, who are employed by private media companies, were barred from working not only in mainland China but also in Macau and Hong Kong.<sup>32</sup>
- *Consulate closure:* Following the forced closure of China’s consulate in Houston, Texas, in July 2020, Chinese leaders retaliated by closing the U.S. Consulate in Chengdu.<sup>33</sup> Foreign Minister Wang Yi called U.S. allegations that the Houston Consulate was involved in espionage and intellectual property theft “nothing but fabrications.”<sup>34</sup> Throughout the summer of 2020, Chinese leadership continued to criticize the United States’ restrictions, calling them violations of internal law and norms.<sup>35</sup> In September 2020, China’s MFA sent a note to the State Department outlining its “reciprocal” restrictions on U.S. embassy and consulate staff in China, including the consulate general in Hong Kong.<sup>36</sup> Those restrictions were not made public.<sup>37</sup>
- *Publication restrictions:* While Chinese diplomats have broad access to publish in U.S. media outlets, U.S. officials have extremely limited access to Chinese media.<sup>38</sup> For instance, the *People’s Daily* denied then Ambassador Terry Branstad the opportunity to publish an op-ed because of its supposed failure to meet the paper’s editorial standards.<sup>39</sup>

In addition, in September 2023, China’s MFA announced new requirements for foreign missions in Hong Kong. These changes effectively align Hong Kong’s foreign mission policies with those of mainland China and apply to all foreign missions, including those of the United States.<sup>40</sup> China’s MFA said it will be requesting the personal data—including names, passport numbers, and residential addresses—of locally employed staff of foreign missions, including those who hold visas and reside in the city full time.<sup>41</sup> While China argued that this new requirement was in line with the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of 1963, the international agreement that governs foreign consular services, some foreign diplomats speculated that the new restrictions could threaten the privacy of local staff.\*<sup>42</sup>

## Considerations for Congress

Recent developments related to the designation of Chinese foreign missions in the United States recounted above and related events raise a number of considerations for Congress.

First, **there is little publicly available information regarding the activities of Chinese entities designated as foreign missions and no publicly available information regarding their compliance with the U.S. laws and regulations specifically governing the activities of foreign missions in the United States.**<sup>†</sup> This dearth of information raises a number of questions Congress may want to consider, including the following:

1. What kind of information and with what frequency does OFM report to Congress on foreign missions’ activities in the United States and their compliance with the FMA?

\* In October 2022, privacy concerns were also sparked after the Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested that foreign diplomats in Hong Kong provide information on their rental properties, including floor plans. Pak Yiu, “Beijing Orders Foreign Missions in Hong Kong to Submit Staff Data,” *Nikkei Asia*, September 19, 2023. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Hong-Kong-security-law/Beijing-orders-foreign-missions-in-Hong-Kong-to-submit-staff-data>.

<sup>†</sup> Some publicly available information is available on the activities of those entities that are separately required to file disclosures under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, 22 U.S.C. § 611 *et seq.* (FARA). (For more information about which Chinese foreign missions also have a FARA designation, see Appendix 1 below.) These disclosures are provided to the U.S. Department of Justice for the purpose of understanding the entities’ activities as foreign agents, however, and thus do not directly address their compliance with the FMA or regulations related to their designation as foreign missions.



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2. To what degree are Chinese foreign missions compliant with the FMA and other policies? Has the recent addition of reporting requirements for Chinese foreign missions led any of them to shift their activities or otherwise seek to circumvent the restrictions?
  3. Is the State Department fully enforcing China's compliance with the FMA?
  4. Does the State Department have sufficient resources and personnel to effectively monitor foreign missions' compliance with the FMA and related policies?
  5. How does the State Department work with experts on China inside and outside of the U.S. government to proactively identify new Chinese entities that should be designated as foreign missions?
  6. To what extent does OFM share information regarding the activities of China's foreign missions with U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies?

Second, **the breadth of China's overseas influence activities raises the question of whether other Chinese entities operating in the United States should be designated as foreign missions.**\* China's united front network is known to be very wide, with hundreds of entities that contribute to influence efforts through offshoots and activities abroad.<sup>43</sup> Some of these entities may meet FMA criteria for a foreign mission designation even if they have thus far evaded the designation.<sup>44</sup> In the wake of the 2020 designations and the greater scrutiny those 17 newly named designees have received, it is also possible that Beijing has shifted some of its influence operations in the United States to other united front organizations, underscoring the importance of efforts to fully identify China's government influence operations, including through methods such as a more comprehensive foreign missions designation list.

Finally, **it remains unclear the full extent of the lack of reciprocity between U.S. foreign missions in China and China's foreign missions in the United States.** While the United States has taken some steps to harmonize restrictions on China's foreign missions' activities in the spirit of reciprocity, even with the restrictions announced by OFM in 2019 and 2020 the United States remains less restrictive than China regarding whom foreign missions' personnel may meet and where they may travel.<sup>45</sup> Notably, China's foreign missions are usually only required to notify the State Department of their activities in advance.<sup>46</sup> By contrast, U.S. foreign missions in China must typically secure permission from China's government prior to planned engagements with government officials, academics, or others and for certain travel.<sup>47</sup> Congress should consider whether—and, if so, how—this remaining lack of reciprocity should be addressed.

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\* Though it goes beyond the scope of this Issue Brief, the relationship between designation as a foreign mission and registration under FARA is not clear. Nor is it clear if additional Chinese entities, including entities currently designated as foreign missions, may be required to register under FARA.

## Appendix 1: Select Chinese Entities Designated as Foreign Missions

<b>Foreign Mission Designations</b> <b>(Date Designated)*</b>	<b>Details on the Chinese Entity</b>
<b>Embassy of China in the United States, Washington, DC</b> <b>(Jan. 1, 1979)<sup>† 48</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of the January 1, 1979, agreement reestablishing diplomatic relations between the United States and China.<sup>49</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Consulate General of China, San Francisco</b> <b>(Jan. 1, 1979)<sup>50</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of China’s first two consulates that were opened following the January 1, 1979, agreement reestablishing diplomatic relations between the United States and China.<sup>51</sup> The agreement allowed each country two consulates, permitting the United States to open a consulate in Shanghai and Guangzhou.<sup>52</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Consulate General of China, Houston</b> <b>(Jan. 1, 1979)<sup>53</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of China’s first two consulates that were opened following the January 1, 1979, agreement reestablishing diplomatic relations between the United States and China.<sup>54</sup> The agreement allowed each country two consulates, permitting the United States to open a consulate in Shanghai and Guangzhou.<sup>55</sup></li> <li>In July 2020, the State Department forced the consulate to close<sup>‡</sup> by requiring it to forgo the use of three properties on which it had buildings, citing “malign and criminal activities” including espionage and intellectual property theft.<sup>56</sup></li> </ul>
<b>Consulate General of China, Chicago</b> <b>(Jun. 16, 1981)<sup>57</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of a reciprocal agreement on June 16, 1981, granting the United States and China a third and fourth consulate in their respective countries, allowing the United States to open a consulate in Shenyang and Chengdu.<sup>58</sup></li> </ul>

\* The dates listed for China’s traditional foreign missions, including its embassy and consulates, are the dates the United States and China signed agreements to establish diplomatic outposts in their respective countries, not the date the missions officially opened.

† The embassy was established on March 1, 1979. China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *The Establishment of Sino-U.S. Diplomatic Relations and Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping’s Visit to the United States*, April 4, 2024. [https://web.archive.org/web/20240404062532/https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/ziliao\\_665539/3602\\_665543/3604\\_665547/200011/t2000117\\_697797.html](https://web.archive.org/web/20240404062532/https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/ziliao_665539/3602_665543/3604_665547/200011/t2000117_697797.html).

‡ Following the closure, the consulate’s former consular jurisdiction was taken over by China’s embassy in Washington, DC. Consulate General of the People’s Republic of China in Chicago, *Consulate District Map of Chinese Embassy and Consulate General in the United States*, February 7, 2023. [https://web.archive.org/web/20240414235145/http://chicago.china-consulate.gov.cn/eng/ywzn/qzhz/202302/t20230207\\_11020432.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20240414235145/http://chicago.china-consulate.gov.cn/eng/ywzn/qzhz/202302/t20230207_11020432.htm); Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the United States of America, *The Statement of the Chinese Embassy in the United States for Taking Over the Consular Jurisdiction of the Consulate-General in Houston*, July 24, 2020. [https://web.archive.org/web/20240415022609/http://us.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zmgxss/202007/t20200725\\_4370082.htm](https://web.archive.org/web/20240415022609/http://us.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zmgxss/202007/t20200725_4370082.htm).

<p><b>Consulate General of China, New York City</b> (Jun. 16, 1981)<sup>* 59</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of a reciprocal agreement on June 16, 1981, granting the United States and China a third and fourth consulate in their respective countries, allowing the United States to open a consulate in Shenyang and Chengdu.<sup>60</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Consulate-General of China, Los Angeles</b> (Feb. 26, 1987)<sup>61</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part of a reciprocal agreement granting the United States and China a fifth consulate in their respective countries, allowing the United States to open a consulate in Wuhan.<sup>62</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Xinhua News Agency</b> (Feb. 18, 2020)<sup>63</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The official state press agency of the People’s Republic of China, originally established in 1931.<sup>† 64</sup></li> <li>Xinhua News Agency’s North America Bureau also registered as a foreign agent under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) in May 2021.<sup>65</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>China Global Television Network (CGTN)</b> (Feb. 18, 2020)<sup>66</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CGTN is the foreign-language division of China Central Television (CCTV).<sup>67</sup> It is part of China Media Group, a public institution directly subordinate to China’s State Council and under the explicit leadership of the CCP’s Central Propaganda Department.<sup>68</sup> CGTN has an English-language channel, an English-language documentary channel, and channels in four other languages.<sup>69</sup></li> <li>CGTN’s Washington, DC-based bureau CGTN America also registered as a foreign agent under FARA in 2019.<sup>70</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>China Radio International</b> (Feb. 18, 2020)<sup>71</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>China Radio International is an international radio broadcaster and an arm of China Media Group, a public institution directly subordinate to China’s State Council and under the explicit leadership of the CCP’s Central Propaganda Department.<sup>72</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>China Daily Distribution Corporation</b> (Feb. 18, 2020)<sup>73</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributes <i>China Daily</i>, an English-language newspaper controlled by the CCP’s Central Propaganda Department.<sup>74</sup> It is also registered as a foreign agent under FARA in 1983.<sup>75</sup></li> <li><i>China Daily</i> also produces <i>China Watch</i>, an insert that has been included in U.S. newspapers like the <i>Wall Street Journal</i> and <i>Washington Post</i>.<sup>76</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Hai Tian Development USA</b> (Feb. 18, 2020)<sup>77</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distributes the <i>People’s Daily</i>, the official newspaper of the CCP Central Committee.<sup>78</sup></li> <li>Also registered as a foreign agent under FARA since 1996.<sup>79</sup></li> </ul>

\* The consulate opened April 12, 1982. Kathleen Teltsch, “Policy Is Open Door as China Officially Opens Consulate in City,” *New York Times*, April 13, 1982, B1. <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1982/04/13/060512.html?pageNumber=29>.

† The organization was established in 1931 as a news organ of the CCP. Originally known as “Red China News Agency,” it was renamed “Xinhua News Agency” in 1937. Upon the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, the Party organization became a centralized national news agency directly under the central government. *Xinhua News Agency*, “Xinhua News Agency Introduction” (新华社简介), 2024. Translation. <https://web.archive.org/web/20240415032316/http://www.news.cn/xinhuashe/jbqk.htm>.



<p><b>China Central Television (CCTV)</b> (June 22, 2020)<sup>80</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A national television broadcaster founded in 1958.<sup>81</sup> CCTV is part of the China Media Group, a public institution directly subordinate to China’s State Council and under the explicit leadership of the CCP’s Central Propaganda Department.<sup>82</sup></li> <li>• CCTV’s foreign-language channels separated and formed the China Global Television Network (CGTN) in 2016.<sup>83</sup></li> </ul>
<p><i>People’s Daily</i> (June 22, 2020)<sup>84</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The official newspaper of the CCP Central Committee, established in 1948.<sup>85</sup> It is responsible for publicizing the Party’s policies and theories as well as other reporting and commentary aimed at guiding public opinion.<sup>86</sup> The newspaper publishes multilingual content online, including in English.<sup>87</sup></li> </ul>
<p><i>Global Times</i> (June 22, 2020)<sup>88</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A daily tabloid newspaper published by the <i>People’s Daily</i>.<sup>89</sup> The newspaper provides commentary on international affairs, and it launched its English version in 2009.<sup>90</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>China News Service (CNS)</b> (June 22, 2020)<sup>91</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Party-run news agency that is part of the United Front Work Department and serves as the CCP’s propaganda arm reaching to diaspora communities.<sup>92</sup> It is one of the CCP’s largest media networks, with dozens of overseas bureaus.<sup>93</sup></li> <li>• Previously operated by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office before that office was absorbed into the United Front Work Department in 2018.<sup>94</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Confucius Institute (CI) U.S. Center</b> (Aug. 13, 2020)<sup>95</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hosts state-backed educational and cultural programs funded by a so-called nonprofit organization, the Chinese International Education Foundation, which is overseen by an organ of China’s Ministry of Education called the Center for Language Exchange and Cooperation (CLEC).<sup>96</sup></li> <li>• Has ties to China’s united front network, including former heads of the United Front Work Department serving in leadership roles within the Chinese government body that oversees Confucius Institutes.<sup>97</sup> The Confucius Institute U.S. Center oversees the CIs in the United States.<sup>98</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Yicai Global (China Business Network)</b> (Oct. 30, 2020)<sup>99</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The English-language branch of Yicai Media Group, the financial news arm of Shanghai Media Group, a state-owned media conglomerate.<sup>100</sup></li> </ul>
<p><i>Xinmin Evening News</i> (Oct. 21, 2020)<sup>101</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A newspaper operated by the Shanghai United Media Group, a media conglomerate overseen the Shanghai Municipal Committee of the CCP.<sup>102</sup></li> <li>• Originally arrived in the United States in the early 1990s.<sup>103</sup> Its editorial mission is to promote government policies and narratives in a comprehensive way for the general public.<sup>104</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Sciences in China Press (SSCP)</b> (Oct. 21, 2020)<sup>105</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A state-run publishing house managed by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.<sup>106</sup> The SSCP publishes <i>Social Sciences in China</i>, an English-language peer-reviewed quarterly founded in 1980.<sup>107</sup></li> </ul>

<p><i>Economic Daily</i> (Oct. 21, 2020)<sup>108</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Party newspaper that publishes economic news on China’s market and finance and policy content.<sup>109</sup> The paper is organized by the State Council and led and managed by the CCP’s Central Propaganda Department.<sup>110</sup></li> </ul>
<p><i>Beijing Review</i> (Oct. 21, 2020)<sup>111</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Party-run, English-language magazine run by the China International Communications Group.<sup>112</sup> The magazine, founded in 1958, publishes national news and is an institution administered by the CCP’s Central Committee.<sup>113</sup></li> <li>• Has two overseas branches, including its North America bureau in New York.<sup>114</sup></li> </ul>
<p><i>Jiefang Daily</i> (Oct. 21, 2020)<sup>115</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A newspaper operated by the Shanghai United Media Group, a media conglomerate overseen by Shanghai’s Municipal Party Committee.<sup>116</sup> It is the official newspaper of the Shanghai Municipal Committee of the CCP and is viewed as authoritative and ideological.<sup>117</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>National Association for China’s Peaceful Unification (NACPU)</b> (Oct. 28, 2020)<sup>118</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NACPU, located in Washington, DC, promotes China’s unification with Taiwan.<sup>119</sup> It is one of many overseas branches of the China Council for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification (CCPPR), which is subordinate to the United Front Work Department.<sup>120</sup></li> </ul>

## Appendix 2: Major U.S. Legislation and Legislative Efforts on Foreign Missions

Bill	Description or Excerpt	Status
<p><b>An original bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1982 and 1983 for the Department of State, the International Communications Agency, the Board for International Broadcasting, and other purposes.</b><sup>121</sup></p> <p><i>S.1193</i></p> <p>Introduced May 15, 1981</p> <p>Included the Foreign Missions Act in Title II—Foreign Missions</p>	<p><b>[Description]</b> Created the Office of Foreign Missions and outlined regulations for foreign missions.</p>	<p>Became law on August 24, 1982 (Public Law No: 97-241)</p>

<p><b>James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023</b><sup>122</sup></p> <p><i>H.R. 7776</i></p> <p>Introduced May 16, 2022</p> <p>SEC. 9108. Sense of Congress and Strategic Plan Regarding the Department of State’s Unit for Subnational Diplomacy.</p>	<p><b>[Excerpt]</b> (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS. —It is the sense of Congress that—</p> <p>(1) the growth of subnational cooperation has enabled States and municipalities to play an increasingly significant role in foreign policy and complement the efforts of the Department;</p> <p>(2) the Department’s recently established Unit for Subnational Diplomacy will play a critical role in leveraging the Department’s resources to support State and municipal governments in conducting subnational engagement and increasing cooperation with foreign allies and partners; and</p> <p>(3) in facilitating such subnational engagements, the Department should engage with a broad array of United States cities without regard to their population size or location;</p> <p>(c) STRATEGIC PLAN. —The Special Representative for Subnational Diplomacy shall submit a strategic plan to the appropriate congressional committees for the operations of the Unit for Subnational Diplomacy.</p>	<p>Became law on December 23, 2022 (Public Law No: 117-263)</p>
<p><b>City and State Diplomacy Act</b><sup>123</sup></p> <p><i>S.3072/H.R.4526</i> - To establish an Office of City and State Diplomacy within the Department of State, and for other purposes.</p> <p><i>S.3072</i>: Introduced October 26, 2021 - Original sponsors: Sens. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and John Cornyn (R-TX)</p> <p><i>H.R.4526</i>: Introduced July 19, 2021 - Original sponsors: Reps. Ted Lieu (D-CA) and Joe Wilson (R-SC)</p> <p>Both bills were introduced in the 117th Congress and have not been reintroduced in the 118th Congress.*</p>	<p><b>[Description]</b> This bill establishes within the Department of State the Office of City and State Diplomacy, which shall coordinate federal support for engagement by state and municipal governments with foreign governments. The head of the office shall be the ambassador-at-large for city and state diplomacy, who shall be appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the Senate.</p>	<p><i>S.3072</i>: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations</p> <p><i>H.R.4526</i>: Advanced out of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, 45-3</p>
<p><b>Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021</b><sup>124</sup></p> <p><i>H.R.133</i></p>	<p><b>[Description]</b> Provides that the secretary of state “may not authorize the establishment in the United States of any additional consulate of the People’s Republic of China until such time as a United States consulate in</p>	<p>Became law on December 27, 2020 (Public Law No: 116-260)</p>

\* The State Department created a Unit for Subnational Diplomacy led by a special representative in October 2022.

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Introduced January 3, 2019 Subtitle E—Tibetan Policy and Support Act of 2020	Lhasa, Tibet is established” or the secretary of state issues a national security waiver.	
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## Endnotes

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