

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 3, 2025

The Rt. Honorable Yvette Cooper
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH
United Kingdom

Dear Foreign Secretary Cooper:

As one of our closest allies with whom we share a special relationship, we are writing to raise concerns about the People's Republic of China's (PRC) egregious attempt to construct a "super-embassy" on the site of the Royal Mint Court—a strategic location in central London. We share the Trump administration's apprehensions regarding the potential establishment of the Chinese super-embassy that would be the PRC's largest embassy in Europe.¹ Accordingly, we write to urge the denial of the proposed construction and encourage full consideration of the ramifications of allowing such a development to proceed unchecked, including how it may impact our shared economic and security interests and broader transatlantic efforts to counter malign authoritarian influence in the region and elsewhere.

According to recent reports, the UK government has yet to decide on the plan, delaying the decision until December.² A spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry recently noted that the UK would "bear all consequences" should planning permission be denied.³ Reports indicate that the proposed construction of the "super-embassy" has raised serious security concerns, particularly due to its proximity to critical communication cables serving the City of London's financial district.⁴ Additionally, these concerns are further compounded by the PRC's lack of transparency in disclosing full plans to UK authorities.⁵ Moreover, new reports indicate that UK agencies may have been barred from providing their security concerns regarding the proposed Chinese super-embassy.⁶

¹ Caroline Wheeler, *White House warns UK not to allow Chinese embassy near City*, THE TIMES (June 7, 2025), <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/politics/article/us-uk-china-embassy-trade-deal-fbz9g20pf>.

² Noah Keate, *Beijing beefs with the UK over delayed 'super-embassy'*, POLITICO (Oct. 17, 2025), <https://www.politico.eu/article/china-beijing-beefs-with-london-uk-over-delayed-super-embassy/>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Tony Driver, *Intelligence on China embassy threat left out of official review*, THE TELEGRAPH (Oct. 11, 2025), <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/world-news/2025/10/11/intelligence-china-embassy-left-out-avoid-beijing-upset>.

This issue also comes at a time when the security threat from the PRC is not only well-documented, but growing in scale and sophistication. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke with then-UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy, during which they expressed willingness to work together to further our many shared foreign policy objectives.⁷ Among other priorities, they affirmed our partnership in tackling matters like the PRC’s malign influence activities.⁸

Reflecting similar apprehensions, the UK’s MI5 Director-General warned that Chinese state actors pose a national security threat to the UK “every day”.⁹ This assessment also aligns with concerns from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which has highlighted the PRC’s increasingly sophisticated malicious cyber operations. For instance, PRC-affiliated actors have breached the networks of several telecommunications companies both in the U.S. and abroad to steal customer call records data related to millions of customers.¹⁰ Further, the FBI continues to sound the alarm on the PRC’s aggressive economic espionage campaigns. According to the FBI Director, the PRC has taken advantage of global interconnectedness to facilitate widespread intellectual property (IP) theft.¹¹ The FBI Director has also recently confirmed that there are currently active PRC counterintelligence investigations across all 55 FBI field offices—a reflection of the scale and urgency of this threat that certainly stretches beyond just U.S. soil.¹²

That the UK government has seemingly overlooked the threats to our joint national security posed by the PRC confounds the expectations set by the meeting between Secretaries Rubio and Lammy. Last year, the UK Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) awarded funding to the University of Liverpool, which has an active Confucius Institute—marketed as centers for promoting Chinese language and culture, yet they have become a front of the CCP’s undue influence abroad.¹³ The presence of 20 Confucius Institutes at UK universities, and other organizations at universities host to AUKUS-related research such as the Lau China Institute at King’s College London, given known PRC espionage concerns, raises serious concerns over sensitive research security. With new reports surfacing that the PRC may seek to lease part of the Chagos Islands shortly following the UK government’s surrender of the territory to Mauritius, there is concern the U.S. facility at Diego Garcia could be in closer proximity to PRC assets.

We urge you to take full account of the persistent threats posed by the PRC, and we remain committed to working together to protect our shared economic and security interests.

⁷ Press Release, U.S. Dep’t of State, *Secretary Rubio’s Call with UK Foreign Secretary Lammy*, (Jan. 27, 2025), <https://www.state.gov/secretary-rubios-call-with-uk-foreign-secretary-lammy>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ PBS News, *UK’s MI5 chief calls China a security threat as officials trade blame over spy case collapse*, (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/uks-mi5-chief-calls-china-a-security-threat-as-officials-trade-blame-over-spy-case-collapse>.

¹⁰ Oversight of the Fed. Bureau of Investigation, *Statement for the Record*, (Sept. 17, 2025) <https://www.fbi.gov/news/speeches-and-testimony/oversight-of-the-federal-bureau-of-investigation-091725>.

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Gov.UK, *UK organisations selected in first AUKUS Innovation Challenge*, (Sept. 26, 2024), <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-organisations-selected-in-first-aukus-innovation-challenge>; University of Liverpool, *Confucius Institute*, n.d., <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/confucius-institute/>.

Respectfully,

A blue ink signature of Brian J. Mast, featuring a stylized 'B' and 'M'.

Brian J. Mast
Chairman
House Foreign Affairs Committee

A blue ink signature of John Moolenaar, written in a cursive style.

John Moolenaar
Chairman
House Select Committee on the CCP

A blue ink signature of Keith Self, written in a cursive style.

Keith Self
Chairman
Subcommittee on Europe

A blue ink signature of Young Kim, written in a cursive style.

Young Kim
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific

CC:

The Honorable Marco Rubio, Secretary of State

Rep. Gregory W. Meeks, Ranking Member
House Foreign Affairs Committee

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ranking Member
House Select Committee on the CCP

Rep. William R. Keating, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Europe

Rep. Ami Bera, M.D., Ranking Member
Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific