

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 13, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Antony J. Blinken
Secretary of State
Department of State

Dear Secretary Blinken:

On July 10, 2023, I sent you a letter expressing my concern with the State Department's (State) lack of publicly disclosed efforts to limit Chinese influence under its Foreign Missions Act (FMA) authority.¹ I asked twelve questions in my letter to better understand what steps State has taken with its FMA authority to hold China accountable for its corrupting influence.²

In a letter to me dated August 25, 2023, State failed to sufficiently answer all twelve of my questions and produce any requested records. Additionally, State stated that "the United States will not tolerate the PRC's transnational repression efforts."³ Yet, State failed to explain what steps it has taken to combat transnational repression efforts.⁴ Further, State wrote that it "works to counter the CCP's influence and messaging abroad as part of a whole-of government response."⁵ However, State failed to explain how it is countering CCP's influence and messaging abroad.

The failure to produce any records calls into question whether State has even made any effort to obtain them from any foreign missions. For example, has State made any effort to obtain records relating to the Confucius Institute United States Center in Question 10 of my July 10, 2023, letter? If not, why not?

State's response isn't worth the paper it's written on. Accordingly, I've listed below all the questions State failed to answer and request that they be answered no later than January 27, 2024. If State is unable to answer, explain why not.

¹ Letter from Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, to Antony Blinken, Secretary, U.S. Department of State, (July 10, 2023)

https://www.grassley.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/grassley_to_department_of_state_-_apparent_failures_to_utilize_foreign_missions_act_authority.pdf.

² *Id.*

³ Letter from Philip Laidlow, Acting Assistant Secretary, Department of State Bureau of Legislative Affairs, to Senator Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Budget Committee, (Aug. 25, 2023) (on file with Comm. staff).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.*

1. Provide a complete list of all Foreign Missions as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 4302(a)(3) identified by associated country.
2. Provide all current and former delegations of authority granted to the office established under 22 U.S.C. § 4303(4), including, at a minimum, Delegation of Authority No. 214 dated September 20, 1994.
3. Provide each and every Foreign Missions Act Designation and Determination.
4. For Foreign Missions Act Designation and Determinations related to China, please provide all materials referenced in these determinations or relied upon by the Secretary in making the determination as to whether or not to designate an entity a foreign mission.
5. Provide all records related to the Department of State's consultation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Defense including details of any concerns they expressed regarding Chinese hostile intelligence activities in the United States, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 4305(d).⁶
6. Provide all determinations by the Secretary of State requiring divestiture of any real property by any foreign mission under 22 U.S.C. § 4305(b).
7. Provide all documents related to enforcement authorized under or advice provided pursuant to 22 U.S.C. § 4311 concerning China.
8. Provide all guidelines approved by the President under 22 U.S.C. § 4312.
9. Provide a list of all "foreign countr[ies]" satisfying 22 U.S.C. § 4305(d) and the basis, where applicable, for the Secretary's determination for each listed entity.
10. Provide all records submitted by the Confucius Institute United States Center and any of its successors in response to the Secretary's Determination in 85 FR 52187.
11. Provide all records submitted by the People's Republic of China in response to the Secretary's Determination in 84 FR 56280 with reference to Public Notice 10928.
12. Provide all records submitted by the People's Republic of China in response to the Secretary's Determination in 85 FR 40380 with reference to Public Notice 11152.

⁶ "Records" include any written, recorded, or graphic material of any kind, including letters, memoranda, reports, notes, electronic data (e-mails, email attachments, and any other electronically-created or stored information), calendar entries, inter-office communications, meeting minutes, phone/voice mail or recordings/records of verbal communications, and drafts (whether or not they resulted in final documents).

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please contact Jace Pimentel on my committee staff at (202) 224-0642.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chuck Grassley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Budget