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Joined by U S Representative John Moolenaar, representing Michigan in Congress while serving as the chairman of the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party. Congressman, thank you for your time this morning. First, can I just get your reaction to this case? I mean, we've seen Chinese nationals taken into custody before for advancing Beijing's interests here on our home turf, but this is a person who is working closely with multiple governors of New York. Did this blow your mind?

John Moolenaar

It is. It's shocking the access that she had and the way she was able to influence policy. When you read the Department of Justice indictment, it looks like a spy novel. She was shaping messaging, not allowing people to attend events with the president of Taiwan, huge bribes to her and her husband. So it is shocking at the highest levels of state government, and she had a nexus to the federal government as well. So we need to be vigilant. We need to recognize that the Chinese Communist Party isn't simply way over there, but they are on our shores and working to subvert the American experience.

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Yeah, I keep saying this has all the makings of our next Netflix documentary, lavish gifts, lavish properties. We know that her arrest is part of a broader Justice Department effort to root out secret agents for the Chinese government. Do you suspect that we'll see more arrests like this? And how far do you think this goes?

John Moolenaar

I believe we will. The Chinese Communist Party, remember, has a No Limits partnership with Russia. So when you're seeing Russia, you're seeing China, North Korea, Iran, they're all working in concert with one another. And the concern is that in China, they have tremendous access through TikTok - most of the young people under the age of 33 get their news from TikTok. And so when you can influence the Chinese Communist Party has it's incredible.

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I wanted to play a bit of sound for you, Congressman. Here's what FBI director Christopher Wray had to say about China during yesterday's announcement. Take a quick listen.

Christopher Wray

The actions announced today. Focus on Russia, but Russia is by no means the only adversary we've seen try to meddle in our society and democratic processes. We continue to keep a close eye on China's efforts to denigrate down ballot candidates it sees as a threat, and on their broader efforts to sow discord.

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As Chairman of the House Select Committee on China, what do these broader efforts to sow discord truly look like and what have you seen?

John Moolenaar

Well, they are trying to attack our way of life. The Chinese Communist Party seeks to dominate throughout the world and free enterprise, the freedom that we enjoy in America or Taiwan for that matter, is a direct threat. So you saw tremendous influence efforts, social media and other means to influence the Taiwan elections. You can bet that they will be very involved trying to influence our elections. In many cases, they're simply trying to sow discord within our country because they think a weakened America benefits them, and so we need to be vigilant and really use trusted sources.

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Yeah, vigilance is the name of the game right now. Representative John Molinar, thank you so much for your time. Really appreciate it, sir.

John Moolenaar

Thank you how.