

Chairman Moolenaar & Ranking Member Krishnamoorthi on Fox News' Special Report

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Bret Baier

In tonight's Common Ground segment, we look at bipartisan efforts to determine whether the US is ready to take on China on a number of fronts, fentanyl, across the economic front and in possibly a potential war in the Indo Pacific. Joining us tonight are Michigan Republican Congressman John Moolenaar, Chairman of the House Select Committee on China and Illinois Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, the top Democrat on that panel.

Mr. Chairman, I want to talk first about this possibility of war. Obviously, we want to do, as a country, everything to avoid that. But you all did a basically a test, a run through, a war game simulation in which Chinese forces essentially won. How did that go?

John Moolenaar

What we learned in a protracted war, our defense industrial base does not have the resources it needs to win that war. It's stretched thin with different regional conflicts around the world, and we need to make sure we shore up so that we can win a war if it were ever necessary.

Bret Baier

Congressman Krishnamoorthi- I assume you agree some of the results and recommendations:

- The Chinese forces makes this successful landing us.
- Taiwan forces exhausted available missiles and ammunition within days in the simulation
- Bold and aggressive steps are needed to take and rebuild US Defense industrial base and boost production capability and capacity to deter war.

Seems like the deadline for that is rapidly approaching

Raja Krishnamoorthi

Right now, our defense industrial base is in such disrepair that it shows weakness and that invites aggression. Just as one example in the ship building arena, for every one ocean going vessel that we can produce, China can produce 359 in one single year. And unfortunately, we have gaps with regard to long range anti-ship missiles, and we also have gaps in term in terms of manpower to actually fill the vacancies in our defense industrial base to produce the stuff that we need to deter aggression. \

Bret Baier

In mid October, then former president, now President-elect Trump, sat down with the Wall Street Journal editors, and in that write up Mr. Giga Paul asked how Mr. Trump would persuade Xi Jinping to stand down from a blockade of Taiwan.

And he said, "Oh, very easy."

The former president says, "I had a very strong relationship with him."

Mr. Giga says, "Would you use military force against a blockade on Taiwan? "

And Mr. Trump says, "I wouldn't have to, because he respects me, and he knows I'm f'ing crazy."

That was October 18. It's, you know, an interesting statement, but there are differences in how the Biden administration and the Trump administration coming in will deal with China. If you were to summarize those, what would it be?

John Moolenaar

Well, I think peace through strength is something that I've heard President Trump talk about continuously, and I believe President Trump will get them weapons earlier, because if we learned anything from Ukraine, it was that it's better to deter a war because of the strength of the country that's threatened, rather than respond afterwards.

Bret Baier

Congressmen Krishnamoorthi, if you look at the Pentagon and the budget that they have been dealing with, the write ups are really amazing. The Pentagon has failed its seventh audit in a row. But they're saying progress is being made. They're seeing a lot of waste and abuse there. There's a heavy lift here to turn things around.

Raja Krishnamoorthi

We spent almost \$900 billion on defense spending, but unfortunately, we're not getting the biggest bang for our buck. We all know that we shipped a lot of howitzer, HIMARS, and ATACMS now to Ukraine, but we've run out of the munitions to fire using those systems because our industrial base is stretched too thin. We should be giving demand signals to the private sector that, 'hey, we're going to buy X number of bullets over time. So, invest in the capacity to make that stuff more of it, and we don't ever run out.'

Bret Baier

We often do these common ground segments, and the China select committee has been a frequent guest over the months and months we've done this. What do you tell people at home about working across the. And how real or not real that is?

John Moolenaar

I tell them that the China committee is working very hard to help Americans understand the threat that we face and to help us win this strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party. Raja has done a tremendous job as a leader on the Democratic side, and we continue to make progress, and we look forward to continuing to work together on behalf of the American people.

Bret Baier

You've been through a couple of Chairmans, Congressman Krishnamoorthi, you were with Congressman Gallagher, and now you're with Chairman Moolenaar. And what about that bipartisan outreach between the two of you?

Raja Krishnamoorthi

Yeah, both of them came from the NFC North, by the way. So I think we gotta have, maybe the Bears have a chairman one of these days, anyway. Look, I think that John brings another, you know, just a great approach to trying to find the boldest common denominators that unite us. And we got to play against type. We got to maintain a unified approach.

Bret Baier

I think the Bears play the lions on Thanksgiving Day.

Raja Krishnamoorthi

I'm pretty sure that's right. They are. They are. You know, we've had, we've had a rough go of it. We lost the last-minute blocked field goal against the Packers. Speaking of football metaphors, I think that not maintaining a bipartisan approach is like blocking our own field goal in our approach to China.

Bret Baier

There you go. Well, listen, we appreciate both of you coming on and thanks very much. Please come back.

John Moolenaar

Thank you, Bret, thank you.