Timeline

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

April 30, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio

Secretary

U.S. Department of State

2201 C Street NW

Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to express our deep concern over recent public reporting that mercenaries from the People’s Republic of China (PRC) have been fighting in Ukraine in support of the Russian invasion. According to reporting, Ukraine’s military captured two PRC citizens who were fighting alongside the Russian army in Ukraine’s eastern Donetsk region.[[1]](#footnote-1) Moreover, Ukrainian intelligence has identified more than 150 additional PRC citizens recruited to fight in Russian army units and believes there are “many more of them.”[[2]](#footnote-2) If true, the presence of PRC soldiers on the battlefield in Ukraine provides new and disturbing evidence of the growing alignment between the PRC and Russia, as well as of Beijing’s increasingly global ambitions. Given the Chinese Communist Party’s broad control in Chinese society, it is clear that Russia’s recruitment campaign of PRC nationals could not exist without at least the tacit approval of the Party.

The reported presence of PRC mercenaries in Ukraine is only the latest evidence of Beijing’s extensive support for Russia’s war effort. Last month, the Intelligence Community reported in its 2025 Annual Threat Assessment that the PRC “is providing economic and security assistance to Russia’s war in Ukraine through support to Moscow’s defense industrial base, including by providing dual-use material and components for weapons.”[[3]](#footnote-3) This support has “improved Russia’s ability to overcome material losses in the war and launch strikes into Ukraine.”[[4]](#footnote-4) NATO leaders have condemned Beijing’s “no limits partnership” with Moscow and large-scale support for Russia’s defense industrial base for being a “decisive enabler” of Russia’s war against Ukraine.[[5]](#footnote-5)

For example, despite sanctions the United States and its allies placed on dual-use goods, including microelectronics and machine tools, Kyiv reports that approximately 60% of all foreign parts found in Russian weapons are Chinese in origin.[[6]](#footnote-6) Beijing is Moscow’s largest supplier of controlled dual-use products essential for Russia’s weapons production, which the Office of the Director of National Intelligence reports have included jamming equipment, jet-fighter parts, drones, and semiconductors.[[7]](#footnote-7) Last fall, evidence surfaced of Moscow’s collaboration with Beijing on weapons research and production, including a Russian state-owned arms manufacturer researching and manufacturing long-range attack drones inside the PRC.[[8]](#footnote-8)

The recent reporting on Chinese mercenaries fighting in Ukraine, in addition to the PRC’s broader support for the Russian war effort, underscores the deepening alignment between the autocratic regimes in Beijing and Moscow, including their mutual support and encouragement of each other’s expansionist aims. In order to better hold the PRC accountable for its support of the Russian invasion, we respectfully request a briefing, at the appropriate classification level, to discuss the following:

* Are the reports of PRC nationals fighting on behalf of Russia accurate?
* Has the State Department engaged with the PRC regarding these reports?
* What policy actions have been undertaken, or are under consideration, by the United States in response to this specific development?
* What actions are under consideration by the United States to hold the PRC accountable for its broader support for the Russian invasion?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

![A picture containing text, clipart

Description automatically generated]()Icon

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

John Moolenaar Raja Krishnamoorthi

Chairman Ranking Member

1. Chantal Da Silva, *Ukraine captures Chinese citizens who fought with Russian army, Zelenskyy says*, NBC News (Apr. 8, 2025). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Samya Kullab, *Ukraine says more than 150 Chinese mercenaries are fighting Russia in Ukraine*, AP News (Apr. 9, 2025); *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Annual Threat Assessment of the U.S. Intelligence* Community, Office of the Director of National Intelligence (Mar. 2025). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Id.* [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Simone McCarthy, *NATO allies call China a ‘decisive enabler’ of Russia in Ukraine war as bloc eyes Asia security threats*, CNN (July 11, 2024). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Julia Payne, *Ukraine says China is key route for foreign tech in Russian weapons*, Reuters (Sep. 24, 2024). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *Support Provided by the People’s Republic of China to Russia*, Office of the Director of National Intelligence (July 2023). [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Exclusive: Russia has secret war drones project in China, intel sources say*, Reuters (Sep. 25, 2024). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)