

Prepared Statement of Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA)

Hearing on: H.R. 2899, the “Chinese Media Reciprocity Act of 2011”

12:30 p.m.

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2141 Rayburn House Office Building

Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement
Committee on the Judiciary

Chairman Gallegly, Ranking Member Lofgren, thank you for calling this hearing.

Today’s hearing draws our attention to two vitally important areas of policy which Congress and the Executive Branch have woefully neglected: perception management and the aggressive nature of the Chinese Communist Party, which has labeled the United States as their enemy.

The Chinese Communist Party embarked a number of years ago to confront, challenge, and eventually overtake, the United States on a wide front of issues. The military arm of the CCP, the People’s Liberation Army, has been undergoing a rapid and alarming build-up and modernization.

The Chinese economy, as we all know, has grown at an expansive rate year after year. Thanks in large part to an unparalleled level of economic espionage, enormous investments by US corporations, and having been granted Most Favored Nation Trading status.

A less prominent, but no less important, area of confrontation between our country and the Chinese Communist Party is perception management – that is, actions taken to convey or deny certain pieces of information to foreign audiences in order to influence them.

In the US, because our government is legitimate and accountable to the people, we embrace the free exchange of information. In China, the Chinese Communist Party lacks legitimacy and maintains its grip on power by organized violence and intimidation. The Chinese Lao Gai system is the equivalent of the Soviet Gulag Archipelago.

The CCP must control information to stay in power, which means both inside China and to the greatest extent possible in other countries as well.

The CCP is morally bankrupt and the people of China, and those in occupied Tibet and East Turkistan, are our greatest allies. One of the best things we can do for them is to help them gain access to truthful and accurate information about what is happening in their country and throughout the world.

That is why our government created the Voice of America and Radio Free Asia.

The Chinese Communist Party is so afraid of the Chinese people learning the truth that it goes to great ends to jam radio broadcasts, censor the internet, deny visas to VOA reporters, and interfere with the work of the two VOA reporters that they do allow to operate in Beijing.

In contrast, the United States has issued hundreds of I-visas to Chinese journalists, 811 Chinese entered the US with I-visas in fiscal year 2011 alone. We allow the CCP to freely distribute their insidious propaganda in print, and to broadcast hours of television here in the US without any interference.

A year ago the largest Chinese Communist Party controlled news organization, Xinhua, moved their North American headquarters to Times Square in New York City and introduced an English television broadcast service that runs 24 hours a day. Additionally, Xinhua placed a 60 foot tall advertisement at the north end of Times Square, right above the Coca-Cola sign. It is estimated that the rent for that sign alone runs \$300,000 to \$400,000 a month.

That means in one year, for one sign, the CCP spends roughly the equivalent of a third of the entire budget for Voice of America's China Branch.

The CCP also pursues other forms of disinformation which worry me greatly. It has placed over 70 Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms here in the US. The CCP pays to put its teachers and Party approved content, masquerading as innocuous cultural material, on US campuses.

Just three weeks ago, a Chinese investor, using an undisclosed sum of Chinese state funds, bought the AMC Entertainment movie theatre chain. AMC was bought for \$2.6 billion, an amount greater than what many thought the chain was worth. The CCP did this because it will help get Chinese movies, with themes favorable to the Chinese Communist Party, into the American market and viewed by millions of unsuspecting Americans.

The CCP has clearly recognized the value of disinformation disguised as public diplomacy and are using it strongly to advance their nationalistic and hegemonic ends. America should not concede this valuable ground to the Communist Party and this bill is a first step to respond to the threat, defend America, and show that we are squarely on the side of freedom.

Thank you for calling this hearing and I hope a mark-up for HR 2899 can be held in the near future to move this important bill to the Floor for a vote. Thank you.