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#### Report: Satellite images show activity at Iran nuclear site exposed by Israel

*June 9, 2021* ynetnews.com reported: "A site revealed by Israel in 2018 to be an Iranian nuclear facility has seen a flurry of recent activity, Fox News reported late Tuesday, based on satellite images.

The images obtained by Fox from Maxar Technologies show that in October 2020, 18 vehicles were spotted at Sanjarian, near Tehran in northern Iran. More vehicles were recorded there in January, along with construction work including the preparation of a new access road.

The road was apparently covered over in March, leaving images of 'excavation swirls and new trenches,' Fox News reported, quoting analysis by Itay Bar Lev of Intel Lab who worked in conjunction with the Institute for Science and International Security..."

#### While America Slept, China Stole the Farm



*June 8, 2021* agweb.com reported: "American farmers are asleep as a thief strips machinery, barn, bins, and fields of all valuables—and then returns for more. China has breached the inner walls of the U.S. agriculture industry in what has arguably been the most expansive heist in farming history, and is currently attempting to steal or hack every conceivable facet of U.S. agriculture technology.



The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) openly has declared its intent to dominate high-tech industries across the world, including agriculture, by 2025. Undergirding its technological superiority effort, China has unabashed plans for a solo climb to the top rung of the global power ladder by 2049—international dominion. In order to fuel its ascendance, the CCP is engaged in widespread theft, cyber-hacking, and espionage, with the U.S. as the honey hole of illicit gain.

A 2017 report by the U.S. Commission on the Theft of American Intellectual Property speaks volumes, and estimates a cost of \$255 billion to \$600 billion to the U.S. economy each year, and fingers China as the "principle IP infringer." In 2020, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) acknowledged multiple espionage benchmarks: a new China-related counterintelligence case opens every 10 hours; over half of all active FBI counterintelligence cases involve China; and across the last 10 years, economic espionage with links to China jumped by almost 1,300 percent.

Over the past decade, China has appropriated trillions of dollars in sophisticated U.S. technology, with a keen interest in the latest advances in the agriculture industry. In 2013 and 2015, Chinese nationals were nabbed in flagrante delicto by federal authorities, attempting to transport pilfered corn and rice seed to China...Beijing is looting the American farm.

In 2011, when Mo Hailong, the U.S. director of international business for Beijing Dabeinong Technology Group, was spotted crawling through Iowa corn rows in two separate incidents, pocketing Pioneer and Monsanto seed corn, the curiosity spurred a multi-year FBI investigation, and revealed Hailong was mailing high-value seed to a relative in China.

Hailong and several Chinese cohorts were arrested in 2013, attempting to board a plane for China, and their luggage contained the purloined proof of old-school crime. Hidden beneath a façade of microwave popcorn bags and Subway napkins, authorities found hundreds of seed samples. Hailong received 36 months in prison..."

Weiqiang Zhang studied biotech crop production at Kansas State University, obtained a doctoral degree in rice genetics at Louisiana State University, and gained employment at Ventria (Kansas-based private biopharmaceutical corporation using GMO rice in production of recombinant proteins) as a seed breeder.

Zhang gained access to a climate-controlled seed room and stole samples representing \$75 million in research. He then used USDA letterhead to send counterfeit letters to six crop research colleagues in China, inviting them on a tour of Ventria and several more U.S. agriculture stops. The delegation brazenly showed in 2013 and made the rounds (including Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center in Stuttgart, Ark., where Zhang's main accomplice, Wengui Yan, worked as a research geneticist), but were seized by U.S. Customs agents during a routine luggage inspection that found hundreds of seeds, including corn, rice, soybeans, and wheat. Zhang was sentenced to roughly 10 years in prison.

According to FBI Director Christopher Wray, "The Chinese intelligence services strategically use every tool at their disposal, including state-owned businesses, students, researchers and ostensibly private companies, to systematically steal information and intellectual property."

A third of all international students in the U.S. are from China, roughly 360,000 Chinese nationals, who pay upwards of three times normal tuition rates, representing at least a \$14 billion influx for American universities and local economies.

In 2019, Joe Augustyn, a 28-year veteran of the CIA, said, "We know without a doubt that anytime a graduate student from China comes to the US, they are briefed when they go, and briefed when they come back."

"They don't just come here to spy ... they come here to study and a lot of it is legitimate," Augustyn said. "But there is no question in my mind, depending on where they are and what they are doing, that they have a role to play for their government."..."

### IAEA chief: Deeply concerned Iran hiding nuclear material

*June 7, 2021* jpost.com reported: "IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi on Monday told the organization's Board of Governors that he is 'deeply concerned' that Iran is hiding nuclear material, given its refusal to clarify open issues over an extended period.

'After many months, Iran has not provided the necessary explanation for the presence of the nuclear material particles at any of the three locations where the Agency has conducted complementary accesses,' he said. Grossi stated, 'In the absence of such an explanation from Iran, I am deeply concerned that nuclear material has been present at the three undeclared locations in Iran and that the current locations of this nuclear material are not known by the Agency.'

In addition, he said, 'Nor has Iran answered the questions with regard to the other undeclared location, or clarified the current location of natural uranium in the form of a metal disc..."

# Is Egypt planning to retake control of the Gaza Strip?

*June 7, 2021* jpost.com reported: "Scenes of dozens of Egyptian bulldozers, cranes and trucks entering the Gaza Strip last Friday have left some Palestinians wondering whether Egypt was planning to return to the coastal enclave it ruled between 1948 and 1967. The Egyptian decision to send building equipment and engineers to the Gaza Strip came in the context of Cairo's pledge to contribute to reconstruction efforts there after the recent fighting between Israel and Hamas.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Sisi has pledged \$500 million to help rebuild the houses and buildings that were destroyed during the fighting. The presence of the Egyptian construction teams in the Gaza Strip means Hamas and other Palestinian factions will not be able to resume rocket attacks on Israel, Palestinian sources told *The Jerusalem Post...*"

# Benjamin Netanyahu calls to block Israel's newly formed coalition

*June 4, 2021* bbc.com reported: "Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu has lashed out at a newly agreed coalition which looks set to remove him from power after 12 years as prime minister. Mr. Netanyahu called on right-wing members of parliament to block the coalition from taking office.

Eight parties reached an agreement to work together to form a new government late on Wednesday. But the group, from across Israel's political spectrum, still needs parliamentary backing to take office.



Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

No date has so far been set for such a vote in the Knesset (parliament). But it is expected to take place next week at the latest, and there is still a chance this newly formed coalition could be upended by defections. In his first comments since the coalition was announced, Mr. Netanyahu urged members of the Knesset 'elected by votes from the right' to oppose the coalition..."

### U.S. Mulls Launching 'Digital Dollar'

*June 3, 2021* voanews.com reported: "A top Federal Reserve official raised eyebrows in the financial services world last week by saying that the central bank is stepping up development of a plan that could result in the issuance of a digitized version of the U.S. dollar. In doing so, she indicated that the U.S. is joining a growing movement among major economic powers to rethink how money will be exchanged in the future.

The U.S. would not be the first country to consider launching what is known as a 'central bank digital currency,' or CBDC. China is taking a leading role. But the significance of the dollar to global trade and the world economy in general makes the Fed's interest in the project especially meaningful for the development and acceptance of what would amount to a form of digital 'cash.'

Proponents of a CBDC point to a future in which electronic payments between individuals or businesses could be instantaneous and permanent, with no need for a bank to serve as an intermediary, and in which even individuals without access to a bank account could easily receive secure electronic payments..."

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