

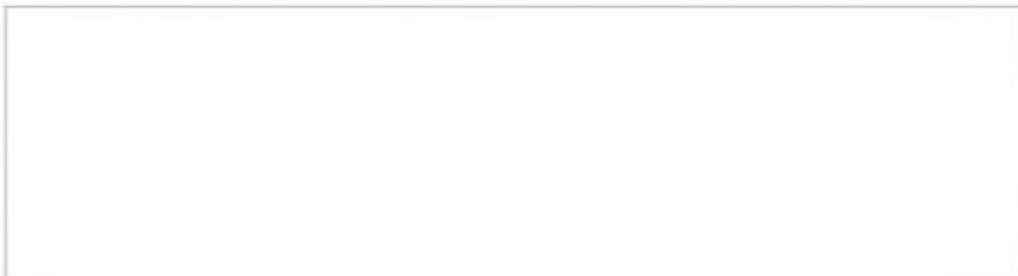
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Summary: OGM met with PRC Ambassador Cong Peiwu on Wednesday, August 9, at 10:15, to convey the Government of Canada's deep concern about a disinformation campaign targeting a federal Member of Parliament on Chinese social media platforms used by the Chinese diaspora in Canada. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The meeting ended cordially, [REDACTED] Canada and China would find ways to overcome bilateral issues and move towards cooperation, [REDACTED]

2. Report: Taking advantage of a scheduled meeting with Ambassador Cong, but adjusting its timing so that delivery ran parallel to a briefing being provided to Member of Parliament Michael Chong by DMA on RRM Canada's detection of likely state involvement in an information operation on WeChat targeting the MP, OGM opened the meeting by recalling Minister Joly's short interaction with Wang Yi in Jakarta. [REDACTED] OGM hoped for an opportunity for engagement soon and stressed the importance of regular meetings between the two Ministers, not just on the margins of multilateral meeting but also through travel to capitals when possible.

3. OGM then informed Ambassador Cong that the Canadian government was currently communicating to the public and to a member of parliament its concerns, based on solid research, about a troubling disinformation campaign on WeChat and Weixin. The Canadian government had serious concerns about an aggressive online campaign targeting a Canadian parliamentarian on WeChat that arose in May, when false and misleading statements about the MP's background, political stance and family heritage appeared targeted at discrediting the MP. The campaign used state media working in coordination, and artificial amplification, to reach WeChat and Weixin audiences in China, Hong Kong, and Canada. State media involved in the campaign included Global Times, Guancha syndicate, Shenzhen TV, and Hong Kong Commercial Daily. OGM indicated that the campaign likely violated WeChat and Weixin terms of service about having transparent policies on content moderation. OGM indicated that he had raised foreign interference, including disinformation, with Chinese authorities on several previous occasions, and that the corporate entities involved should cease and desist. OGM noted that the Declaration on online integrity had been signed by other Chinese companies in Canada (e.g. ByteDance) and requested Ambassador Cong's assistance in facilitating contact with Tencent representatives and in ensuring the PRC government encourage Tencent to sign and abide by the Declaration.

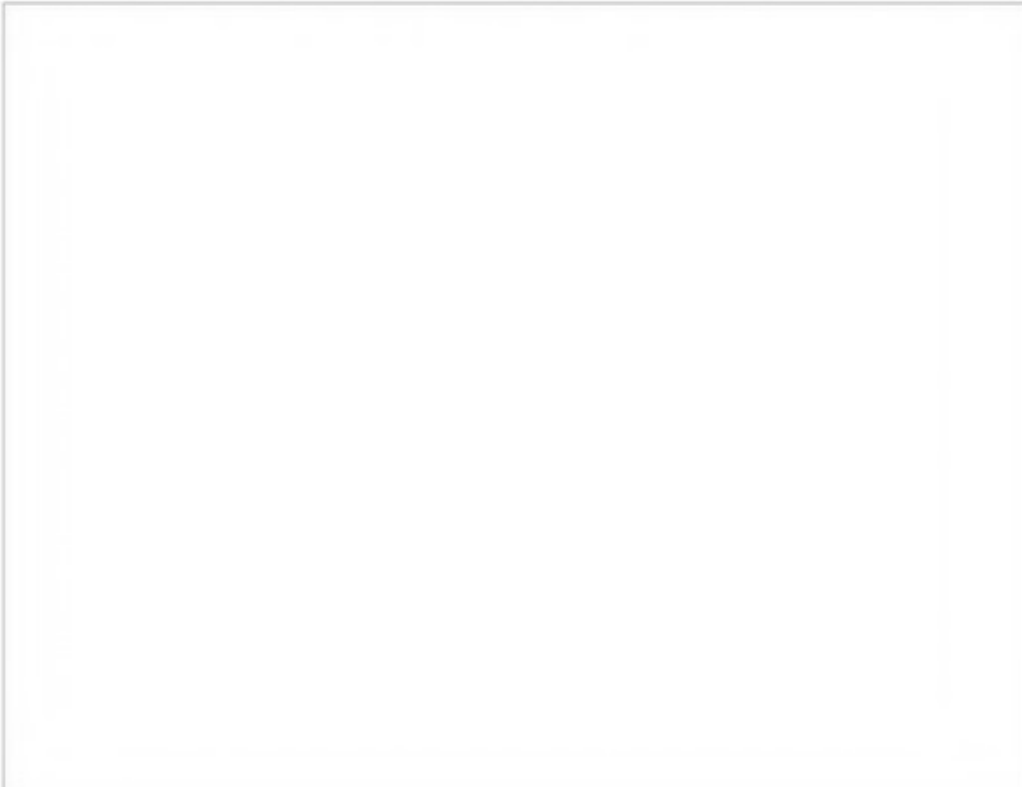


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[redacted] Ambassador Cong [redacted] undertook to convey the messages received to Beijing.

5. OGM disabused Cong of any equivalence between the online opinions of individuals - either within China or Canada - regarding the policies of a government, versus state-led media organisations publishing defamatory information that is being amplified on social media. OGM remarked that the Chinese government was free to hold certain views about Canada, but that Canada was arming itself with the tools, whether through RRM or the proposed Foreign Influence Transparency Registry, to make transparent to Canadians the types of activities that were occurring, and that legitimate activity was not the target. OGM also remarked that it was not sufficient for Chinese social media companies to abide by the laws of China, they also had to abide by the laws of the countries in which they were domiciled (e.g. Singapore in the case of Tencent) as well as those in which they were operating. He reiterated that there was no threat in Canada's message: the Government of Canada was offering to pursue a discussion with Tencent and hoped Tencent would take the offer seriously.



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7. [redacted] OGM assured Ambassador Cong that Canada had not made changes to its One-China Policy, under which Canada would engage in robust trade on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, that Canada supported the status-quo, and that this position remained unchanged.

[redacted]

[redacted] On bilateral engagement, OGM indicated that there were indeed positive areas for engagement, but that while disagreements would persist, Canada does not accept that pre-conditions have to be laid down before meetings takes place. OGM welcomed the visit of Minister Guilbeault to China and indicated that he would be soon speaking to the senior officials accompanying the Minister on his trip to China.

8. In closing, [redacted]

[redacted]