

Pence Blasts China for Election Interference

Vice President Mike Pence accused the Chinese government of orchestrating an aggressive military, economic and political campaign to expand its influence inside the United States.

In a speech at the Hudson Institute on Thursday, Pence said China has used covert actors, front groups and propaganda in an attempt to sway U.S. public opinion.

“To put it bluntly, President Trump’s leadership is working, and China wants a different American president,” Pence said. “As a senior career member of our intelligence community recently told me, what the Russians are doing pales in comparison to what China is doing across this country.”

Going beyond the midterms and other efforts, Pence accused China of directly undermining President Donald Trump after the administration has talked tough and has taken action against specific Chinese trade, economic and foreign policies.

“Our intelligence community says China is targeting U.S. state and local governments and officials to exploit any divisions between federal and local levels on policy. It’s using wedge issues, like trade tariffs, to advance Beijing political influence,” Pence said.

President Trump signed an executive order in September authorizing sanctions against Chinese hackers involved in election interference.

Since then, the vice president says China has targeted more than 80 percent of the counties here in the United States won by Trump in 2016 election. {eo}

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