# UK Summons Chinese Ambassador Over Espionage Allegations Amid Growing Cyber Threats



On a recent Tuesday, China’s ambassador to the UK, Zheng Zeguang, was summoned to the Foreign Office following directives from Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron. The summons followed accusations of Chinese involvement in espionage activities and interference within Britain, initially prompted by charges against three individuals under the National Security Act. These charges, announced on Monday, were linked to espionage activities by the foreign intelligence service of Hong Kong's Special Administrative Region.

During the meeting at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, UK officials expressed their strong disapproval of China's actions, which they claimed included cyber-attacks, espionage, and issuing bounties. Lord Cameron’s office emphasized that such conduct was unacceptable and detrimental to UK-China relations.

Concurrently, GCHQ Director Anne Keast-Butler voiced concerns over the cybersecurity threats China poses during her speech at the Cyber UK conference in Birmingham. She labeled the actions of Chinese state-backed hackers as "irresponsible," highlighting that such activities compromised global internet security and undermined international norms. Keast-Butler revealed that the UK devotes significant resources to addressing threats from China, more so than any other single issue.

In her security briefing, Keast-Butler also noted the continuous cyber threats from other nations, such as Russia and Iran, further complicating the global cybersecurity landscape. She outlined Russian intelligence's increasing collaboration with proxy groups to conduct cyber attacks and physical surveillance, characterizing the threat from Russia as "acute and globally pervasive."

The UK, along with its Five Eyes intelligence allies—comprising the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand—is actively coordinating to address these threats. Keast-Butler reiterated the importance of exposing and countering such destabilizing actions to protect national and allied interests.