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## Fwd: NYTimes: China and Solomon Islands Draft Secret Security Pact, Raising Alarm in the Pacific

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Ryan Washburn <rwashburn@usaid.gov>  
To: Brandon Miller <bmillier@usaid.gov>

Fri, May 6, 2022 at 2:34 PM

10 of 16

**Ryan Washburn**

Mission Director  
USAID/Philippines, Pacific Islands, and Mongolia  
U.S. Embassy, 1201 Roxas Blvd  
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Regina Burns Mackenzie** <rmackenzie@usaid.gov>  
Date: Mon, Mar 28, 2022 at 7:34 AM  
Subject: Re: NYTimes: China and Solomon Islands Draft Secret Security Pact, Raising Alarm in the Pacific  
To: Ryan Washburn <rwashburn@usaid.gov>, Sean Callahan <secallahan@usaid.gov>  
Cc: David Hatch <dhatch@usaid.gov>, Stacey Warren <swarren@usaid.gov>, William Pryor <wpryor@usaid.gov>

Yes. Very troubling. We're working on a related tasker for Craig now. It should come to the FO later today.

On Mon, Mar 28, 2022 at 7:31 AM Ryan Washburn <rwashburn@usaid.gov> wrote:  
Yikes! This is very troubling.

**Ryan Washburn**

Mission Director  
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On Fri, Mar 25, 2022 at 8:59 PM Sean Callahan <secallahan@usaid.gov> wrote:

China and Solomon Islands Draft Secret Security Pact, Raising Alarm in the Pacific  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/03/24/world/asia/china-solomon-islands-security-pact.html?referringSource=articleShare>

Sent from my iPhone

**Fwd: China and Solomon Islands sign security pact, Beijing says it is 'not directed at any third party' amid Pacific influence fears - ABC News**

1 message

Ryan Washburn <rwashburn@usaid.gov>  
To: Brandon Miller <bmillier@usaid.gov>

Fri, May 6, 2022

1 of 16

**Ryan Washburn**  
Mission Director  
USAID/Philippines, Pacific Islands, and Mongolia  
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sean Callahan** <secallahan@usaid.gov>  
Date: Wed, Apr 20, 2022 at 10:13 AM  
Subject: Re: China and Solomon Islands sign security pact, Beijing says it is 'not directed at any third party' amid Pacific influence fears - ABC News  
To: William Pryor <wpryor@usaid.gov>  
Cc: Dorothy Rayburn <drayburn@usaid.gov>, Sarah Mentrup <smentrup@usaid.gov>, Craig Hart <chart@usaid.gov>, David Hatch <dhatch@usaid.gov>, Erin Nicholson <enicholson@usaid.gov>, Philippines, Pacific Islands, Mongolia Desk <phl.pics.mong.desk@usaid.gov>, Regina Mackenzie <rmackenzie@usaid.gov>, Ryan Washburn <rwashburn@usaid.gov>

Yes it is deja vu all over again and we had to scramble when the switch happened right before UNGA in September 2019.

The press and academia in Canberra and Wellington are making those same comparisons from 2019 too referring that again that we got "played" by the PM.

On Wed, Apr 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM William Pryor <wpryor@usaid.gov> wrote:

Hi,

Graham is assessing the formal timelines and motivations, but local media sources are promulgating the news by reposting the PRC content. The reporter responsible for that link, Dorothy Wickham, is an IVLP graduate who also has exposure to PRC media junkets. Wickham is presenting at the UH/Georgetown summit on the SI Sec Agreement on April DC time (April 21 6am Manila / 9am Honiara):

- UH/Georgetown Webinar: China-Solomon Islands Security Agreement and Blue Pacific (In)Securities

The webinar should be filled with local insights so will be tracking as closely as possible.

The coconut wireless has already picked up on the similarities (b)(5); (b)(5) - Deliberative Process Privilege

(b)(5); (b)(5) - Deliberative Process Privilege

Best,

William

On Wed, Apr 20, 2022 at 12:21 PM Dorothy Rayburn <drayburn@usaid.gov> wrote:  
Here's what I've seen from Members of Congress. Dottie Portman, Bipartisan Congressional Delegation Meet with Australian Leaders

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## Portman, Bipartisan Congressional Delegation Meet with Australian Leaders

April 14, 2022 | [Press Releases](#)

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The following joint statement was issued by U.S. Senators Rob Portman (R-OH), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), Richard Burr (R-NC), Ben Sasse (R-NE) and U.S. Representative Ronny Jackson (R-TX) after visiting Australia.

The bipartisan, bicameral delegation met with senior leaders of the Australian government and opposition party about areas of mutual concern for both nations.

*"For more than seventy years, the alliance between the United States and Australia has withstood challenges and has proven to be mutually beneficial. We look forward to strengthening our alliance even further in the coming years.*

*"We are glad to have met with various senior leaders of the Australian government and opposition party regarding our support for the recent Australia-United Kingdom-United States (AUKUS) partnership, which will only strengthen the United States' and Australia's defense and economic relationship. In bolstering trilateral cooperation in military capabilities and critical technologies while providing Australia with nuclear powered submarine capability, our partnership only further*

advances our nations' mutual security interests and enhances our abilities to deter malign activity in the region.

"We share Australia's concern regarding Beijing's aggressive efforts to expand its influence, particularly through its proposed security pact with the Solomon Islands, and hope to work with Australia to address this behavior. We deeply admire Australia's own resistance to Chinese digital authoritarianism and applaud its decision to reject Huawei 5G, which serves as a powerful show of strength in the face of immense pressure and demonstrates the Australian government's unwavering commitment to the security and prosperity of its people.

"We express our deep appreciation for Australia's provision of significant security assistance, including armored vehicles and anti-tank missiles, to Ukraine's courageous defenders. Australia plays a key role in the international coalition to hold Russia accountable, joining with like-minded democracies to impose devastating sanctions on the Putin regime. We will continue to work closely with Australia to support Ukraine as it stands up to Russian aggression."

On Tue, Apr 19, 2022 at 9:05 PM Sean Callahan <secallahan@usaid.gov> wrote:

Twitter lit up last night on this with the Australian audience with some noting it was signed yesterday and done intentionally before the USG delegation was to arrive in Honiara. I did see that mentioned that the PRC MFA announced it but not sure if this was accurate.

I am not sure of the facts/timeline of this at this time. Perhaps William knows more but the coconut wire is often full of rumours, half-truths, etc.

On Wed, Apr 20, 2022 at 7:31 AM Sarah Mentrup <smentrup@usaid.gov> wrote:

Thanks, Sean. (b)(5) - Deliberative Process Privilege

The article says PM Sogavare will make the announcement in coming days...how does that align with the planned stop in SI?

Let us know if you need anything, Craig, when the group considers options/response.

Best,  
Sarah

On Wed, Apr 20, 2022 at 00:33 Craig Hart <chart@usaid.gov> wrote:

This came up as a possibility yesterday in the meeting with likeminded and Kurt talked through options. We will see which of these plays out. Thanks

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 19, 2022, at 6:16 AM, Erin Nicholson <enicholson@usaid.gov> wrote:

This is very unfortunate. I heard reference to the signed agreement on NPR this morning. Should we do a WWU and get any comment/reaction from Craig who is in the reg and how this affects their trip? Very unfortunate.

Copying Dottie as well for awareness as representatives on the Hill may be tracking this. (If you also hear any feedback on this Dottie, pls let us know). NSC had said that we may need a Hill engagement strategy on this issue as well.

On Tue, Apr 19, 2022 at 9:20 AM Sean Callahan <secallahan@usaid.gov> wrote:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-04-19/china-and-solomon-islands-sign-security-pact-says-chinese-foreign/101000530>

Sent from my iPhone

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Erin Nicholson  
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**Sarah Mentrup**

Desk Officer for Philippines, Pacific, and Mongolia  
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