

Huawei probe puts UK-US accord at risk

Washington is weighing withdrawing planes and agents from Britain over Chinese firm's role in 5G

By Ben Riley-Smith US EDITOR

THE White House has launched a major review of whether spy planes, intelligence officials and other US assets should be withdrawn from Britain after Downing Street agreed Huawei can help build its 5G network.

Sources, including current US and UK officials, have told *The Daily Telegraph* that the process – not yet made public – is under way, threatening the “special relationship”.

Every military and intelligence asset the Americans have in Britain is being assessed to understand the knock-on implications of letting Huawei, the Chinese tech giant, construct part of the new wireless network.

A group of RC-135s, sophisticated reconnaissance aircraft based here and used to gather battlefield intelligence, are thought to be among the most vulnerable, say well-placed sources.

Whether highly classified missions increasingly should be carried out from countries other than Britain due to confidentiality fears is also being considered. This could see US agents being redeployed.

One former official who only recently left the White House's National Security Council (NSC), which is leading the review, said it was “likely” some assets would be removed from Britain.

The source said: “This was not a bluff. You cannot mitigate the danger Boris Johnson is exposing the UK to by letting Huawei into the network.”

“This is the White House saying, ‘OK, if they’re going to go down this path and put themselves at risk, then how do we protect ourselves?’”

The review marks a significant escalation in the Huawei row, with the US now going beyond words of warning, and taking concrete steps that could end up harming military and intelligence ties.

NSC spokesman John Ulyot declined to comment.

The UK has maintained that giving Huawei limited access will not compromise its 5G network.

The review comes as Donald Trump

takes an increasingly confrontational approach towards Beijing. The US president has blamed China for not doing more to stop the coronavirus outbreak when it first emerged there.

Mr Johnson announced in January that Huawei would be allowed to build some of Britain's 5G network – defying sustained lobbying against that by the Trump administration.

However, the Prime Minister set restrictions, barring Huawei from “core” parts of the network, such as near military facilities and nuclear sites, and capping its share of non-sensitive parts to 35 per cent.

The Trump administration has long maintained that letting Huawei build any part of the 5G network would effectively give access to the Chinese government.

The totality of the review means everything from the more than 10,000 US military personnel in Britain to scores of military vehicles will be looked at, not to mention intelligence operations.

The RC-135s are officially assigned to a base in Nebraska, but are effectively operated out of RAF Mildenhall in Sussex. Around half a dozen RC-135s are often at the base, where 500 Americans are stationed. They have been used recently in the Middle East.

Another issue is US agents who carry out secret missions in Britain. Sources familiar with the review questioned whether agents using personal phones and other internet-connected devices could really keep their messages safe.

Some Republicans see a pulling back in Britain as matching their belief in the need for a US military refocusing on Asia. A Republican congressional adviser said: “Britain is forcing us into a corner to make decisions and ponder consequences we don't want to make or ponder. We would rather the special relationship be renewed and revitalised, but it is difficult to do when genuine security interests were discarded.”

It is understood that Ben Wallace, the Defence Secretary, was not informed of the review by counterparts when he visited Washington in March.

Robert O'Brien, the US national security adviser, said that UK-US intelligence cooperation would continue, but added in a joke now pointed to by Trump administration insiders, it may have to be done with “carrier pigeons”.

No 10 and the Ministry of Defence declined to comment.

Kazakhstan heiress ousted from regime

By Theo Merz in Moscow

THE multi-millionaire daughter of Kazakhstan's former president has been stripped of powers that would have put her first in line for the leadership of the oil-rich central Asian nation.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, the current president, gave no reason for Dariga Nazarbayeva's surprise dismissal as senate speaker, but the decision comes shortly after a high-profile London court battle that exposed details of her vast personal fortune.

Ms Nazarbayeva was made senate speaker last year when her father Nursultan Nazarbayev stepped down after almost 30 years as president, handing over to his protégé Mr Tokayev.

The speaker automatically takes power if the president resigns or is incapacitated, leading to speculation that 56-year-old Ms Nazarbayeva was positioning to succeed her father.

Her father still wields huge influence in the ex-Soviet state. Kazakhstan's capital city Astana was renamed Nur-Sultan in his honour last year. Family members amassed huge for-

unes over Mr Nazarbayev, but journalists in Kazakhstan are forbidden by law from investigating this wealth.

Details however came to light in a High Court battle in London in March, as Ms Nazarbayeva and her son sought to stop “McMafia” laws being used to seize their £80million property portfolio in the capital. The UK National Crime Agency had targeted three addresses it suspected were bought with the proceeds of crimes by Ms Nazarbayeva's late ex-husband. They included a 10-bedroom mansion in an area of Hampstead, north London, known as Billionaires' Row.

The court overturned the Unexplained Wealth Orders, but the ruling brought attention to Ms Nazarbayeva's business empire, which spans the sugar, car, banking and media industries. *Forbes* magazine last estimated her wealth in 2013 at \$595million (£479million) and she was named in the Panama Papers as the owner of an offshore company in the British Virgin Islands. Maulen Ashimbayev, Mr Tokayev's deputy chief of staff, became senate speaker in a reshuffle on Monday.

Greek conservationists urge tourists to dine on ‘alien’ fish

By Nick Squires in Rome

THEY may not have quite the same ring of familiarity as grilled calamari, but trumpetfish soup and lionfish ceviche could soon become staples on the menus of Greek tavernas if conservationists have their way.

The fish feature in an unusual new cookbook which aims to persuade tourists to tuck into exotic species along with their tzatziki and chilled white wine next time they are on holiday in the Aegean.

The fish are among dozens of alien species that are now thriving in the Mediterranean, having swum through the Suez Canal from the Indian Ocean.

Many of the newcomers are prolific breeders and aggressive towards native species, which have no natural defences against the invaders.

They are now so well-established that it will be impossible to eradicate them, but conservationists say that if people can be persuaded to eat them, their numbers could be kept under control. The book, *Recipes for Edible*

Alien Species, has been published by the Cyclades Preservation Fund and iSea, two conservation organisations.

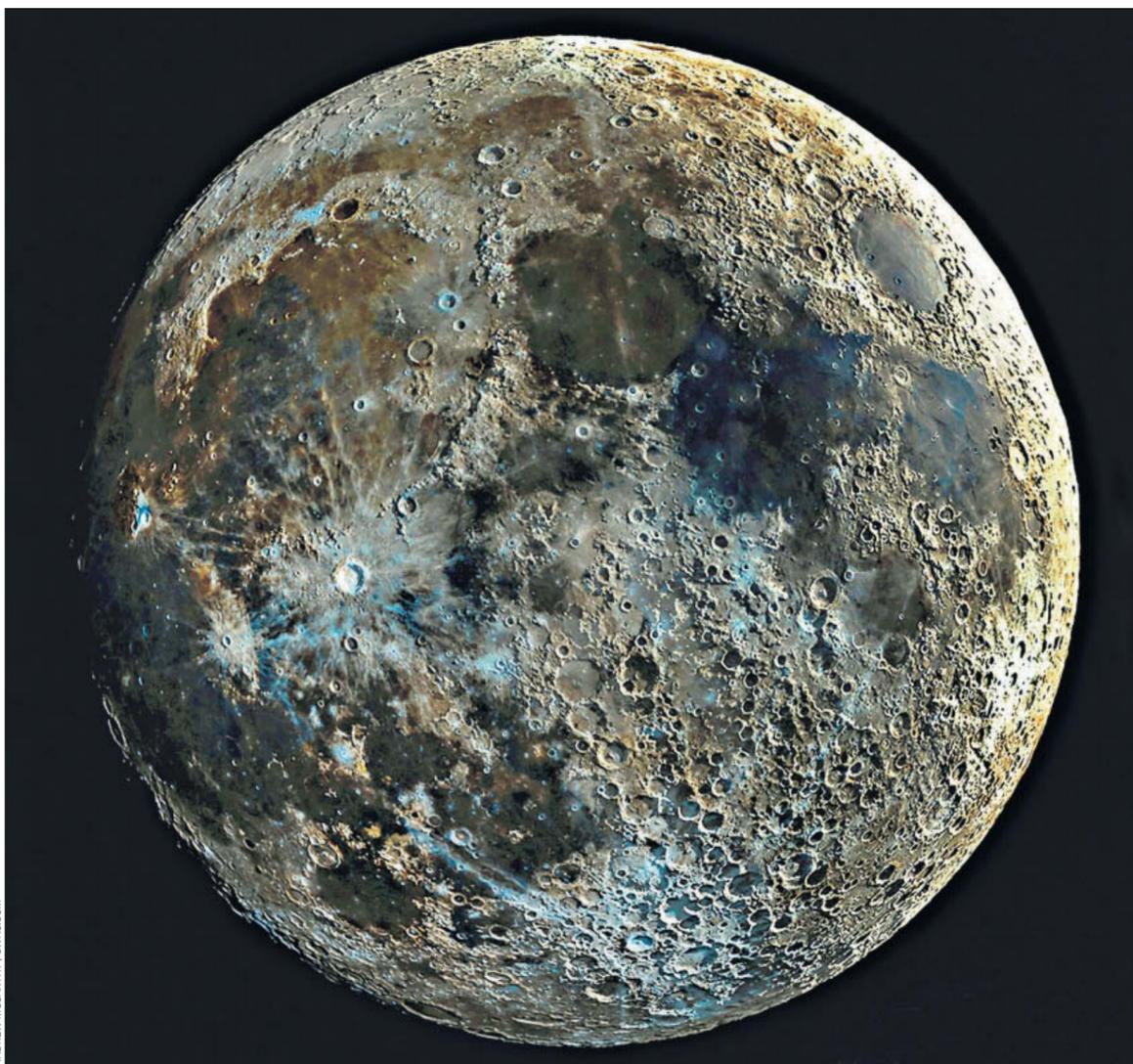
“Alien species are today considered one of the greatest threats to marine ecosystems,” writes Argyro Zenetou, the director of the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research, in the book's preface.

Greek chefs have paired exotic species such as rabbitfish with classic Mediterranean ingredients: olive oil, tomatoes, garlic and parsley. Recipes include linguine with lionfish sauce, and rabbitfish fillet with pepper and paprika.

Eating non-native species is a “win-win” because an alien creature is removed from the marine environment and local fishermen can make a living, said Anni Mitropoulou, director of the Cyclades Preservation Fund.

A campaign called Pick the Alien encourages diners to choose exotic species from menus, thus taking pressure off heavily-fished Mediterranean species such as sea bream, swordfish and tuna.

The campaign is being launched in Santorini, Zakynthos, Paros and Amorgos.



The whole of the Moon This composite picture of the Moon, made up from thousands of pictures of different Moon phases, was created by Andrew McCarthy, a Californian astrophotographer. He aimed to capture every detail of its craters.

Venezuela claims it defeated coup attempt

By Cody Weddle in Bogota

VENEZUELA says it thwarted an armed incursion on Sunday by “mercenaries who organised and trained in Colombia”, killing eight people and capturing two others as they attempted to arrive on the country's coast via speedboat.

“This was an attempt to invade our

coasts by a group of mercenary terrorists,” Minister Nestor Reverol said. “The goal was to commit terrorist acts, kill government leaders, and end in a coup.”

Jordan Goudreau, a former member of the American Army Special Forces, claimed responsibility for the attack in a video posted online alongside Javier Nieto, an exiled Venezuelan soldier. In

what they called “operation Gideon”, Goudreau said they had launched “an amphibious raid from the border of Colombia deep into the heart of Caracas”.

Nicolas Maduro's government portrayed the incident as a success for the country's military in its struggle against the US and more than 50 other countries who refuse to recognise him as presi-

dent. The US State Department and Colombian government have denied involvement in the operation.

Mr Maduro often accuses Colombia of attempts to overthrow his government in conjunction with the US, sometimes with little evidence. Over 50 countries recognise opposition leader Juan Guaido as the rightful interim president.

WORLD BULLETIN

Fisherman loses fingers in crocodile attack

An Australian man needed surgery to reattach his fingers after being attacked by a crocodile in the Northern Territory, the second such attack in the region in five days.

The 24-year-old was fishing at Mandorah, a 5km (three-mile) boat journey from Darwin, on Sunday evening when the crocodile attacked.

Witnesses drove the man roughly way to Darwin after the attack, meeting ambulance paramedics.

Egypt ‘has effectively outlawed journalism’

Egypt's authoritarian government has made journalism a de facto crime, an Amnesty International report has said.

The human rights group outlined 37 cases in which journalists have been detained on charges such as “spreading false news” or “misusing social media”. Philip Luther, Amnesty's Middle East and North Africa director, said: “The Egyptian authorities have made it very clear that anyone who challenges the official narrative will be severely punished.”

Former pope complains of attempts to silence him

The former pope Benedict XVI has accused opponents of wanting to “silence” him in a new authorised biography published yesterday in Germany, which also attacks gay marriage in vehement terms.

The 93-year-old, originally Joseph Ratzinger, claims in *Benedict XVI – A Life* that he was the victim of a “malignant distortion of reality” over his positions in theological debates, published passages reveal. Benedict XVI was in office from 2005 to 2013.

Trump goes on attack after Bush virus video

Donald Trump, the US president, found himself in an online tussle with former president George W Bush on Sunday, after his fellow Republican posted a video filled with the kind of empathy and solidarity that some have accused the current White House occupant of failing to show.

Mr Bush drew a parallel between the pandemic and the Sept 11 attacks in a clip posted on Saturday. Mr Trump responded by saying that Mr Bush was “nowhere to be found” when he was battling an impeachment attempt.

The Telegraph

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