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US Ups Pressure on Israel over Investments by China

Washington known to be concerned over Hutchison Water, whose parent company reportedly is under Treasury Department investigation

Charles Bybelezer 05/04/2020

The United States has warned Israel about a Chinese company vying for a contract to build what would be the largest desalination plant in the world.

[…]

"Tensions between the US and China have been mounting since the end of 2017, when the [White House published its National Security Strategy that focused heavily on Beijing]," **Assaf Orion**, director of the China Program at the Tel Aviv-based **Institute for National Security Studies**, explained to The Media Line.

"During this period, the US has sought the support of its partners on various issues, and Israel is no exception. Dialogue between the US and Israeli governments about [Jerusalem's] ties to China have been taking place for some time now," he said.

"Like many countries," Orion continued, "Israel has to consider the following aspects of Chinese investment: the business and economic benefits, in which respect China brings formidable capital, markets, technology and proven capabilities to the table; the direct implications on national security as it relates to strategic independence, foreign influence, IP [Intellectual Property] and cyber security, given the [Communist Party's] influence on Chinese companies; and, above all, the indirect implications of Israel-China relations on the strategic bond with the US."

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