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◆ **WSJ NEWS EXCLUSIVE** EUROPE

Hungary Sees U.S. Among Top Three Adversaries, Purported Leaked CIA Document Says

Intelligence update sees ‘an escalation of the level of anti-American rhetoric’



The purported leaked paper cites comments from Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán at a ruling party meeting.

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By *Thomas Grove* [Follow](#)

Updated April 11, 2023 6:00 pm ET

WARSAW—Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán named the U.S. as one of the top three adversaries for his Fidesz Party, according to a purportedly leaked Central Intelligence Agency assessment—underscoring the depth of a longtime rift between Washington and a North Atlantic Treaty Organization member that has increasingly defended its ties with Russia and China.

The document was part of a larger trove of leaked papers that provided details about the war in Ukraine, revealed how much U.S. intelligence agencies knew about Russian military intelligence and shed light on Washington’s intercepted communications about U.S. allies.

The CIA intelligence update, dated March 2, said Mr. Orbán’s inclusion of the U.S. as a top adversary in a Feb. 22 political-strategy meeting “constitutes an

as a top adversary in a Feb. 22 political strategy meeting constitutes an escalation of the level of anti-American rhetoric.” The note listed the U.S. Embassy as the source for the information, raising the possibility of U.S. monitoring of the ruling-party meeting.

Mr. Orban didn’t immediately respond to a request for comment. A representative of the U.S. Embassy in Budapest wasn’t available for comment.

In a statement, the State Department said the Pentagon and U.S. intelligence agencies were reviewing and assessing the authenticity of the documents.

“U.S. officials are engaging with allies and partners at high levels over this, including to reassure them of our commitment to safe-guarding intelligence and fidelity to our security partnerships,” the statement read. “As a matter of principle, intelligence matters like collection methods are not something we would ever talk about publicly.”

The Wall Street Journal wasn’t able to independently authenticate the leaked documents, including the file that includes the purported CIA finding, but they contain enough detail to give them credibility. Defense officials have said they believe some of the documents could be authentic, though some also appear to have been altered.

Since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Budapest has expressed broad skepticism of Western priorities, including shedding dependence on Russian energy and sending military aid to Ukraine. The rhetoric in the meeting, however, shows the extent of the long-running problems between Hungary and the U.S.

Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó, speaking in Moscow on Tuesday, said that he had reached a new energy deal with Russia, giving Budapest latitude to import Russian gas volumes beyond those agreed to in a long-term contract signed last year. Hungary has likewise criticized Western efforts to recruit it as part of a united front against China, which Budapest has aggressively courted for years.

Earlier this year, China’s top diplomat, Wang Yi, visited Hungary, despite U.S. concern over growing Chinese investment in the country. Mr. Wang met with the five-term prime minister, who has governed Hungary for half of its postcommunist history.



China's top diplomat, Wang Yi, speaking with Hungarian Foreign Minister Péter Szijjártó, in Budapest this year.

PHOTO: ATTILA KISBENEDEK/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Budapest was the first in the European Union to sign a so-called Belt-and-Road infrastructure development memorandum with Beijing, which financed a Chinese-built rail line connecting the country to Serbia.

Hungary hosts Huawei Technologies Co.'s largest supply center outside China, despite U.S. pressure to ban the tech company. After expelling Budapest's Central European University, a U.S.-accredited college founded by liberal billionaire George Soros, Mr. Orbán agreed to host Shanghai's Fudan University, whose Hungarian campus would become the first Chinese university in the European Union.

Hungary's stance on China has yielded benefits for Budapest. Last year, Chinese battery manufacturer Contemporary Amperex Technology Co. Ltd. announced it was building a €7 billion, equivalent to \$7.5 billion, battery factory in Debrecen in eastern Hungary.

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Corrections & Amplifications

A purportedly leaked CIA assessment about Hungary is part of a larger trove of leaked papers that provided details about the war in Ukraine, revealed how much U.S. intelligence agencies knew about Russian military intelligence and shed

light on Washington's intercepted communications about U.S. allies. An earlier version of this article incorrectly implied that the document referring to Hungary also provided details about the war in Ukraine, American intelligence about Russian military intelligence, and Washington's intercepted communications about U.S. allies. (Corrected on April 11).

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