

Chinese spies hacked Dutch defence network last year - intelligence agencies

THE HAGUE, Netherlands, Feb 6 (Reuters) - Chinese state-backed cyber spies gained access to a Dutch military network last year, Dutch intelligence agencies said on Tuesday, calling it part of a trend of Chinese political espionage against the Netherlands and its allies.

It is the first time the Netherlands has publicly attributed cyber espionage to China, as national security tensions grow between the two countries.

"It is important to ensure that espionage activities of this nature committed by China become public knowledge since this will help to increase international resilience to this type of cyber espionage," Dutch Defence Minister Kaja Ollongren said.

The agencies, known by their Dutch acronyms MIVD and AIVD, said the hackers had placed malicious software, or malware, that cloaked its own activity inside an armed forces network used by 50 people for unclassified research.

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