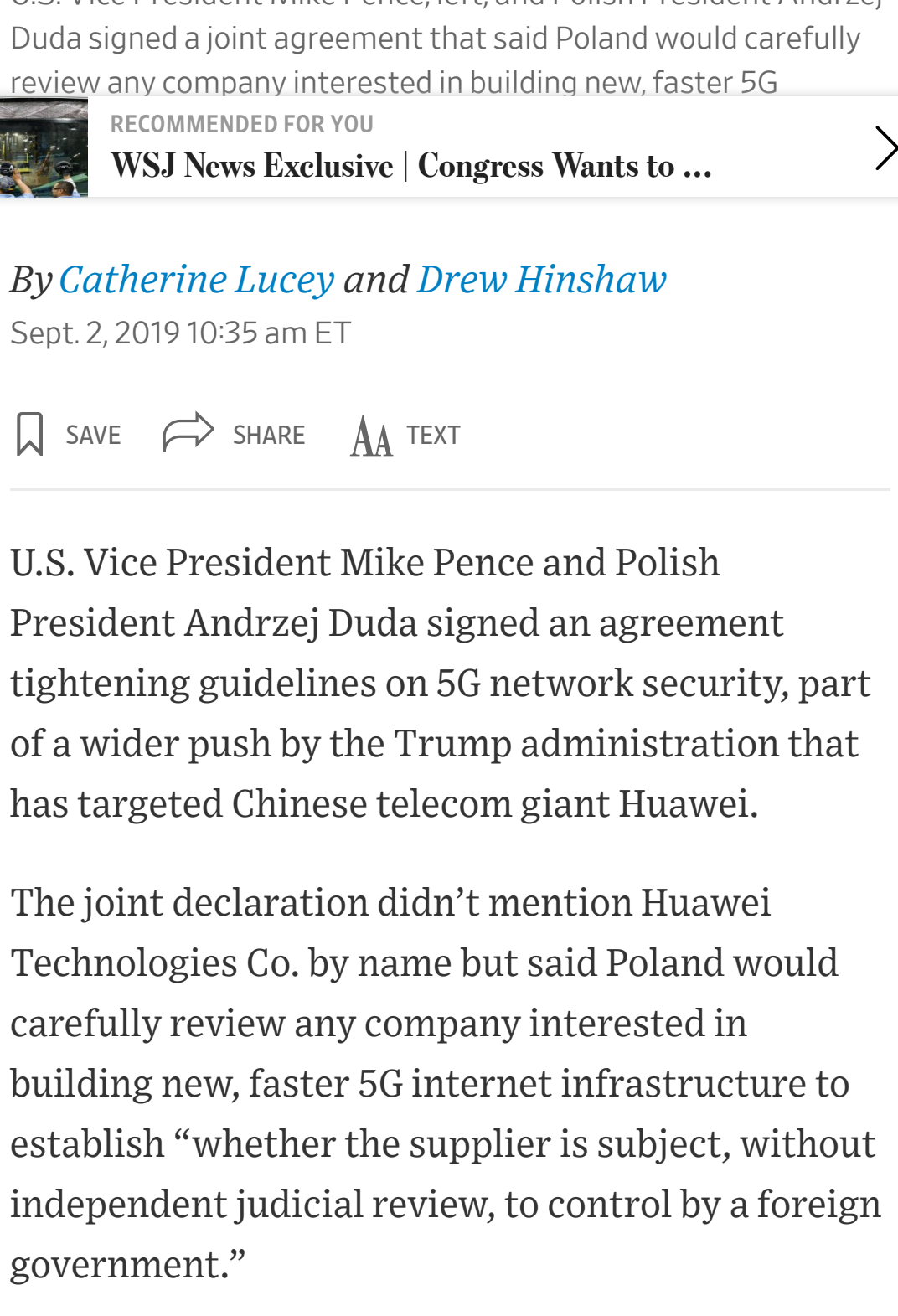


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U.S. Signs 5G Agreement With Poland Amid Huawei Concerns

Joint declaration seen as part of Trump administration's push for allies to cut ties with Chinese telecom giant



U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, left, and Polish President Andrzej Duda signed a joint agreement that said Poland would carefully review any company interested in building new, faster 5G

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By *Catherine Lucey and Drew Hinshaw*

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U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and Polish President Andrzej Duda signed an agreement tightening guidelines on 5G network security, part of a wider push by the Trump administration that has targeted Chinese telecom giant Huawei.

The joint declaration didn't mention Huawei Technologies Co. by name but said Poland would carefully review any company interested in building new, faster 5G internet infrastructure to establish "whether the supplier is subject, without independent judicial review, to control by a foreign government."

U.S. officials have long argued that, as a Chinese company, Huawei has no choice but to comply with the demands of the Beijing government and the Communist Party.

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The two leaders [made the deal official](#) Monday during a visit by Mr. Pence to Poland. He came for a [World War II commemorative ceremony](#) and meetings in place of President Trump who remained in the U.S., citing the need to monitor Hurricane Dorian.

The Trump administration has tried to [dissuade allies](#) abroad from using Huawei's telecom equipment, particularly in building 5G infrastructure. Huawei officials have denied claims that its products or personnel could be used for espionage.

The agreement would "ensure the security of our digital infrastructure," said Mr. Pence at a press conference on Monday.

"This declaration we believe will set a vital example for the rest of Europe," he said.

Elsewhere on the continent, normally close American allies have been reluctant to take a hard stance against Huawei, in part from fear that such a move would endanger the relationship with China. Telecom industry analysts broadly agree that Huawei is more than a year ahead of its European rivals in developing the technology needed to bring 5G internet to market.

Poland, a key U.S. partner on security issues, has been an exception. Its trade with China is relatively minimal compared with Europe's larger economies, and maintaining close ties with Washington has been an overriding foreign policy goal. Poland hosts about 4,500 U.S. troops on regular rotation, a contingent that is meant to deter the Russian military from crossing Poland's borders.

The country's nationalist ruling party, Law and Justice, which backed Mr. Duda's 2015 candidacy, is facing elections next month and is touting its close relationship to the Trump administration as a reason for voters to return it to power.

In January this year, local police raided the Huawei headquarters in Warsaw and arrested a company executive, who remains in detention ahead of a classified trial on espionage charges. A Polish national was also arrested, but has been released. Huawei fired the executive and has denied any wrongdoing.

"Such behaviors have been detected that can be qualified as actions of an espionage nature," Mr. Duda said in a press conference Monday, in response to a question about the Chinese tech company.

The signing ceremony followed a series of official meetings between Messrs Pence and Duda at the presidential palace. Mr. Pence expressed his strong support for Poland during public remarks.

"The relationship between the United States and Poland has never been stronger," he said.

Mr. Pence also met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky during the visit. He used the meeting, he said, to explain that the Trump administration is worried about corruption in Ukraine and wishes to see European nations take a larger role in the country.

"The United States has carried the load on most of the security investments in Ukraine and we have been proud to do that," Mr. Pence said. "But we believe it's time for our European partners to step forward, make additional investments, and stand with the people of Ukraine."

Mr. Pence said that sites for joint military bases in Poland had been "finalized." He also said Poland was "nearing eligibility" for a visa-waiver program, which enables citizens of participating countries to visit the U.S. without a visa.

Mr. Pence's reassurances to Poland and Ukraine come after President Trump again expressed support for reinstating [Russia in the G-7](#). Russia was expelled from the group in 2014 over its annexation of Crimea.

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