
US DEFENSE SECRETARY SAYS CHINA IS A THREAT TO PANAMA CANAL, SPURRING A FIERY RESPONSE FROM BEIJING

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U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said Tuesday the Panama Canal faces ongoing threats from China but that together the United States and Panama will keep it secure.

Hegseth's remarks triggered a fiery response from the Chinese government, which said: Who represents the real threat to the Canal? People will make their own judgement.

Speaking at a ribbon cutting for a new U.S.-financed dock at the Vasco Nuñez de Balboa Naval Base after a meeting with Panama President José Raúl Mulino, Hegseth said the U.S. will not allow China or any other country to threaten the canal's operation.

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