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Huang's Return: Technology, Espionage and Political Patronage

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The sudden departure of Jensen Huang, head of NVIDIA, a major player in artificial intelligence (AI), followed by his return just days later, is more than a corporate drama. The alleged links with Chinese intelligence agencies, concerns within US intelligence circles, President Donald Trump's unusual interest, and the enthusiastic welcome extended by Israel's leaders all carry significant meaning.

The Espionage Suspicions That Began in Singapore

At the center of the controversy is Alice Huang, a Chinese businesswoman operating in Singapore, reports of whose close ties with Jensen Huang came to light. US intelligence agencies suspected that Alice Huang had links with Chinese intelligence agencies and was gathering information for Beijing. Her former business organization, Megaspeed International, had also been under investigation on suspicion that it transferred advanced AI chips to China in violation of US sanctions.

The matter was not confined to an individual's private life. NVIDIA's advanced chips, their access to China, and America's technological superiority were turning the controversy into a national security issue.

Trump's Close Ties and Intelligence Concerns

The close relationship between Jensen Huang and President Trump is also unusual. In May this year, when Trump set off on his visit to China, Huang was initially not included in the presidential delegation. Despite concerns within US intelligence circles, the presidential aircraft made a stop in Alaska, where Huang boarded the plane.

Investigations into suspected links with foreign intelligence agencies are complex and time-consuming. Remarkably, however, within just a few days, Trump came out in support of Huang, appeared to dismiss the allegations against him as unreliable, and exerted pressure on NVIDIA's board to reinstate him.

The US Department of Justice, however, has yet to confirm or deny whether Alice Huang was involved in espionage, and investigations remain ongoing.

The Assassination-Attempt Image and the Making of a Corporate Hero

Following Huang's return, Trump also shared on social media an image that resembled the famous photograph of himself taken after the 2024 assassination attempt. A bloodied face, a raised hand, and a triumphant pose appeared to turn Huang's return into a political victory,

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a story of someone emerging vindicated from a trial.

This was not merely an instance of humor or a display of Trump's promotional style. It also reflected an attempt to cast a corporate chief in the mold of a political hero. In effect, regardless of the business and institutional controversies involved, Huang's return was presented as the triumph of a man backed by powerful circles.

The Significance of NVIDIA and Huang for Israel

The unusually warm welcome extended to Huang's return by Israeli President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appears particularly significant in this context. NVIDIA employs thousands of people in Israel, operates several research and development centers, and is an important investor in the country's technology economy. The company's ties with Israel are not merely commercial; they are also linked to the future of advanced chips, artificial intelligence, and digital defense technologies.

During its military operations in Gaza, Israel has been using artificial intelligence and digital systems to analyze information, identify individuals, and assist in determining targets. According to a recent report, the Israeli military stored the photographs of millions of Palestinians to make use of Amazon's cloud infrastructure and its AI-powered facial recognition platform, Rekognition.[2]

Such technologies can dramatically increase the speed of information processing and target identification in warfare. However, they also pose serious risks of misidentification and harm to civilians.

Corporate Power, National Interests and the New Face of War

NVIDIA is no longer merely a chip-making company. It has become a major force in the global race for artificial intelligence, America's technological superiority, and the future of advanced military systems. In this context, Trump's intervention in Huang's return and the Israeli leadership's enthusiastic welcome reflect more than the reinstatement of an individual; they point to the wider interests of global technology and power.

The question is: when the significance of a corporate chief becomes intertwined with national security, global capital and military technology, do investigations and accountability against such an individual also become subject to political and economic interests?

Huang's return has, at the very least, brought this question into sharper focus: in today's world, power is shaped not only in the corridors of government or on the battlefield, but also through chips, the computational architecture of artificial intelligence, algorithms and data centers.

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[1] Harry Davies and Yuval Abraham, "Revealed: Israel uploaded millions of photos to Amazon's facial recognition platform to track Palestinians," The Guardian, November 16, 2026, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/ nov/16/israel-amazon-facial-recognition-palestinians