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March 9 National Security Forum Report. One of our participants Nancy Chen 's question /comment echoing the concerns felt by those attending the forum as well as Chinese Americans across the country.

“My comments are directed towards FBI Special Agent Robertz and Assistant U.S. Attorney Dollear in regard to my earlier question about surveillance on Chinese American organizations that promote Chinese culture.

A board member of a Chinese American organization was approached by an FBI agent inquiring about the organization and asked this board member to report to them on any out of ordinary activities by this organization. This is a non-profit organization that was founded 30 years ago by mostly members of 2nd generation Chinese Americans for the love of their Chinese culture and heritage. The mission of this organization is to provide materials on China and Chinese culture to high school teachers to help them with their teaching. The organization has no ties to PRC government. It receives funding from American foundations and individual donors only. One third of its board members are non-Chinese civic leaders in the area.

I am alarmed that if an organization such as this one is under FBI surveillance, it is no wonder that the Chinese American community feels that everyone is a target.

I have lived here for more than 50 years. I worked in both the Legislative and Executive branches of the U.S. government and received the highest security clearance at one stage of my career. However, when the President, some Senators of the United States and the Director of the FBI made broad sweeping statements that China is infiltrating in every part of our community and Chinese Americans are potential spies, they sent a chilling effect to all Chinese Americans whether we are born here, been here more than 50 years or are recent immigrants.

In the Chinese community, the greatest fear is that history may repeat itself in this political climate and Chinese Americans may be rounded up like Japanese Americans during WWII to be sent to internment camps if there is a war between U.S. and China. I hope it never happens but I want you to know that this is what people talk about in our community.

We appreciate that the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office participated in this forum to share your information and to address our concerns. Dialogues such as this are very helpful to alleviate our concerns and to provide guidance to individuals to protect themselves from violating any laws.

I speak candidly here for myself and for others who may not feel as forthright to speak up and for those who were afraid to even be here today. The fear and worry is real and I want to share this with you. Thank you for listening.”