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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

**An Initiative by the Nuclear and Arms Control Centre,
MP-IDSA**



For the US, China is a partner rather than a foe in the new AI game

Li Yangyang

Global Times, February 11, 2024

In recent days, China and the US have agreed to launch the first meeting of the China-US intergovernmental dialogue mechanism on artificial intelligence (AI) this spring. It is an implementation of the consensus Chinese and the US leaders reached in San Francisco in November, among which both sides agree to establish China-US government talks on AI. However, the US relentless crackdown on China's tech industry has made the prospect of meaningful cooperation more uncertain. Unilateral sanctions on AI-related technology and equipment have been imposed, chip export to China controlled, and even Chinese AI model training access to US cloud space was restricted.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1306996.shtml>

PLA may not be ready for major amphibious attack on Taiwan before 2030: ex-US Navy intelligence officer

Laura Zhou

South China Morning Post, February 11, 2024

The Chinese military started using regular “deck cargo” ships in drills last year but the vessels may not give much of an immediate logistics boost to any efforts to attack Taiwan, according to a retired US Navy intelligence officer. The integration of deck cargo ships into People’s Liberation Army exercises last year was “the most significant innovation” in the PLA’s coordinated efforts and interactions with civilian maritime assets, J. Michael Dahm, now senior resident fellow at the US-based Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, said in the latest China Maritime Report.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3251674/pla-may-not-be-ready-major-amphibious-attack-taiwan-2030-ex-us-navy-intelligence-officer>

In their own words: on Maritime Strategic access (Translations from Chinese source documents)

China Aerospace Studies Institute, Air University, February 12, 2024

The “In Their Own Words” series is dedicated to translations of Chinese documents in order to help non-Mandarin speaking audiences access and understand Chinese thinking. This translation of the original text aims to accurately capture the technical meanings, in both English and Chinese. Maritime strategic accesses are not only routes in the natural geographical sense but they are also

an important component part of geostrategy in a political sense; together with strategic accesses on land, they form the basic key factors of geostrategy. In studying the issue of maritime strategic accesses, it is first necessary to comb through and define some concepts that are related to maritime strategic accesses.

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/Display/Article/3674462/in-their-own-words-on-maritime-strategic-access/>

China's new microwave weapon made to zap Taiwan

Gabriel Honrada

Asia Times, February 12, 2024

In what may be the first of its kind, Chinese scientists have unveiled a new Stirling engine-powered high-power microwave (HPM) weapon, marking a significant leap in directed-energy warfare technology with possible applications in future urban warfare scenarios. China claims that it is the world's first openly reported HPM weapon based on Stirling engine technology. The weapon system, which can easily fit into a truck, boasts a significant reduction in energy consumption for generating a strong magnetic field compared with existing technologies. According to preliminary tests, China claims it consumes only one-fifth of the energy required by current methods and can operate continuously for four hours.

<https://asiatimes.com/2024/02/chinas-new-microwave-weapon-made-to-zap-taiwan/>

China's shipyards are ready for a protracted war. America's aren't.

Niharika Mandhana

The Wall Street journal, February 13, 2024

China emerged as a global power by turning itself into the world's factory floor. It is expanding that power, and its military might, with another striking industrial feat: becoming the world's shipyard. More than half of the world's commercial shipbuilding output came from China last year—making it the top global shipmaker by a wide margin. The once-prolific shipyards of the West that helped forge empires, expand trade and win wars have shriveled. “The scale [of China's shipbuilding] is just almost hard to fathom,” said Thomas Shugart, an adjunct senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security whose research focuses on maritime competition. “The degree to which it dwarfs American shipbuilding is just unbelievable.”

<https://www.wsj.com/world/china/chinas-shipyards-are-ready-for-a-protracted-war-americas-arent-d6f004dd>

China as the second nuclear peer of the United States

Jyri Lavikainen

Finnish Institute of International Affairs, February 13, 2024

China's conventional and nuclear build-up complicates the success of NATO's strategy in both the nuclear and the conventional realm: 1) instead of only one, US nuclear forces will have to deter two nuclear peers in the 2030s, and 2) China's increasing conventional military power will necessitate an increased US presence in the Indo-Pacific. Both factors will strain US resources. The quantitative leap in China's nuclear capability is accompanied by a qualitative one. First, China is building an early-warning and command and control system that will make its strategic nuclear forces more survivable and responsive. Second, it has a growing arsenal of precision-guided nuclear-capable missiles, some of which may later be armed with lower-yield nuclear warheads, which the US assesses may be under development.

https://www.fia.fi/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/bp383_china-as-the-second-nuclear-peer-of-the-united-states.pdf

China is quietly reducing its reliance on foreign chip technology

The Economist, February 13, 2024

From consumer gadgets to cars, China has shown a knack for producing cutting-edge technology. Yet the semiconductors that power the digital economy have proved trickier to master. That has been the source of much anxiety among its political and business elites in recent years. America's decision in 2022 to halt exports to the country of its whizziest chips and chipmaking tools brought into stark relief the chokehold of China's geopolitical rivals over the industry. In December last year China's imports of the lithography machines used to imprint circuits onto silicon wafers surged by 450%, year on year, as local chipmakers raced to buy advanced kit from asml, the Dutch market leader, before export restrictions by the Netherlands came into effect in January. It has also been hoovering up semiconductor equipment from Japan.

<https://www.economist.com/business/2024/02/13/china-is-quietly-reducing-its-reliance-on-foreign-chip-technology>

Taiwan detects 14 mainland Chinese jets and drones carrying out 'combat readiness patrols' around island

South China Morning Post, February 14, 2024

Taiwan's defence ministry said it detected 14 mainland Chinese air force planes operating around the island and carrying out "joint combat readiness patrols" with PLA warships. Beijing has over the past four years regularly sent warplanes and warships into the skies and waters around the

island as it seeks to assert sovereignty claims that the Taipei government rejects. Taiwan's defence ministry said that starting on February 14, it had detected 14 People's Liberation Army aircraft, including J-16 fighters and drones, operating off northern and southwestern Taiwan. Nine of those aircraft crossed the Taiwan Strait's median line, or areas close by, working with PLA warships to carry out "joint combat readiness patrols", the ministry added.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3251959/taiwan-detects-14-mainland-chinese-jets-and-drones-carrying-out-combat-readiness-patrols-around>

China preparing for 'protracted' war, says think tank

Rhyannon Bartlett-Imadegawa

Nikkei Asia, February 14, 2024

China is learning from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and starting to prepare for a "protracted" war in the Indo-Pacific region by making legal changes that will help integrate military and civilian mobilization, an analyst at the International Institute for Strategic Studies said. Recent moves by China to ease any return of reservists and veterans to their former units as well as give the military access to civilian infrastructure and fuel stocks show Beijing's thinking about how to fight a conflict in the Indo-Pacific, said Meia Nouwens, senior fellow for Chinese security and defence policy at the IISS. These changes suggest Beijing thinks an Indo-Pacific conflict might not be "a short, quick, swift victory after a surprise attack, but actually acknowledging that potential conflict might be protracted, and a war of attrition," she told Nikkei Asia at the launch of the IISS Military Balance 2024, an annual report.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/Defense/China-preparing-for-protracted-war-says-think-tank>

As China tries to present a friendlier image, a new face emerges

David Pierson

The New York Times, February 14, 2024

Faced with declining foreign investment at home, China has sought to soften its image in the United States and Europe and make nice with some of its neighbors. One Communist Party official has played an unusually prominent role in the shift in tone. In New York, he told an audience of scholars and businesspeople that China did not seek to rewrite the United States-led global order. In Paris, he said that China's modernization would benefit Europe and the world. In Beijing, he told the ambassador of India, a regional rival, that China hoped relations would "return to a healthy and stable" track. The official, Liu Jianchao, heads the Communist Party's diplomatic arm, a body that promotes the party's ideology and influence abroad.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/14/world/asia/china-liu-jianchao-diplomat.html>

China's Yuanwang fleet, Long March-8 rocket set sails for next lunar probe missions

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, February 15, 2024

China space has not ceased its advancement during the Chinese New Year holidays, as the Yuanwang-22 spacecraft tracking vessel is expected to reach a port in Wenchang, South China's Hainan Province, in the run-up for the coming launching mission for Queqiao-2 relay satellite, a key component for the country's Phase-4 lunar probe missions. The Long March-8 Y3 rocket, the launch vehicle commissioned for the Queqiao-2 relay satellite launch mission, has also been transferred to the transport vessel and set sail for Wenchang, the Global Times has learned from the rocket developer China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1307096.shtml>

How is China modernizing its nuclear forces?

China Power, CSIS, February 15, 2024

The advent of nuclear weapons fundamentally transformed the nature of warfare and strategy. Changes in nuclear policy, posture, and force structure in one country can have global ramifications. China is one of only nine countries that possesses nuclear weapons. Although its nuclear arsenal is small relative to those of the United States and Russia, China is rapidly expanding and modernizing its nuclear forces and may be significantly shifting its nuclear policies. Following its entrance into the atomic era, China prioritized the development of an increasingly capable arsenal composed of nuclear warheads delivered on land-based ballistic missiles. China also maintains a relatively small number of ballistic missiles housed on six ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs), providing China a credible sea-based nuclear deterrent. Beijing possesses only a small contingent of air-based platforms capable of delivering nuclear weapons, but the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is investing in new strategic bombers to enhance its capabilities.

<https://chinapower.csis.org/china-nuclear-weapons/>

Chinese influence campaign pushes disunity before U.S. election, study says

Tiffany Hsu

The New York Times, February 15, 2024

A Chinese influence campaign that has tried for years to boost Beijing's interests is now using artificial intelligence and a network of social media accounts to amplify American discontent and

division ahead of the U.S. presidential election, according to a new report. The campaign, known as Spamouflage, hopes to breed disenchantment among voters by maligning the United States as rife with urban decay, homelessness, fentanyl abuse, gun violence and crumbling infrastructure, according to the report, which was published by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, a nonprofit research organization in London.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/15/business/media/chinese-influence-campaign-division-elections.html>

NTI experts participate in China-U.S. Track II dialogue on Nuclear Security

Nuclear Threat Initiative, February 15, 2024

From January 25-26, 2024, experts from NTI and the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association (CACDA) gathered at the State Nuclear Technology Centre (SNSTC) outside of Beijing for the first in-person meeting of the China-U.S. Track II Dialogue on Nuclear Security since the COVID-19 pandemic. Since its inception in 2018, the China-U.S. Track II Dialogue on Nuclear Security has continued to provide valuable opportunities to exchange insights, build relationships, and develop a shared vision for strengthened nuclear security cooperation between the two countries. The dialogue touched on a range of important nuclear security issues and provided opportunities for an exchange of views between the two delegations.

<https://www.nti.org/news/nti-experts-participate-in-china-u-s-track-ii-dialogue-on-nuclear-security/>

Top diplomats from US, China hold 'constructive' talks on issues dividing them

Matthew Lee

The Washington Post, February 16, 2024

Top diplomats from the U.S. and China held a “candid and constructive” discussion on issues vexing their strained relations over Taiwan, the situation in the South China Sea, Russia’s war against Ukraine and synthetic opioids, the State Department said. The meeting between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference marked the latest and highest-level meeting between the two sides since U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks late last year in California.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/02/16/us-china-blinken-wang/ea3b8ca-ccff-11ee-aa8e-1e5794a4b2d6_story.html

Philippines vows to respond to China's 'dangerous' moves at sea

Andreo Calonzo

Bloomberg, February 16, 2024

The Philippines said it will respond to any “dangerous” maneuvers by China in a disputed South China Sea shoal, where Manila has started rotating vessels this month amid heightened tensions with Beijing. The Southeast Asian nation’s coast guard and fisheries bureau “will maintain professionalism in dealing with any unlawful and provocative behavior” by Chinese vessels in Scarborough Shoal, National Security Adviser Eduardo Ano said in a statement released Friday. His statement was shared on X by Coast Guard spokesman Jay Tarriela.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-02-16/philippines-vows-to-respond-to-china-s-dangerous-moves-at-sea>

China Coast Guard expels Philippine vessel in South China Sea

China Military Online, February 16, 2024

The China coast guard expelled a Philippine vessel that illegally entered waters off Huangyan Island in the South China Sea. In a statement, Gan Yu, a spokesperson for the China coast guard, reported that a vessel from the Philippine Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources had illegally intruded into the adjacent waters of China's Huangyan Island, disregarding China's repeated warnings. He added that the coast guard had lawfully implemented measures to control the vessel's route, forced it to leave, and handled the situation on-site with professional standards. He stressed that China holds indisputable sovereignty over Huangyan Island and its adjacent waters.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/TopStories_209189/16286897.html

Index reflects nation's strength in AI governance

Zhao Yimeng

China Daily, February 17, 2024

China plays a leading role in the global development of artificial intelligence and has performed well in the area of AI governance, according to the recently published AI Governance International Evaluation Index. The AGILE Index was initiated by the Centre for Long-term Artificial Intelligence and the International Research Centre for AI Ethics and Governance under the Chinese Academy of Sciences' Institute of Automation. The index reveals that China, with a score of 68.5, ranks second overall among the 14 evaluated countries, with the United States heading the table with a score of slightly above 70.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202402/17/WS65cfce5fa31041d387d6e014.html>

China foreign minister courts Europe in wake of Trump's NATO taunt

CK Tan

Nikkei Asia, February 18, 2024

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged European countries to deepen cooperation with China as Beijing seeks to cement its position as a major player in global diplomacy. "It is imperative that China and Europe stay clear of geopolitical and ideological distraction, and see each other as partner rather than rival," Wang said. The remark appears to be an attempt to capitalize on Republican party front-runner and former U.S. Presidential Donald Trump's recent threat against NATO members that failed to meet a defense spending target of 2% of GDP. China aims to draw Europe closer by portraying the U.S. as a non-reliable partner, analysts said.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/China-foreign-minister-courts-Europe-in-wake-of-Trump-s-NATO-taunt>

China's top diplomat meets Blinken at the request of the US side: Chinese FM official

Global Times, February 18, 2024

At the request of the US side, China's top diplomat Wang Yi met with US Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, according to an official from the Chinese Foreign Ministry who attended the meeting. During the meeting, which lasted for one hour and 40 minutes, the two sides exchanged views on China-US relations and international and regional issues of common interest. According to the official, the two sides exchanged views on the implementation of the outcomes of the meeting between the two heads of state in San Francisco.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1307207.shtml>

China's military buildup: the biggest since 1945?

Professor Greg Austin

Australian Institute of International Affairs, February 18, 2024

The Australian government claims that China has made the biggest military buildup of any country since 1945. The statement is contained in the 2023 Strategic Review: "China's military build-up is now the largest and most ambitious of any country since the end of the Second World War." The claim has been repeated in several media interviews by the Defence Minister Richard Marles in Australia and overseas. If we compare the surge we saw in the USSR in that 23-year

period with the surge in China's buildup in a similar time span, between 2000-2023, the conclusion is stark.

<https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/chinas-military-buildup-the-biggest-since-1945/>

FM elaborates on China's position on Ukraine crisis

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India, February 18, 2024

In response to China's views on the Budapest Memorandum and its position on the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, Wang Yi said that China is not a signatory to the Budapest Memorandum, but has endorsed it through a government statement. Among the nuclear-weapon states, China maintains the most clear and progressive nuclear policy, featuring a pledge of no-first-use of nuclear weapons and no use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states, including Ukraine. After the outbreak of the Ukraine crisis, President Xi Jinping further pointed out that nuclear weapons must not be used, and nuclear wars must not be fought. All parties should work jointly to guarantee the security of nuclear materials and facilities. China has honored its pledge and undertaken its international obligations in this regard.

http://in.china-embassy.gov.cn/eng/zgxw/202402/t20240218_11246505.htm

Hypes of 'Japan's potential participation in AUKUS' merely feeble rehash for political gains of Canberra and Tokyo: Chinese experts

Global Times, February 19, 2024

Politicians and media from Australia and Japan are launching another wave of hype over Japan's possible "participation in AUKUS", after Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Richard Marles said in a recent interview that Australia is keen to see Japan collaborate with the AUKUS security partnership, which also involves the US and UK, on defense technology development in the future. But Chinese experts believe the collaboration between the US-led security clique and Japan is not realistic at this time of strong uncertainty. With Australia holding a general election next year, the Albanese administration is facing criticism from opposition parties. Marles has also been criticized as the "worst defense minister of all time" as some critics claimed that he has made few achievements during his tenure. This is why he hopes to expand AUKUS to make a breakthrough, Chen Hong, director of the Australian Studies Center at East China Normal University, told the Global Times.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202402/1307320.shtml>

FM refutes fallacy of aggressive China in South China Sea

China Daily, February 19, 2024

China and ASEAN countries have the ability and wisdom to reach a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) and safeguard peace and stability, freedoms of navigation and overflight, and legitimate rights and interests of other countries in the region, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said. Wang, also a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, refuted the fallacy of so-called China's aggressiveness in the South China Sea when answering questions following his keynote speech during the "China in the World" session at the 60th Munich Security Conference.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202402/19/WS65d253aea31082fc043b7c25.html>

Coercive space activities: the view from PRC sources

Kevin Pollpeter

China Aerospace Studies Institute, Air University, February 19, 2024

The People's Republic of China (PRC) is developing space technologies, in part, to deter and compel the United States from taking actions that Beijing deems counter to its national security interests. PRC coercive space efforts are intended to achieve effects in, from, and to space. People's Liberation Army (PLA) researchers have assessed space capabilities as playing an outsized role in strategic coercive efforts. In comparison to nuclear capabilities, PLA researchers perceive space capabilities as a more usable and effective method of influencing an adversary. PRC writings on space deterrence and compellence highlight several factors that may complicate the ability of the United States to deter the PRC from taking military action.

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/CASI/Display/Article/3674437/coercive-space-activities-the-view-from-prc-sources/>

Chinese scientists create a plasma stealth device to take military aircraft off the radar

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, February 19, 2024

A new-generation plasma stealth device that can make almost any military aircraft vanish from a radar screen is claimed to have been developed by a team of scientists and engineers from western China. Unlike its predecessors, which generate a cloud of plasma draped over a plane, this innovation can be tailored to fit a sensitive section of a military aircraft – areas like the radar dome, cockpit or other spots that are most prone to enemy radar detection. This “closed electron beam

plasma stealth device”, which focuses on protecting key areas instead of the entire aircraft, can be switched on at a moment’s notice to fool radar operators.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3251401/chinese-scientists-create-plasma-stealth-device-take-military-aircraft-radar>

China, Xi Jinping and the making of ‘one people, one ideology’

James Kynge

Financial Times, February 20, 2024

It is rare that disagreements among China’s political elite are reflected or even hinted at in public. So, the high drama that unfolded between Xi Jinping, Beijing’s authoritarian leader, and Hu Jintao, his predecessor, in front of the world’s television cameras in 2022 rated as communist box office. This chilling episode is one of many analysed in a probing new book by Steve Tsang and Olivia Cheung, two respected sinologists at Soas University of London. Over seven chapters, it dissects what must have a claim to be the most important yet least understood political philosophy of our age.

<https://www.ft.com/content/3ae0d3a0-85fa-4d1f-93e9-f3f084147517>

PLA: closely monitors Philippines' 'joint air patrol' in South China Sea

CGTN, February 20, 2024

The Southern Theater Command of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) organized frontline naval and air forces to closely monitor the Philippines' "joint air patrol" in the South China Sea on Monday, the command said in a statement. "The Philippine side brought together non-regional country to stir up trouble in the South China Sea, and publicly hyped up the air patrol," according to the statement. The troops maintain a high degree of vigilance to resolutely defend national territorial integrity and maritime rights, and firmly safeguard the peace and stability in the South China Sea.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-02-20/PLA-closely-monitors-Philippines-joint-air-patrol-in-South-China-Sea-1r15G0zll8Q/p.html>

U.S. hawks must finally get real about China

Elbridge A. Colby

TIME, February 20, 2024

It is now broadly agreed on the right of center that China poses the greatest threat to Americans’ security, freedom, and prosperity—and that the danger is growing. As Beijing continues its vast

and historic military buildup, it is widely understood that our own military is not keeping pace and that the U.S. is quickly running out of time to deter war over Taiwan. Worse still, there is growing recognition that the U.S. might actually lose a war over Taiwan if deterrence fails. Hawks support increased defense spending and an active U.S. military footprint around the globe. While they trumpet the growing threat of China, however, they argue that the defense of Taiwan runs through Ukraine and are the leading voices on the right for continued military support to Ukraine.

<https://time.com/6696552/u-s-hawks-china-threat-essay/>

Taiwan says China triggered a panic by boarding Kinmen tourist boat

Nikkei Asia, February 20, 2024

The boarding of a Taiwanese tourist boat by China's coast guard near sensitive frontline islands triggered "panic" among Taiwan's people, a government minister said on Tuesday, but Taiwan's military added it was not planning to get involved. Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory despite the island's rejection, has been wary of efforts by Beijing to ramp up pressure on Taipei following the election last month of Lai Ching-te as president, a man Beijing views as a dangerous separatist.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Taiwan-tensions/Taiwan-says-China-triggered-a-panic-by-boarding-Kinmen-tourist-boat>

China must embrace new era of AI revolution

Chen Zhi

China Daily, February 20, 2024

In the global AI competition, both China and the United States prioritize AI, investing significant amounts of resources in the sector. The US holds a leading position in cutting-edge chip design, new algorithms and underlying technologies. It also has an advantage in the number of AI unicorn companies and top talents. But China's vast population, robust data collection capability, and continuous innovation of apps are propelling the development of the country's AI industry. To be sure, for both China and the US, the path to AI development is challenging and requires substantial effort. If the two countries collaborate and complement each other in terms of resources, they can leverage their relative strengths to get mutual benefits, promote technological progress, and ensure the safe, trustworthy and reliable application of AI.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202402/20/WS65d42bf2a31082fc043b81cf.html>

China unveils export version of attack helicopter

Leilani Chavez

Defence News, February 20, 2024

China unveiled the export version of the signature attack helicopter by the People's Liberation Army at the Singapore Airshow. Though China has participated in the biennial event in previous years, this marks the first time Chinese state-owned companies had a full-scale military aircraft on static display at an air show outside the country. China unveiled the Z-10ME at Airshow China 2021; some analysts have since compared it to Boeing's AH-64 Apache. The PLA has used the helicopter for military exercises near Taiwan and India. More than 200 Z-10s and its numerous variations are in active service with the PLA, according to the Military Balance 2023 report from the International Institute for Strategic Studies think tank.

<https://www.defensenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2024/02/20/china-unveils-export-version-of-attack-helicopter/>

Chinese companies revive Mao Zedong-era militias

Edward White

Financial Times, February 20, 2024

China's state-owned enterprises have begun setting up in-house reserve military units, a legacy of the Mao Zedong era, in a sign of authorities' increasing concern about social and political instability amid the country's economic slowdown, according to analysts. A Financial Times analysis of company announcements and state media reports over 2023 shows that dozens of Chinese SOEs have established new People's Armed Forces departments in recent months.

<https://www.ft.com/content/d6b2e4d6-2f84-4ef9-bf99-10d76d92d045>

China vows to protect lawful rights of firms over U.S. sanctions threat

CGTN, February 20, 2024

China will continue to take necessary measures to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese companies if the U.S. imposes sanctions on Chinese firms over cooperation with Russia, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said. The remark came after media reports said that the U.S. is considering slapping sanctions on Chinese companies it believes are helping Russia fuel the conflict in Ukraine. China has always upheld an objective and fair position to promote peace talks on the Ukraine crisis, Mao told reporters at a daily briefing, saying China neither stood idle nor took advantage of it.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-02-20/China-vows-to-protect-lawful-rights-of-firms-over-U-S-sanctions-threat-1rEEEmqvLdS/p.html>

Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak

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