

February 10, 2023

# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

**Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues**

**An Initiative by Indian Pugwash Society and Centre for Nuclear Issues and Arms Control (MP - IDSA)**



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY

## **Czech president-elect says west must accept China is ‘not friendly’**

Raphael Minder

Financial Times, February 1, 2023

The Czech president-elect has called on EU states to drop any illusions about China, saying his country would no longer “behave like an ostrich” over divergent interests with Beijing. Petr Pavel’s warning comes days after the retired Nato commander swept to victory in Czech elections, comfortably beating his populist opponent with an Atlanticist, pro-European platform. One of Pavel’s first moves has been to confront what he sees as dangerous misconceptions about China, which he argues were exposed by Beijing’s unwillingness to condemn Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

<https://www.ft.com/content/df41b4a8-97f0-4e20-9ef4-4a53c0ab8f30>

## **China responds to potential broader ban on ASML's chip-making gear**

Cao Qingqing

CGTN, February 1, 2023

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang talked over phone with Dutch Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra for an in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations and other issues, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said. Mao made the remarks at a regular press briefing in Beijing when asked about China's response to media reports that the Netherlands will also ban the sale of deep ultraviolet (DUV) machines – the slightly older yet more widely-used chip making equipment – to the Chinese mainland.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-02-01/China-responds-to-potential-broader-ban-on-ASML-s-chip-making-gear-1h3RDj0PiTu/index.html>

## **Philippines grants U.S. military more base access amid China threat**

Cliff Venzon

Nikkei Asia, February 2, 2023

The U.S. is set to boost its military presence in Asia after it agreed with the Philippines to allow the American military access to four more bases in the country. The agreement, announced during the visit of U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to Manila, comes amid growing fears over a possible Chinese invasion of Taiwan and Beijing’s persistent incursions in disputed South China seas.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Indo-Pacific/Philippines-grants-U.S.-military-more-base-access-amid-China-threat>

## **Chinese military announces YJ-21 missile abilities in social media post read as warning to US amid tension in Taiwan Strait**

Amber Wang

South China Morning Post, February 2, 2023

For the first time, the PLA has officially revealed the performance of its advanced anti-ship hypersonic missile, sending a warning to the US amid high tensions in the Taiwan Strait, Chinese analysts said. China's YJ-21, or Eagle Strike-21, has a terminal speed of Mach 10, cannot be intercepted by any anti-missile weapons system in the world and can launch lethal strikes towards enemy ships, according to an article posted by the official Weibo account of the People's Liberation Army Strategic Support Forces.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3208763/chinese-military-announces-yj-21-missile-performance-social-media-post-read-warning-us-amid-tension>

## **U.S. tech sanctions are against China and its allies**

Keith Lamb

CGTN, February 2, 2023

The Wall Street Journal reported that the U.S., Japan, and the Netherlands have agreed to impose export restrictions on high-end lithography technology to China. The move is intended to prevent China from developing supercomputers, which the U.S. warns could be used to develop China's nuclear arsenal and military. Nevertheless, China's defensive nuclear arsenal pales in comparison to that of the U.S., which is the only country to use such weapons on Japan. Unlike the U.S., considering China's military is for self-defense, rather than for invading weaker states in the Global South, we can conclude that China's military decision-making is adroit.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-02-01/U-S-tech-sanctions-are-against-China-and-its-allies-1h4mrhJTeRW/index.html>

## **China completes export of Hualong No.1 nuclear power project to Pakistan**

Global Times, February 3, 2023

The inauguration ceremony for the K-3 Hualong No.1 nuclear power unit was held in Pakistan, marking the first time China has officially delivered its self-built third generation nuclear power technology to a foreign country, China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) said. The K-2 and K-3 Hualong No.1 nuclear power units in Pakistani port city Karachi have formed the largest nuclear power plant in the country. The K-2 nuclear power unit entered commercial service in May 2021, and the K-3 nuclear power unit was delivered in April 2022. By now, the accumulated generated electricity of the nuclear power plant has reached nearly 20 billion kilowatt-hours, providing power for 2 million local residents, according to CNNC.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1284749.shtml>

## **UK, Australia to unveil nuclear submarine design during Biden meeting in US**

South China Morning Post, February 3, 2023

UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his Australian counterpart, Anthony Albanese, are planning to go to Washington DC in mid-March potentially to unveil a proposal for Canberra's nuclear submarine project. The three nations are sharing classified military capabilities to allow Australia to construct and deploy new nuclear-powered submarines in the Pacific region. The project is part of the so-called Aukus agreement, launched in 2021 as a trilateral alliance to counter Chinese military power in the Pacific

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/australasia/article/3208935/uk-australia-unveil-nuclear-submarine-design-during-biden-meeting-us>

## **Japan urged to act prudently on historical issues, Taiwan question amid NATO pressure**

Global Times, February 3, 2023

Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang urged Japan to keep its promises and act prudently on historical issues, on the Taiwan question and in the field of military security. It comes amid efforts by NATO to seek stronger ties with the country to counter China. In a phone call with his Japanese counterpart Yoshimasa Hayashi, Qin said China and Japan should exclude disturbances and put bilateral relations on the right track under the consensus that the two countries are cooperative partners and not a threat to each other.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1284752.shtml>

## **Korean probe of tech leak to China underscores semiconductor supply chain tensions**

Ann Cao

South China Morning Post, February 3, 2023

A court case involving leakage of intellectual property (IP) from a South Korean company to China has shed light on growing tensions in the semiconductor supply chain between the two countries. The Korean Intellectual Property Office and the Daejeon District Prosecutors' Office announced that six people, who were not identified, will stand trial for leaking core chip manufacturing technology to China. The Chinese parties involved in the case were also not identified. CMP is an important final step in the manufacture of silicon wafers, where a polishing pad and slurry are used to remove irregularities on the surface of the wafer. China has a "low rate of local production" in CMP technology.

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/tech-war/article/3208742/tech-war-korean-probe-tech-leak-china-underscores-semiconductor-supply-chain-tensions>

## **China AI startups draw early funding from U.S. investors**

Jack Stone Truitt

Nikkei Asia, February 3, 2023

As per a report released by Georgetown's Centre for Security and Emerging Technology, comes amid heightened concern in Washington over security risks posed by certain investment into Chinese companies, especially into emerging technology like AI. The report further indicates that, more than 90% of outbound U.S. investment companies in recent years has occurred in the venture capital stage, with investors providing valuable intangibles like name recognition and networking opportunities.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/China-tech/China-AI-startups-draw-early-funding-from-U.S.-investors-report2>

## **AUKUS plan reportedly to be unveiled, but analysts remind Australia 'cautious of being utilized'**

Global Times, February 3, 2023

The US, the UK and Australia will possibly unveil a nuclear submarine plan under the trilateral AUKUS when their leaders gather in Washington in mid-March, but a real fleet would take time of decade or longer to form, Chinese analysts said, reminding Australia to be cautious of being used as cannon fodder for US' strategic layout. According to media reports, UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and his Australian counterpart, Anthony Albanese, are planning to go to Washington DC in mid-March potentially to unveil a proposal for Australia's nuclear submarine project, Bloomberg reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1284786.shtml>

## **Blinken postpones China trip over spy balloon incident**

Yukihiro Sakaguchi

Nikkei Asia, February 4, 2023

The U.S. has postponed Secretary of States Antony Blinkin's planned trip to Beijing, the state Department said after what Washigton called a chinese surveillance ballon was detected in American airspace. The state Department revealed in a statement that Blinken told Wang Yi, director of the Communist Party's Central Foreign Office, that he would not go to China as planned. Blinken further said that "I light of this ongoing issue, it would not be appropriate to visit Beijing at this time."

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/US-China-tensions/Blinken-postpones-China-trip-over-spy-balloon-incident>

## **Chief designer discloses China's Phase-4 lunar probe plans**

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, February 6, 2023

China will press ahead with the fourth phase of its lunar exploration program in all respects this year, and it is expected to complete the basic structure for the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS) on the moon's south pole via the Chang'e-7 and -8 probe missions during this decade, said Wu Weiren, the chief designer of China's lunar exploration program. Wu told state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) that the Phase-4 missions shall consist of Chang'e-6, -7 and -8. The Chang'e-6 mission will attempt to collect some 2,000 grams of lunar samples from the far side of moon and return them to Earth. The Chang'e-7 mission is intended to land on the moon's south pole and conduct detailed surveys to explore for traces of water, according to the program's chief designer.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1284935.shtml>

## **Taiwan tells start-ups to shun mainland China and go to Japan instead, amid supply-chain decoupling**

Ralph Jennings

South China Morning Post, February 6, 2023

Taiwan is nudging its small and burgeoning companies to expand in Japan rather than mainland China, in a fresh sign of global supply-chain decoupling amid Sino-US tensions. The island's domestic start-ups are being encouraged to enter the Japanese consumer market or partner with companies from the neighbouring Asian economy, according to the heads of two Taiwanese government-backed organisations who spoke with the Post.

<https://www.scmp.com/economy/china-economy/article/3209255/taiwan-tells-start-ups-shun-mainland-china-and-go-japan-instead-amid-supply-chain-decoupling>

## **Hong Kong pro-democracy activists go on trial in landmark national security case**

Chan-Ho-him

Financial Times, February 6, 2023

Hong Kong's largest national security law trial opened on Monday with 47 of the city's most prominent pro-democracy activists facing up to life imprisonment in a landmark case that could spell the end of the territory's once vibrant political opposition. The defendants, who include some of Hong Kong's highest-profile politicians and campaigners, were arrested in January 2021 in the single largest police raid under the national security law. Most of the defendants have spent nearly two years in pretrial detention after being denied bail.

<https://www.ft.com/content/10830d35-8152-499f-8ea5-ea8594e7bfd7>

## **Australia should be wary of 'Ukraine Trap' set by US**

Xu Shanpin

Global Times, February 7, 2023

The new Australian government has also reset relations with China and is unwilling to go too far on the road of confronting China. There have been some signs of recovery in China-Australia ties lately. After all, a military conflict with China will be too costly and unbearable. Australia is far away from China, and there is no geopolitical conflict or competition for regional dominance. Australia's allying with the US to confront China is mainly due to its dependence on the US' security protection and its strategic suspicion of China.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1284992.shtml>

## **Taiwan weapons firm test-fires cruise missile believed to be capable of striking central and eastern mainland China**

Lawrence Chung

South China Morning Post, February 7, 2023

Taiwan's top weapons builder has test-fired a missile believed to be capable of hitting mainland China, as cross-strait tensions show no sign of abating. The surface-to-surface missile is an extended-range version of the Hsiung Feng IIE, which is able to hit targets up to 1,200km (746 miles) – far enough to reach major mainland cities such as Qingdao on the east coast or Wuhan in the centre. It has also said it is working with local civilian companies to develop five types of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to build up a drone fleet and boost the military's surveillance ability.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3209407/taiwan-weapons-firm-test-fires-cruise-missile-believed-be-capable-striking-central-and-eastern>

## **China's UN diplomat calls on ceasefire for people suffering as massive heavy weapons keep pouring in Ukraine**

Global Times, February 7, 2023

China expressed worries over humanitarian situation in Ukraine at the UN Security Council Briefing as conflicts on the ground show no signs of easing and large number of heavy weapons keep pouring in, calling on relevant parties to truly promote peace talk and ceasefire for the sake of people there. The humanitarian situation has always tugged at people's heartstrings over the past year since the Ukraine crisis broke out, but the parties concerned lack the sincerity to promote peace talks and the determination to resolve the issue politically, said Dai Bing, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN on the humanitarian issue of Ukraine.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1284973.shtml>

## **Tech war: US-India tech deal could speed up global supply chain realignment, hurting China**

Ben Jiang

South China Morning Post, February 7, 2023

A new partnership between the US and India ( Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)) – targeting semiconductors, quantum computing, defence, artificial intelligence and telecommunications, among other areas – could accelerate the realignment of global supply chains at the expense of China’s interests. The collaboration has touched a nerve in Beijing, where officials have shown growing concerns over a push by the US towards economic and technological decoupling with China.

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/tech-war/article/3209371/tech-war-us-india-tech-deal-could-speed-global-supply-chain-realignment-hurting-china>

## **North Korea stole record amount of crypto in 2022: U.N. report**

Kaori Yoshida

Nikkei Asia, February 7, 2023

The report, compiled by a U.N. Security Council panel, details that North Korean actors used increasingly sophisticated techniques to gain access to digital networks involved in cyber finance and steal information of potential value, including for weapons programs. This led to a higher value of cryptocurrency assets being stolen by North Korea in 2022 than in any previous year, according to the report.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Cryptocurrencies/North-Korea-stole-record-amount-of-crypto-in-2022-U.N.-report> \

## **Chinese ambassador to Pakistan appointed assistant minister of foreign affairs**

Global Times, February 8, 2023

Chinese ambassador to Pakistan Nong Rong has been appointed assistant minister of foreign affairs by the State Council, according to an announcement on the website of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security. Nong, 56, was appointed Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan in 2020 and arrived in October that year as the 18th Chinese ambassador to the country. The Chinese people have created a unique name for Pakistan - Iron Brother - to describe the all-weather friendship between China and Pakistan, the ambassador said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285033.shtml>



## **Joe Biden warns China over threats to US sovereignty in State of the Union address**

James Politi and Lauren Fedor

Financial Times, February 8, 2023

President Joe Biden has warned that the US will protect itself if China threatens its sovereignty as he used a joint address to Congress to deliver a defiant message to Beijing and defend his economic record in the White House. "I am committed to work with China where it can advance American interests and benefit the world," Biden said. "But make no mistake . . . if China threatens our sovereignty, we will act to protect our country."

<https://www.ft.com/content/63d9325d-3eff-46e3-9077-c0c3589dd20d>

## **China to study use of AI technology in avoiding space debris**

Fan Wei

Global Times, February 8, 2023

China will study the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in avoiding space debris, a significant effort to use orbital resources more effectively and strengthen the control of super-large scale constellations, ensuring the safety of spacecraft in orbit and creating a new technology of rapid intelligent calculation capability for preventing large-scale space debris. The project on "intelligent modeling of the complex evolving principle of complex environments for space debris and autonomous monitoring" was launched by the State Key Laboratory of Astronautic Dynamics (ADL), affiliated with the Xi'an Satellite Control Center in Northwest China's Shaanxi Province.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285093.shtml>

## **China urged to rein in North Korea as Kim displays new nuclear missiles in 'war' threat**

Park Chan-kyong

South China Morning Post, February 9, 2023

North Korea has shown off its "maximum nuclear strike capabilities" with a display of intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) in its first military parade in almost a year, after leader Kim Jong-un called for complete war preparedness. North Korea also presented "tactical nuclear missiles" and long-range cruise missiles, in a demonstration of its "war deterrence and counter-strike capabilities. Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said "If China doesn't want the regional instability of an inter-Korean arms race on its doorstep, it will have to do more to restrain Pyongyang in 2023".

<https://www.scmp.com/week-asia/politics/article/3209642/china-urged-rein-north-korea-kim-displays-new-nuclear-missiles-war-threat>

## **US balloon hysteria shows it is not capable of serious diplomacy**

Clifford A Kiracofe

Global Times, February 9, 2023

The hysterical reaction in Washington DC to a drifting Chinese meteorological balloon raises many questions. Can Washington appropriately manage relations with China? Will relations continue sliding toward rock bottom? Shooting down a meandering balloon unnecessarily as a grandiose media stunt does nothing to stabilize the greatly deteriorated US-China relationship. In fact, the action reinforces the observation by some world leaders that the US is unreliable and not capable of serious diplomacy.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285144.shtml>

## **Chinese scientists look to AI to dodge space junk in crowded near-Earth environment**

Ling Xin

South China Morning Post, February 9, 2023

Chinese researchers are working on using artificial intelligence to help spacecraft dodge junk in orbit, as such debris poses a major threat to global space missions. Led by scientists at the Xian Satellite Control Centre in northwestern China, the project aims to create AI algorithms that will autonomously monitor and help to avoid space debris in the increasingly crowded near-Earth environment, according to the state-backed PLA Daily. Hundreds of millions of pieces of space debris are believed to be orbiting the Earth, the product of seven decades of international space exploration. Many are parts of old satellites or spent rockets, and over 36,000 pieces are more than 10cm (3.9 inches) across.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3209663/chinese-scientists-look-ai-dodge-space-junk-crowded-near-earth-environment>

## **China should resist US' attempts to smear BRI: report**

Global Times, February 9, 2023

While the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has reaped fruitful achievements over the past 10 years, the country should be highly wary of the US using the BRI to create unrest in countries along the route and shift attention away from its own domestic problems, a Chinese report said. According to the report, released by the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies of Renmin University of China, among the 674 research reports on the BRI in the first nine months of 2021, many national think tanks, such as those in Russia, Singapore, Pakistan and other countries, noted that the BRI will bring real opportunities and cooperation dividends to all parties along the route.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202302/1285116.shtml>

## **Chinese balloon had multiple antennas for intelligence gathering, US says**

Felicia Schwartz and Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, February 10, 2023

The Chinese balloon that crossed the continental US last week had multiple antennas for intelligence gathering and was part of a broader surveillance fleet, the state department said. A senior state department official said China had used similar surveillance balloons over more than 40 countries and five continents. It added that the US would continue to brief allies on the scope of the programme.

<https://www.ft.com/content/96992b83-58f7-4cdb-9900-a2bc59677ebf>

## **China urges U.S. to stop long-arm jurisdiction, illegal unilateral sanctions**

CGTN, February 10, 2023

Distorting the normal international trade order, the U.S. should stop illegal unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction, and concretely fulfill the international obligation as a permanent member of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said. Mao made the remarks in response to a report saying the U.S.'s semiconductor-related export controls to China will expand to Japanese and Dutch enterprises.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-02-10/China-urges-U-S-to-stop-long-arm-jurisdiction-unilateral-sanctions-1hjkD1igsdG/index.html>

## **Shenzhou-15 taikonauts complete their first spacewalk**

Xinhua, February 10, 2023

The Shenzhou-15 taikonauts on board the orbiting Chinese Tiangong space station completed their first spacewalk, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). Fei Junlong and Zhang Lu, together with Deng Qingming who worked inside the space station to support his crewmates, collaborated to pull off all set tasks. Fei and Zhang have since safely returned to the Wentian lab module. During the extravehicular activities (EVAs) lasting about seven hours, they completed several tasks, including the installation of the extension pumps outside the Mengtian lab module.

<https://english.news.cn/20230210/b0a77e9c45d34e76beb895f71e522e89/c.html>

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