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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

Flag raisings and burnings in Taiwan as some mark China's national day

Korea Times, October 1, 2022

Two small Taiwanese groups at far ends of the debate over relations with Beijing marked China's national day on Saturday with flag raisings and flag burnings, very opposite responses at a time of rising tension over the Taiwan Strait. October 1 marks when Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China in 1949, with the defeated Republic of China government fleeing to Taiwan at the end of that year and where it remains to this day, neither recognizing the other. China's national day is not officially marked in any way in democratically-governed Taiwan, which celebrates its national day, the founding of the Republic of China, on October 10. But some small groups in Taiwan do mark China's national day, with either pride at being Chinese or fury at Beijing's threats against the island, especially after China staged war games near Taiwan in August.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/world/2022/10/501_337103.html

Chinese mark National Day with blooming patriotism, pride and confidence ahead of key Party congress

Yang Sheng and Qi Xijia

Global Times, October 1, 2022

Chinese are celebrating the 73rd birthday of the People's Republic of China, which is also the first day of the week-long National Day holidays, with more than 200 thousand people gathering at Tian'anmen Square in Beijing for the national flag-raising ceremony beaming with excitement and pride. The nation also has received multiple "gifts" ahead of her birthday, including the C919, China's first homegrown large jetliner, which obtained the type certificate on Friday, a milestone on its journey to market operation. In addition, China's space station lab module Wentian successfully completed in-orbit transposition, and this is also the first time that there are Chinese Taikonauts sending birthday blessings to the motherland from space.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1276500.shtml>

China thwarts AUKUS-related amendment attempts on legitimizing nuclear sub marine deal at IAEA conference

Global Times, October 1, 2022

The Chinese mission to the UN in Vienna fully thwarted an amendment advocated by the three countries which form the AUKUS alliance which aimed at legalizing their nuclear-submarine cooperation at the 66th annual International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference held in Vienna, the Global Times learnt from the Chinese mission to the UN. This is the first time that the IAEA reviewed the cooperation

among the US, UK and Australia over nuclear submarine deal at the general conference level, since the Chinese side initiated an intergovernmental review process over the cooperation at the agency's board of governors in November 2021.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1276489.shtml>

Chinese navy struggles to find enough pilots for 3 aircraft carriers

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 1, 2022

China's navy, the world's second-most powerful – with two aircraft carriers commissioned and another launched in June – is struggling to meet increased demand for qualified ship-borne fighter jet pilots, analysts said. The People's Liberation Army Navy has sped up carrier-based fighter jet pilot training programmes in the decade since the commissioning of its first aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, but its lack of a fighter trainer specifically designed for carrier-based operations has hindered progress, according to an article published in Ordnance Industry Science Technology, a Chinese military magazine. With Fujian, China's third and most advanced aircraft carrier, having started sea trials last week, the PLA needed at least 200 qualified carrier-based fighter jet pilots to operate 130 ship-borne aircraft, Beijing-based naval expert Li Jie said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3194213/chinese-navy-struggles-find-enough-pilots-3-aircraft-carriers>

China airs footage of aircraft carrier killer nuclear missiles 'in warning to US'

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 2, 2022

Chinese state media aired footage of the country's most powerful strategic nuclear-capable weapons, including anti-ship "carrier killers", to mark National Day, a move seen as a warning to the US as tensions escalate between the rival powers. Anti-aircraft carrier DF-21D and DF-26B ballistic missiles as well as new-generation DF-41 intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM) – all part of the Dongfeng series – were on display in the new footage for state-owned China Central Television, as part of an eight-part documentary series. The two anti-ship missiles would pose a threat to US carriers, while the DF-41 ICBM was capable of carrying multiple nuclear warheads with a range of over 12,000km (7,450 miles) to hit any target on the US mainland, noted defence experts, who see the documentary as aimed at strategic deterrence.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3194806/china-airs-footage-anti-ship-carrier-killer-nuclear-missiles>

Warm Russian ties are key to China's Arctic aspirations: report

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, October 2, 2022

China's influence in, and access to, the Arctic will increase over the coming decade if Beijing fosters closer ties with Moscow, according to a new research report by the US think tank Rand Corporation. However, this closer relationship would create uncertainties in the Arctic, said the report. Cooperation between China and Russia has deepened over the past decade, with the two nations signing several commercial and shipping agreements along the Northern Sea Route. The Northern Sea Route is a shipping lane between the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, which runs from Murmansk on the Barents Sea, along the Russian Arctic coast past Siberia, through the Bering Strait and along Russia's far east.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3194524/warm-russian-ties-are-key-chinas-arctic-aspirations-report>

China to recruit new reserve astronauts for future space missions

China Military Online, October 2, 2022

China will recruit 12 to 14 new reserve astronauts for future spaceflight missions, announced the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). Among the reserve astronauts, also the fourth batch of China's astronauts, seven to eight will be spacecraft pilots, and five to six will be spaceflight engineers and payload specialists, including two as payload specialists, said the CMSA. The spacecraft pilots will be recruited from the in-service pilots of the armed forces, according to the CMSA. The spaceflight engineers will be selected from those engaged in scientific research and engineering work in aerospace engineering and related fields, while the payload specialists will come from researchers focusing on space science and applications, said the CMSA.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-10/02/content_10189060.htm

At TDMM, China bashing won't score regional gains

Hannan Hussain

CGTN, October 3, 2022

On October 1, the defense ministers of the United States, Japan and Australia gathered for a Trilateral Defense Ministers Meeting (TDMM) in Hawaii. Leaders vowed to work against China, falsely accusing the country of acting with "aggressive and bullying behavior" and issuing an unwarranted condemnation of Beijing's legitimate peace measures in the Taiwan Strait. The three countries appear keen to promote a

divisive "Indo-Pacific strategy" by maintaining anti-China posturing at its core. "We are deeply concerned by China's increasingly aggressive and bullying behavior in the Taiwan Strait, and elsewhere in the region," said U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-10-03/At-TDMM-China-bashing-won-t-score-regional-gains-1dPwW70O2wE/index.html>

US, not China, 'real challenger' to New Delhi's Indian Ocean interests

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 3, 2022

The United States, not China, is the real challenger to India's rights and interests in the Indian Ocean, according to a Chinese military strategist, who called on the Asian neighbours to better manage their differences and stabilise ties. Zhou Bo, a senior fellow at Tsinghua University's Centre for International Security and Strategy, pointed to last year's sailing of the USS John Paul Jones guided missile destroyer into waters claimed by India as its exclusive economic zone. "The US Navy's Seventh Fleet issued a written statement saying it did so because the US would challenge India's 'excessive maritime claims', which was met with an Indian backlash," said Zhou, a retired senior colonel and former director of the Chinese defence ministry's office for international cooperation.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3194639/us-not-china-real-challenger-new-delhis-indian-ocean-interests>

China, Russia at odds with US over UN meeting on North Korea

Korea Times, October 5, 2022

The United States asked the U.N. Security Council to meet on North Korea after Pyongyang fired a ballistic missile over Japan, but diplomats said China and Russia are opposed to a public discussion by the 15-member body. Nuclear-armed North Korea test-fired a ballistic missile farther than ever before, sending it soaring over Japan for the first time in five years and prompting a warning for residents there to take cover. "We must limit the DPRK's ability to advance its unlawful ballistic missile and weapons of mass destruction programs," U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, posted on Twitter, after calling for a public Security Council meeting.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/10/103_337299.html

U.S. could break Chinese blockade of Taiwan: Navy commander

Ryo Nakamura

Nikkei Asia, October 5, 2022

If China imposed a maritime blockade of Taiwan, the U.S. and its allies would have the capability to break it, says Adm. Samuel Paparo, commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. China certainly has "the number of vessels, and the capability at sea to execute a blockade," Paparo told Nikkei and a group of reporters traveling with U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin to Hawaii. "The question that follows is 'Do the allies have the capability to break that blockade?' And the answer to that is a resounding yes." Paparo expressed confidence that Washington could do so even on its own, citing its volume of firepower and "superiority in key domains," likely a reference to nuclear submarines and other undersea forces.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Taiwan-tensions/U.S.-could-break-Chinese-blockade-of-Taiwan-Navy-commander2>

Why China can't and won't abandon Russia

Hiroyuki Akita

Nikkei Asia, October 6, 2022

While Russia continues its outrageous acts against Ukraine by annexing four eastern and southern Ukrainian regions, speculation abounds that its most powerful ally, China, is seeking to distance itself from Moscow. Many pundits who hold this view cite a comment made by Russian President Vladimir Putin at a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Uzbekistan on September 15. At the outset of the talks, Putin said he understood that China has "questions and concerns" about Russia's actions in Ukraine, indicating Beijing had expressed uneasiness about the situation there. Putin likely was compelled to make the remark after Beijing protested Russia's unilateral release of a comment made by a senior Chinese official on the war.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Comment/Why-China-can-t-and-won-t-abandon-Russia>

Chinese envoy calls for restraint on Korean Peninsula

CGTN, October 6, 2022

A Chinese ambassador to the United Nations (UN) urged all related parties to stay calm, exercise restraint and not make any moves that may escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula. According to Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, China has noticed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) recent missile launch activities and that the U.S. and other countries have recently held

joint military exercises in the region. "The DPRK's recent launch activities are all before and after military exercises, and they do not exist in isolation," said Geng at a UN Security Council (UNSC) meeting on the Korean Peninsula situation.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2022-10-06/Chinese-envoy-calls-for-restraint-on-Korean-Peninsula-1dUHqI9AOGY/index.html>

Civil Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

Xinhua, October 6, 2022

China's Wing Loong-2H large civil unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) has recently conducted a cloud seeding operation on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, according to the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC). Wing Loong-2H detected the precipitation clouds and successfully carried out artificial rainfall and snowfall enhancement over the Aemye Ma-chhen Range in the Sanjiangyuan region on the plateau, said the AVIC, the country's leading planemaker. This operation is in joint efforts of the Weather Modification Center under the China Meteorological Administration (CMA), Meteorological Observation Center under the CMA, AVIC (Chengdu) Unmanned Aerial Vehicle System Co., Ltd., and multiple other units.

<https://english.news.cn/20221006/b459349f05434a6fb0297a8b129ee045/c.html>

Will North Korea conduct a nuclear test during China's Congress?

Zaheena Rasheed

Al Jazeera, October 6, 2022

When North Korea carried out its last nuclear test on September 3, 2017, China's President Xi Jinping was preparing to host the leaders of Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa at a summit meant to burnish his image as a global statesperson ahead of a critical Chinese Communist Party (CCP) congress. Analysts in China and the US immediately condemned the atomic test as an "insult" to Beijing, which has long been North Korea's chief ally and its primary trade partner, as well as a "diplomatic embarrassment" for Xi, who at the time was set to be confirmed for a second term as the Communist Party's leader. China responded by joining US-led United Nations Security Council sanctions that choked off North Korea's fuel supplies and ordered the return home of some 100,000 North Korean workers whose labour overseas was funding their government's weapons programme.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/10/6/would-n-korea-launch-a-nuclear-test-during-china-party-congress>

China criticizes strengthening of US military alliance in Asia Pacific, says dialogue is only way to resolve Korean Peninsula issue

Global Times, October 6, 2022

China has reaffirmed that dialogue and consultation are the only way to resolve the Korean Peninsula issue, urging the US side to take action, show sincerity, and create conditions for the resumption of dialogue. "All parties concerned should focus on the overall situation of peace and stability on the Peninsula and prevent the situation from escalating," Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, said at UN council on the situation of the Peninsula. The UN members met after North Korea test-fired a ballistic missile. Geng said that China has noticed North Korea's recent missile launches, and also noticed the joint military drills held by the US and other countries in the region. Geng said the recent strengthening of the US' military alliance in the Asia-Pacific region heightened the risk of military confrontation, practiced double standards on the nuclear issue, and poisoned the regional security environment. Against this background, the situation on the Peninsula inevitably becomes tense, Geng said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1276592.shtml>

US hits China with sweeping tech export controls

Demetri Sevastopulo and Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, October 7, 2022

The US has introduced sweeping export controls that will severely complicate efforts by Chinese companies to develop cutting-edge technologies with military applications, in one of the toughest actions President Joe Biden has taken against China. The commerce department announced restrictions that will make it extremely hard for Chinese companies to obtain or manufacture advanced computer chips and will slow their progress in artificial intelligence. The measures are also designed to make it much tougher for China to develop supercomputers with military applications that range from modelling nuclear weapons to developing hypersonic weapons.

<https://www.ft.com/content/6825bee4-52a7-4c86-b1aa-31c100708c3e>

Chinese series highlights PLA pilots' efforts to protect air defence identification zone

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 7, 2022

The People's Liberation Army has been deploying more advanced aircraft to the South and East China seas and the Taiwan Strait to safeguard China's territorial integrity, experts said following the airing of a documentary series by state broadcaster China Central Television. The PLA Air Force and PLA Navy have

been scrambling aircraft to expel foreign aircraft since Beijing announced the establishment of the country's first air defence identification zone in the East China Sea in late November 2013, the series said. "When dealing with provocative foreign military aircraft that regularly fly to the East China Sea, there are only tit-for-tat encounters, as we will not allow any recklessness," Li Zhe, a PLA Navy pilot, told CCTV in the last episode of the eight-part series.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3194999/chinese-series-highlights-pla-pilots-efforts-protect-air>

China's marines put to extreme tests in drive for all-terrain troops

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 7, 2022

The Chinese military's expanded marine corps has stepped up training, with signs that the elite force has adopted some of the approach of its American counterpart, defence analysts said. In footage aired by state broadcaster CCTV, members of the corps were shown training in a range of harsh environments, from the extreme cold of a Himalayan winter to the severe heat of a desert summer. "Our training has to ensure we can fight in all conditions and manoeuvre quickly, whether it's on land, on an island, in the air or underwater," Xu Xiaofei, a 34-year-old marine armoured vehicle engineer, told CCTV.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3195235/chinas-marines-put-extreme-tests-drive-all-terrain-troops>

U.S. intensifies assault on China chip ambitions

Cheng Ting-Fang

Nikkei Asia, October 8, 2022

The U.S. has introduced sweeping export controls aimed at curbing almost every aspect of China's semiconductor development as part of its toughest crackdown yet on Beijing's tech ambitions. The U.S. Commerce Department barred American companies from shipping certain grades of advanced chip equipment to any Chinese client without a license, effective immediately. The same curbs will apply to shipments of American-made electronics parts or other items that China could use to produce its own chipmaking tools and equipment. Under the new rules "U.S. persons" will also be restricted from providing support to the development or production of chips at Chinese "semiconductor fabrication facilities without a license," starting October 12.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Tech/Semiconductors/U.S.-intensifies-assault-on-China-chip-ambitions>

Chinese scientist-led research discovers essential element for life on Saturn's moon

Global Times, October 8, 2022

An international research team led by a Chinese scientist has found that the ocean on Enceladus, Saturn's sixth largest moon, may be abundant in dissolved phosphates that could support the origin and proliferation of potential microorganisms, according to a report by Xinhua News Agency. The discovery fills a gap in the study of the habitability of Enceladus' water and provides a scientific reference for future exploration of possible life on the moon, the report said. The team is led by Hao Jihua, a researcher at the University of Science and Technology of China. It published the research paper on the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA, a US journal, Xinhua reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1276659.shtml>

Can China De-Escalate a Nuclear Crisis Over Ukraine? Will It?

Cindy Sui

Voice of America, October 8, 2022

As concerns grow of a possible nuclear conflict between Russia and the West over Ukraine, there are hopes China could defuse the crisis. But Russia's most influential ally may not have the desire or the ability to help, according to analysts. "If any power has influence over Putin, it is China," said Steve Tsang, director of the SOAS University of London's China Institute. The problem, according to Tsang, is that "foreign policy under [Chinese President] Xi [Jinping] is guided by the China-first — not the world first — principle," meaning Beijing will be weighing the advantages or disadvantages of getting involved. China is the only permanent member of the United Nations Security Council that has pledged to not be the first to use nuclear weapons. It is also Russia's biggest trade partner and arguably the country with the most political influence over Moscow.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/can-china-de-escalate-a-nuclear-crisis-over-ukraine-will-it-/6781363.html>

China lashes out at latest US export controls on chips

Korea Times, October 8, 2022

China criticized the latest U.S. decision to tighten export controls that would make it harder for China to obtain and manufacture advanced computing chips, calling it a violation of international economic and trade rules that will "isolate and backfire" on the U.S. "Out of the need to maintain its sci-tech hegemony, the U.S. abuses export control measures to maliciously block and suppress Chinese companies," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning. "It will not only damage the legitimate rights and interests of

Chinese companies, but also affect American companies' interests," she said. Mao also said that the U.S. "weaponization and politicization" of science and technology as well as economic and trade issues will not stop China's progress.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/world/2022/10/501_337535.html

IAEA should not become stage of political manipulation

Zhao Xuelinand Wang Ying

China Military Online, October 9, 2022

The nuclear submarine cooperation among the US, the UK and Australia relates to the integrity, validity and authority of NPT, and the related safeguards concern the interests of all IAEA members. This is a matter that must be discussed by all members through intergovernmental arrangements in search of a solution. The international community, including the IAEA, should keep urging the three countries to immediately stop the nuclear proliferation actions caused by their cooperation, and all members should continue to push at the Board of Directors and the General Conference the intergovernmental discussions that have been agreed through four rounds of consultations. They must focus on the nature and truth of the trilateral cooperation and take concrete actions to preserve the international nuclear non-proliferation system and safeguard global peace and security.

http://www.81.cn/jwywpd/2022-10/09/content_10190698.htm

China's next aircraft carrier: nuclear-power speculation continues

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, October 9, 2022

China's fourth aircraft carrier will probably be nuclear-powered, analysts have predicted. China State Shipbuilding Corporation has previously said that it needs to achieve a breakthrough in nuclear-powered technology by 2027. But an article in the Wave of South China Sea, a military affairs social media account, said there had still been no official announcement that the shipyards responsible for building carriers have been given the necessary permission, and it was debatable whether China could acquire the technology to build them. The article also said a diesel-powered vessel would be more suited to China's development.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3195306/chinas-next-aircraft-carrier-nuclear-power-speculation>

China launches 1st comprehensive solar probe, to share data with world's scientists

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, October 9, 2022

China sent the country's Advanced Space-based Solar Observatory (ASO-S) - a satellite specially designed to carry out a comprehensive probe of the Sun - into preset orbit via a Long March 2D carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Northwest China's Gansu Province. The satellite, also known as Kuafu-1, which is named after Kuafu, a giant in Chinese mythology who indefatigably chased the sun, was jointly developed by the Innovation Academy for Microsatellites of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), CAS National Astronomical Observatory, the CAS Changchun Institute of Optics, Fine Mechanics and Physics and the CAS Purple Mountain Observatory. Nanjing-based CAS Purple Mountain Observatory will operate the spacecraft, the Global Times learned from mission insiders.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1276742.shtml>

China used advanced satellite technology to monitor Nord Stream leak

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, October 9, 2022

China used new satellite technology to obtain the earliest accurate estimate about the damage to the Nord Stream pipeline, according to researchers involved in the project. The Russian-built pipelines supplying natural gas to Europe were hit by a series of explosions on September 26 in a suspected act of sabotage by unknown parties. After the attack, the Chinese government ordered one of its most advanced Earth observation satellites to find out how much methane – a major greenhouse gas – had escaped into the atmosphere. Most greenhouse gas monitoring satellites can only measure the total emissions over vast areas, but the Chinese scientists say, without providing precise details, they can narrow the area measured significantly.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3195341/china-used-advanced-satellite-technology-monitor-nord-stream>

China Space Station Mengtian lab module completes propellant fuelling

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, October 10, 2022

The Mengtian lab module, the final section of the basic structure of the China Space Station, completed its planned propellant fuelling, the Global Times learned from the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). According to the CMSA, the Mengtian, after arriving at the Wenchang Space Launch Site in South China's

Hainan Province, has completed work including general assembly and testing, and it will carry out a joint examination with the Long March-5B Y4 carrier rocket. Facilities and equipment at the Wenchang spaceport are in good condition, and all systems related to the examination and testing duties are preparing in an orderly manner, the CMSA said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1276839.shtml>

DPP eagerness to comply with US chip rules will backfire

Global Times, October 10, 2022

The US government has been exerting pressure on Asian countries and regions, especially China's Taiwan region, to hobble the Chinese mainland's chip industries after the US' efforts to lure Asian chip companies away from Chinese mainland markets had proved unsuccessful. In particular, the US is eyeing Taiwan island as a "sally port" to meet its ends, and some Taiwan politicians have showed an inclination to comply with US orders under the latter's pressure. Chinese experts warned that a forced "decoupling" from the mainland will not bring any benefits to Taiwan companies, and the conservatism in the US is undermining existing global chip industries, which could trigger "butterfly effects" that the US might not be able to control.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1276790.shtml>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjana C. Oak with inputs
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