

April 20, 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

China continues to open its arms to lunar cooperation

Huang Lanlan

Global Times, April 11, 2023

China has actively been pushing for international space cooperation with the latest example being the China-France joint statement, signed by both countries' governments amid French President Emmanuel Macron's state visit to China between April 5 and 7, in which the two sides expressed satisfaction with cooperation on the Chang'e-6 probe, and on the joint research of extra-terrestrial samples.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288888.shtml>

Huawei opposition to Nokia sale of joint venture threatens Finnish firm's exit as US-China tensions weigh on deal

Che Pan

South China Morning Post, April 11, 2023

Huawei Technologies' threat to stop licensing technology to its joint venture with Nokia could derail the Finnish telecoms equipment maker's plan to sell its majority stake to a Chinese chemical product company for US\$300 million.

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/big-tech/article/3216677/huawei-opposition-nokia-sale-joint-venture-threatens-finnish-firms-exit-us-china-tensions-weigh-deal>

Mainland presents vast opportunity for Taiwan firms that decline to be US' pawns

Wang Yi

Global Times, April 11, 2023

Senior Chinese officials have met with business leaders from the Taiwan region in recent days, calling for strengthened cross-Straits cooperation and pledging to benefit Taiwan compatriots and enterprises. Even as the secessionist Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authorities' collusion with US politicians stirred up escalating tensions in the Taiwan Straits, these meetings sent a renewed signal that the vast mainland market still welcomes Taiwan companies with open arms, should they choose not to be pawns in the US' containment against the Chinese mainland.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288905.shtml>

China, France expand nuclear cooperation

World Nuclear News, April 11, 2023

Cooperation agreements in the field of nuclear energy have been signed between China and France during a state visit by French President Emmanuel Macron to Beijing. The latest agreements between China General Nuclear (CGN), China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and EDF build on 40 years of previous cooperation between the two countries.

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/China,-France-expand-nuclear-cooperation>

Chinese FM repeats grave concern, opposition to Japan's nuclear-contaminated water dumping plan in response to South Korea's opposition party's protest in Japan

Global Times, April 11, 2023

China has expressed grave concerns and opposition for multiple times to Japan's decision to discharge Fukushima's nuclear-contaminated water into the ocean, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson told the Global Times in response to South Korea's main opposition party's recent protest in Japan.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1288883.shtml>

How U.S.-made chips are flowing into Russia

Nikkei Asia, April 12, 2023

More than a year since the start of the Ukraine war, hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of U.S.-made semiconductors are flowing into Russia despite Washington's sanctions on the country, a Nikkei investigation has found. Washington banned the export of American semiconductors to Russia, except for humanitarian purposes and other special exceptions, on Feb. 24, 2022, immediately after Russia invaded its neighbor. Shenzhen, a Chinese port city near Hong Kong, is home to a huge market where semiconductors and electronic components from around the world are traded.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Tech/Semiconductors/Special-report-How-U.S.-made-chips-are-flowing-into-Russia>

China reviews US cyber-attack cases, saying US owes explanation over leaked Pentagon docs

Global Times, April 12, 2023

The US owes the international community an explanation over the leaked Pentagon documents as they clearly show that the US has long used its tech edge to conduct indiscriminate secret theft, surveillance and eavesdropping on countries in the world, including its allies, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said, reveals five typical cases of cyber-attacks conducted by the US government.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289023.shtml>

French President seeks to defend stance on China after backlash

Ania Nussbaum and Diederik Baazil

The Japan Times, April 13, 2023

French President Emmanuel Macron defended his approach to the U.S. and China after his call for Europe to avoid being dragged into a conflict between Beijing and Washington sparked a backlash. Macron said his view on Taiwan hasn't shifted and pointed to a shared vision of an open Indo-Pacific region with U.S. counterpart Joe Biden.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/04/13/world/macron-defends-china-stance/>

Leaked Pentagon documents reveal China successfully tested a new hypersonic nuclear-capable missile in February - with a 'high probability of penetrating' US defenses

Harriet Alexander

Daily Mail, April 14, 2023

Pentagon files allegedly leaked by Jack Teixeira include a deeply troubling report about China's hypersonic missile program, and the revelation that a new missile believed to be capable of evading U.S. defenses has been successfully tested. They reported that three days previously, on February 25, China had successfully tested a new missile, named DF-27 - a hypersonic intermediate-range ballistic missile, in the Dongfeng series. All Dongfeng-series missiles are capable of delivering nuclear warheads.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11971679/Leaked-Pentagon-files-China-successfully-tested-new-hypersonic-ICBM-evade-defenses.html>

China supports Afghanistan to exercise inclusive governance: Qin Gang

CGTN, April 14, 2023

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Qin Gang met with Amir Khan Muttaqi, acting foreign minister of the Afghan interim government, in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on Thursday, on the sidelines of the fourth Meeting of Foreign Ministers among the Neighboring Countries of Afghanistan. Qin said China respects the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, respects the independent choices made by the Afghan people, as well as never interferes in Afghanistan's internal affairs nor seeks selfish interests in the country.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-04-13/Qin-Gang-holds-talks-with-Afghan-acting-FM-in-Samarkand-Uzbekistan-1iYxqTUzz3O/index.html>

China stocks rise as chip makers, resource shares jump

ET Telecom, April 14, 2023

China stocks rose on Friday, led by semiconductor and resource shares, while the central bank head saying that the country would achieve this year's growth target also lifted investor sentiment. China's economy is likely to grow around 5% this year, People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang said in remarks published, in line with the government's annual target.

<https://telecom.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/devices/china-stocks-rise-as-chip-makers-resource-shares-jump/99490974>

Ukraine puts Chinese smartphone giant Xiaomi, CEO Lei Jun on war sponsor list over business in Russia

Che Pan

South China Morning Post, April 14, 2023

Ukraine's anti-corruption watchdog has put Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi, its founder and CEO Lei Jun, as well as a dozen other company executives on its list of "international war sponsors", accusing the Beijing-based firm of maintaining business in Russia despite its military actions. "The reason for inclusion in the list ... was that the company not only continued its work in the Russian Federation after the full-scale invasion [of Ukraine], but is still the leader in smartphone sales in the terrorist state," Ukraine's National Agency on Corruption Prevention (NACP) said in the statement.

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/big-tech/article/3217067/ukraine-puts-chinese-smartphone-giant-xiaomi-ceo-lei-jun-war-sponsor-list-over-business-russia>

Brazil paves way for semiconductor cooperation with China

The Economic Times, April 14, 2023

China and Brazil agreed to set up a working group to pursue cooperation on semiconductors as the South American nation strengthens ties with Beijing in areas of sensitive technology. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping and their governments signed 15 agreements or MoUs that include the building of a sixth satellite used to monitor the Amazon, and the development of technology for 5G telecommunications, the Internet and cybersecurity.

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/brazil-paves-way-for-semiconductor-cooperation-with-china/articleshow/99500071.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

How the US should support Taiwan

Chang-Tai Hsieh and Jason Hsu

Financial Express, April 15, 2023

The stern warnings issued by China ahead of Taiwanese president Tsai Ing-wen's tour of the United States and Central America have highlighted the threat that intensifying Chinese pressure poses to the island's security and stability. But the warnings also underscored the degree to which the ongoing US efforts to "on-shore" semiconductor manufacturing could cripple Taiwan's economy at a critical time.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/opinion/how-the-us-should-support-taiwan/3047596/>

China's nuclear supercarrier vision coming into view

Gabriel Honrada

Asia Times, April 15, 2023

Building on the Fujian aircraft carrier's success, China's carrier development program is gaining steam with the recent unveiling of its nuclear-powered supercarrier concept. This month, The Warzone reported that China's Jiangnan Shipyard has released concept art of what appears to be a nuclear-powered supercarrier similar to the US Gerald Ford class and France's Next Generation Aircraft Carrier.

<https://asiatimes.com/2023/04/chinas-nuclear-supercarrier-vision-coming-into-view/>

Shenzhou-15 taikonauts set new record for China's manned space program with 4 spacewalks of single crew

Global Times, April 16, 2023

The crew of the Shenzhou-15 set a new record in China's manned space history for extravehicular activity (EVA) by a single crew, after the Chinese taikonauts completed their fourth EVA. The Global Times learned from the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA) that the Shenzhou-15 crew, onboard the orbiting China Space Station, completed their fourth EVA on Saturday, with taikonauts Fei Junlong and Zhang Lu completing all extravehicular work, supported by crewmate Deng Qingming from inside the vehicle and ground control.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289210.shtml>

BT holds China-Taiwan war game to stress test supply chains

Oliver Telling, Anna Gross and Cheng Ting-Fang

Financial Times, April 16, 2023

BT held “war games” to prepare for the disruption from a potential conflict between China and Taiwan, in a sign of companies’ growing unease over escalating tensions in the region. The simulation was held after the then US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August, prompting China to stage unprecedented military drills around the island.

<https://www.ft.com/content/bb1f4951-eef5-4b3d-990a-f29d6fa28d54>

Belt and Roadblocks: More of China's borrowers fall into distress

Nikkei Asia, April 16, 2023

It has been a decade since Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the Belt and Road Initiative, a massive infrastructure binge that would help Chinese products and influence spread around the globe. Since then, more than 150 countries, hungry for funds and infrastructure, have concluded deals with China. But friction is now growing between many of these countries and their benefactor.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Belt-and-Road/Belt-and-Roadblocks-More-of-China-s-borrowers-fall-into-distress>

The Observer view on North Korea: only China can put a stop to Kim Jong-un's latest round of nuclear sabre-rattling

The Guardian, April 16, 2023

Unilateral sanctions by individual states may be the only option, since China, backed by Russia, has blocked tougher, collective action by the UN security council. And it is to China that the world should now look to apply effective pressure. Kim is no puppet, but he is uniquely beholden to Beijing. Unchecked nuclear proliferation – and nuclear war – are not in China's interest.

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/apr/16/the-observer-view-on-north-korea>

China launches weather satellite, flights avoid no-fly zone of Taiwan

Nikkei Asia, April 16, 2023

China launched a weather satellite on April, 16 as civilian flights altered their routes to avoid a Chinese-imposed no-fly zone to the north of Taiwan which Beijing put in place because of the possibility of falling rocket debris. Taiwan's transport ministry said Beijing had initially notified Taipei it would impose a no-fly zone from April 16 to 18 but later said that period had been reduced to 27 minutes on Sunday morning after Taiwan protested.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Aerospace-Defense-Industries/China-launches-weather-satellite-flights-avoid-no-fly-zone-of-Taiwan>

Blinken's Asia trip to G7 meeting, Vietnam amid Pentagon leaks reflects 'US difficulties to convince allies, regional countries'

Yang Sheng

Global Times, April 16, 2023

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's recent trip to Asia to attend the G7 foreign ministers' meeting in Japan and to visit Vietnam shows that the US is still trying to use regional issues to hype tensions and contain China, but experts said this attempt won't be welcomed by regional countries and even not by some US allies. They noted that the latest scandal of Pentagon's leaks will embarrass Washington even more and make it difficult to win trust from other countries.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289233.shtml>

Beijing warns Berlin against strategic missteps in new China policy

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, April 16, 2023

Beijing urged Berlin to avoid “strategic misjudgments” in its policy towards China and to support the peaceful unification of Taiwan, as German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock wrapped up her three-day visit to China on the weekend. After a meeting with Baerbock, China’s top diplomat, Wang Yi, drew a parallel with the reunification of Germany. “China once supported Germany’s reunification, and hopes and believes that Germany will also support China’s great cause of peaceful reunification.”

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3217256/beijing-warns-berlin-against-strategic-missteps-new-china-policy>

China-Russia military ties to enhance amid Chinese defence chief’s visit to Moscow, ‘key to world peace, containing and deterring hegemony’

Yang Sheng and Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, April 17, 2023

The ongoing visit of Chinese defense chief Li Shangfu to Russia received high standard reception and also drew great attention globally, as Western media try to connect the China-Russia military ties with the ongoing Ukraine crisis, with Chinese analysts saying the strategic partnership between the two countries has no ill intention or conspiracy to hide and will never target any third party.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289289.shtml>

How Chinese military aid to Russia could lead to a strategic reversal of nuclear forces

Vladimir Marakhonov

Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, April 17, 2023

But China faces many challenges to quickly build up its nuclear forces—and may have sought the help of a newfound ally: Russia. While Russia’s nuclear weapons industry is increasingly showing signs of underperformance that could affect its strike capabilities in a nuclear conflict, it has several ways by which it can support the development of China’s program, including the possible transfer of some of its weapons-grade plutonium.

<https://thebulletin.org/2023/04/how-chinese-military-aid-to-russia-could-lead-to-a-strategic-reversal-of-nuclear-forces/>

China FTA talks on the cards as Uruguayan Foreign Minister Francisco Bustillo begins 5-day visit

Xinlu Liang and Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, April 17, 2023

The foreign minister of Uruguay, Francisco Bustillo, hailed the decades-old relationship with China as he continued a five-day visit aimed at deepening bilateral ties and taking forward negotiations on a potential free-trade deal. “One of the biggest achievements we made in the past 35 years has been enhancing our trade ties,” Bustillo told an event marking the 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Uruguay.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3217363/china-fta-talks-cards-uruguayan-foreign-minister-francisco-bustillo-begins-five-day-visit>

US warship’s Taiwan Straits transit ‘powerless’ under PLA watch after island encirclement drills

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, April 17, 2023

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) kept a US warship under watch as it made a transit through the Taiwan Straits, with experts saying that such US provocations are no longer significant after the PLA again displayed its capabilities in the latest island encirclement patrols and joint drills. US guided missile destroyer the USS Milius on Sunday sailed through the Taiwan Straits and publicly hyped its transit.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289268.shtml>

Australian charged over reports to suspected Chinese spies

Associated Press, April 17, 2023

Two suspected Chinese spies gave a Sydney businessman envelope of cash for information about subjects including a government deal with the United States and Britain to build a fleet of Australian nuclear-powered submarines, prosecutors told a court. The charge, included in laws against covert foreign interference and espionage that angered China when they were legislated in 2018, carries a maximum 15-year prison sentence.

<https://apnews.com/article/australia-foreign-interference-china-nuclear-submarine-a7dde67899e3177cdd9b1f402d896711>

China starts ‘surgical’ retaliation against foreign companies after US-led tech blockade

Edward White and Kana Inagaki

Financial Times, April 17, 2023

China is starting to target western interests in the country after five years of snowballing trade and technology restrictions spearheaded by the US under presidents Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Over the past two months, Chinese officials have slapped new sanctions on US weapons companies Lockheed Martin and Raytheon, launched an investigation into US chipmaker Micron, raided US due diligence firm Mintz and apprehended local staff, detained a senior executive from Japan’s Astellas Pharma group and hit London-headquartered Deloitte with a record fine.

<https://www.ft.com/content/fc2038d2-3e25-4a3f-b8ca-0ceb5532a1f3>

Bangladesh to pay Russian nuclear firm in yuan, further sign of de-dollarization

Global Times, April 18, 2023

With the de-dollarization wave building as many nations seek alternatives to the greenback to reduce their dependence on the US, the internationalization of the yuan is gaining momentum. Bangladesh reportedly approved a payment of \$318 million to a Russian nuclear power developer using the yuan, the latest instance of countries bypassing the US dollar and using the Chinese currency in international payments, which will accelerate the trend of de-dollarization worldwide, experts said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289372.shtml>

Drop in China’s chip, tech output casts shadow on GDP recovery

Bloomberg, April 18, 2023

China’s production of key electronics declined so far this year despite a bullish rebound in the overall economy, showing the unevenness of the country’s recovery. Output of semiconductors fell nearly 15% in the first quarter from the same period last year, according to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Tuesday. Smartphones production shrank 13.8% in the same period, as local brands like Oppo, Vivo and Xiaomi Corp. struggled to shake off a sales malaise that’s affected Android handsets for over a year.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-04-18/drop-in-china-s-chip-tech-output-casts-shadow-on-gdp-recovery#xj4y7vzkg>

G7 backs Taiwan after Emmanuel Macron's comments sparked backlash

Kana Inagaki and Joseph Leahy

Financial Times, April 18, 2023

The G7 group of industrialised nations has reaffirmed its support for Taiwan after French president Emmanuel Macron sparked an international backlash by suggesting the EU should distance itself from tensions between Washington and Beijing over the island.

<https://www.ft.com/content/bee2c04a-9e4b-4248-9246-4b892a0e2a34>

Chinese FM urges G7 countries to stop interfering in China's internal affairs

Global Times, April 18, 2023

The Chinese Foreign Ministry has urged G7 countries to pay attention to their own domestic problems and stop interfering in China's internal affairs in response to China-related content in the G7 foreign ministers' joint statement. The G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting took place from Sunday to Tuesday in Nagano, Japan. While noting the importance of working with China on issues such as climate change and global health security, the ministers expressed concerns in a joint statement about China's actions in the East and South China Seas and its stance toward the Taiwan region, VOA reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289365.shtml>

Global Impact: China, France cement ties as global diplomacy takes centre stage in Beijing, but Ukraine a non-starter

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, April 18, 2023

The visit of French President Emmanuel Macron's to China was largely perceived as a diplomatic success in China for Beijing to drive a wedge between Europe and the United States, as the French leader strengthened his call for the "strategic autonomy" of the continent, which should become the "third pole" of the world amid the US-China rivalry. In a rare joint visit with European Union Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen, Macron's original intent to further push China, along with the EU, to influence Russia to stop its invasion in Ukraine, though, led nowhere.

<https://www.scmp.com/economy/article/3217397/global-impact-china-france-cement-ties-global-diplomacy-takes-centre-stage-beijing-ukraine-non>

U.S. charges two with setting up Chinese 'secret police station'

Nikkei Asia, April 18, 2023

U.S. federal agents arrested two New York residents for allegedly operating a Chinese "secret police station" in the Chinatown district of Manhattan in what prosecutors said was part of a crackdown on Beijing's alleged targeting of dissidents. Lu Jianwang, 61, and Chen Jinping, 59, face charges of conspiring to act as agents of China's government without informing U.S. authorities and obstruction of justice. They were released on bond following an initial appearance in Brooklyn federal court.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/US-China-tensions/U.S.-charges-two-with-setting-up-Chinese-secret-police-station>

China strongly opposes joint communiqué of G7 foreign ministers meeting

Chen Qingqing

Global Times, April 18, 2023

China expressed strong opposition and lodged stern representations to Japan, the host country of the G7 foreign ministers' meeting, as the latest G7 joint communiqué reflects the group's arrogance, prejudice and deliberate desire to block and contain China, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said in response to the document that highlights "concerns" over Russia and China. The three-day G7 foreign ministers' meeting was held in Karuizawa, Nagano Prefecture, and concluded on April 18.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289362.shtml>

US-China military stand-off near Taiwan 'no reason' for Beijing to relax its guard

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, April 18, 2023

The US Navy's decision to keep its distance from last week's PLA drills around Taiwan should not tempt Beijing to lower its guard against Washington's escalating comprehensive deployment in the region, according to mainland experts. The USS Nimitz aircraft carrier and other warships remained several hundred nautical miles off eastern Taiwan during the six-day drills, showing Washington so far was not ready for a fight with Beijing, they said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3217300/us-china-military-stand-near-taiwan-no-reason-beijing-relax-its-guard>

NATO's Stoltenberg says China to have 1,500 nuclear warheads by 2035

United News of India, April 19, 2023

NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said on Tuesday that China will have some 1,500 nuclear warheads by 2035, and the alliance needs to rethink and adapt its approach "to a more dangerous and competitive world." The Group of Seven (G7) called on China to engage in strategic risk reduction discussions with the US amid an alleged expansion of the country's nuclear arsenal and confirmed the importance of controlling items and technologies "that could be used for military purposes, mainly through multilateral export control regimes."

<http://www.uniindia.com/nato-s-stoltenberg-says-china-to-have-1-500-nuclear-warheads-by-2035/world/news/2955806.html>

US-China chip spat hangs over TSMC's recovery

Robyn Mak

Reuters, April 19, 2023

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing has so far remained relatively unscathed since Washington stepped up sanctions to hobble China's domestic semiconductor development. The \$437 billion group's unrivalled dominance in cutting-edge chips means that even if it can't sell to the People's Republic, there are plenty of other buyers.

<https://www.reuters.com/breakingviews/us-china-chip-spat-hangs-over-tsmcs-recovery-2023-04-19/>

Italy eyes Taiwan chip deals ahead of decision on China pact

Chiara Albanese and Alessandro Speciale

Bloomberg, April 19, 2023

Italian officials hinted in private talks with Taiwan that they may be willing to pull out of a controversial pact with China as they sought to secure help with semiconductors, according to people familiar with the issue. Officials from Rome's industry ministry discussed plans to increase cooperation on the production and export of semiconductors during recent meetings in Taipei, said the people who asked not to be named as the talks are not public.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-04-19/italy-eyes-taiwan-chip-deals-ahead-of-decision-on-china-pact#xj4y7vzkg>

Western Australia wants to have a very strong and cooperative relationship with China: Premier

Global Times, April 19, 2023

"The idea behind the visit is to make sure that there is a good understanding that Western Australia wants to have a very strong and cooperative relationship [with China]," visiting Western Australian premier Mark McGowan (McGowan) told Global Times (GT) reporters Xiong Xinyi, Yu Jincui and Xing Xiaojing in an interview. e said the current Australian government has an appetite for a better relationship with China, noting that there have been increasing bilateral contacts every day, and he is very keen for that to continue.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202304/1289463.shtml>

China-US ties: veteran diplomat Liu Jianchao meets ambassador Nicholas Burns

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, April 20, 2023

A senior Communist Party diplomat has met the US ambassador to Beijing, becoming the highest-ranking official known to have met an American representative since the “spy balloon” saga early this year. Liu Jianchao, head of the party Central Committee’s International Department and a veteran diplomat, met US envoy Nicholas Burns and exchanged views on US-China relations and international and regional issues, according to a brief statement from the department.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3217750/china-us-ties-veteran-diplomat-liu-jianchao-meets-ambassador-nicholas-burns>

What does China hope to gain from its post-Covid diplomatic push?

Kawala Xie and Dewey Sim

South China Morning Post, April 20, 2023

A steady stream of world leaders have descended upon Beijing over the past month, from French President Emmanuel Macron and EU chief Ursula von der Leyen to Brazil’s Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva – a sign that Chinese diplomacy is back after years of Covid-19 isolation. The dignitaries have also included the leaders of Singapore and Malaysia, as well as Gabonese President Ali Bongo Ondimba, who is visiting China. The country is also slated to host major diplomatic meetings, including the China-Central Asia summit in Xian next month and the third Belt and Road Forum, expected to take place in autumn.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3217628/what-does-china-hope-gain-its-post-covid-diplomatic-push>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak
with inputs from Mr. Kushal Agrawal*

**Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA
And
Indian Pugwash Society**