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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

China underlines ‘no first use’ nuclear weapons policy as it seeks stronger power to deter

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, October 20, 2022

China has reaffirmed its “no first use” nuclear weapons policy at the United Nations, even as signs of a build-up emerge from the top leadership’s report to the ongoing 20th Communist Party congress in Beijing. Addressing a UN General Assembly First Committee session on non-proliferation, the Chinese ambassador for disarmament affairs, Li Song, underlined his country’s “solemn” commitment to no pre-emptive use of nuclear weapons “at any time and under any circumstances”. “China has solemnly committed to no first use of nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances, and not using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states or nuclear-weapon-free zones unconditionally,” Li told UN delegates.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3196530/china-underlines-no-first-use-nuclear-weapons-policy-it-seeks-stronger-power-deter>

Drones to become ‘loyal wingmen’ for China’s advanced J-20 stealth fighter jets, state media reports

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 20, 2022

China has started researching ways to turn the country’s advanced military drones into “loyal wingmen” for the country’s most powerful fifth-generation stealth fighter jet, the J-20, state media reported. Using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) alongside piloted planes is a concept outlined by the United States in its Next Generation Air Dominance (NGAD) initiative. China has tried to adopt the concept for its joint combat operations. In a computer-generated graphic, CCTV showed a twin-seat J-20 commanding several stealth attack drones resembling the GJ-11 Sharp Sword drone. It is the first time state media has confirmed why the Chengdu Aircraft Industry Group developed a twin-seat version of the J-20 – to accommodate a “weapons officer”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3196513/drones-become-loyal-wingmen-chinas-advanced-j-20-stealth-fighter-jets-state-media-reports>

Quad needs 'standing force' in Indo-Pacific: ex-U.S. Navy chief

Kentaro Iwamoto

Nikkei Asia, October 21, 2022

The Quad security grouping of the U.S., Japan, Australia and India should have a standing maritime force, the former U.S. chief of naval operations said on Friday, calling for stronger engagement in the Indo-Pacific

region to counter China. The Quad, formally the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, is widely seen as a buffer against Beijing's growing economic and military influence. Unlike NATO, however, it is not a military alliance.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Indo-Pacific/Quad-needs-standing-force-in-Indo-Pacific-ex-U.S.-Navy-chief>

Full text of resolution on 19th CPC Central Committee report

China Military Online, October 22, 2022

The following is the full text of the Resolution of the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on the Report of the 19th Central Committee adopted at the closing session of the 20th CPC National Congress Saturday. “The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) approves the report presented by Comrade Xi Jinping on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee. The Congress has held high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics; adhered to Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the Theory of Three Represents, and the Scientific Outlook on Development; and fully applied Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era...”

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-10/22/content_10194302.htm

China may ramp up nuclear arsenal after Xi’s assertion to establish strong strategic deterrence: Experts

The Indian Express, October 22, 2022

China is expected to boost its nuclear arsenal after President Xi Jinping’s remarks at the key Congress of the ruling Communist Party for the first time that Beijing will establish strong strategic deterrence, experts have said. “We will establish a strong system of strategic deterrence,” Xi, who is widely expected to be endorsed for a record third five-year term by the Congress of the CPC, told its opening session on October 16. In the 63-page report, Xi, who also heads the Central Military Commission (CMC) – the overall high command of the two million-strong People’s Liberation Army (PLA) – devoted a special section to the military titled Achieving the Central Goal of the PLA and Further Modernising National Defence and Military.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/china-ramp-nuclear-arsenal-xis-assertion-establish-strong-strategic-deterrence-experts-8224361/>

Chinese experts warn of threats from US B-21, B-52 bombers

Liu Xuanzun and Guo Yuandan

Global Times, October 24, 2022

The US made high-profile announcements on two of its strategic bombers, the fully upgraded B-52 and the brand new B-21, with Chinese experts saying that the duo are likely to become the US Air Force's core strategic strike force in the next few decades, and China should be prepared to counter the planes and also learn from them. Northrop Grumman, the company that builds the B-21, announced that the aircraft will be revealed to the public for the first time on December 2. This will be the first public unveiling of a new Air Force bomber in 34 years, since the B-2 bomber's debut in November 1988, US media outlet Defense News reported. After the rollout, the B-21 will conduct its first flight in 2023, the report said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1277843.shtml>

Worrying revival of interest in nuclear weapons in China and South Korea

Nicola Leveringhaus

South China Morning Post, October 24, 2022

In the 1980s and 1990s, the region was on a restrained nuclear path. Back then, China actively practised the nuclear minimalism it preached, joining deals such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. US president George H.W. Bush even opted to remove US nuclear weapons from allied Asian soil, including South Korea. In the case of China, the discovery of new missile silo bases last year, the mass development of dual-use missiles (for nuclear or conventional strikes) such as the DF-26, coupled with hypersonic capabilities and nuclear-armed submarines showcase an unprecedented level of military options for decision-makers in Zhongnanhai. The virtues of minimalism and nuclear restraint seem to be fading fast for China's strategic community and Communist Party elites.

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3196782/worrying-revival-interest-nuclear-weapons-china-and-south-korea>

Israel expected to tighten restrictions on Chinese investment in face of growing US pressure

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, October 25, 2022

The Israeli government is expected to approve new foreign investment restrictions targeting China in the face of growing pressure from the United States. Haaretz reported Israel's security cabinet was expected to

approve measures that would strengthen government oversight of foreign investment, allow the government to intervene when foreign investors controlled more than 5 per cent of a company's shares, and disqualify foreign enterprises from bidding or obtaining licences for local projects if they were deemed a threat to national security.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3197002/israel-expected-tighten-restrictions-chinese-investment-face-growing-us-pressure>

Chinese ambassador calls US 'biggest external challenge' to Seoul-Beijing ties

The Korea Times, October 26, 2022

The top Chinese envoy in Korea described the United States as the "biggest external challenge" to relations between Seoul and Beijing, while calling for the rejection of "outside interference" in order to develop bilateral ties in a "stable" manner. Ambassador Xing Haiming's blunt remarks, quite unusual for a seasoned career diplomat, came as Washington has been striving to strengthen partnerships with Seoul, Tokyo and other "like-minded" countries amid its intensifying rivalry with Beijing and Pyongyang's sabre-rattling. "(China-Korea ties) are facing a new critical moment," Xing said during a forum organized by the Kwanhun Club, an association of senior Korean journalists. "The biggest external challenge is the U.S."

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/10/113_338623.html

First four-engine large drone developed by China makes maiden flight, to debut in Airshow

Liu Xuanzun and Fan Wei

Global Times, October 26, 2022

The Twin-Tailed Scorpion D, a four-engine large drone independently developed by China, made its maiden flight and will make its public debut at the upcoming Airshow China 2022, the aircraft's developer announced. Capable of carrying heavier and larger payloads, the new drone has enhanced transport capability compared with its predecessors in the Twin-Tailed Scorpion series, analysts said. Independently developed by Sichuan Tengden Sci-Tech Innovation Co, the Twin-Tailed Scorpion D successfully completed its first flight at an airport in Zigong, Southwest China's Sichuan Province, according to a press release the company sent to the Global Times. This multipurpose, medium-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle system with fixed wings and four engines is the first of its kind in the world, Tengden said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1278029.shtml>

Pakistan leader Shehbaz Sharif to make first visit to China next week

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, October 26, 2022

Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will travel to China, soon after a reshuffle of Beijing's top leadership. Sharif will visit China from November 1 at the invitation of outgoing Premier Li Keqiang, the Chinese foreign ministry said. Pakistan's foreign ministry said it would be a two-day trip and that Sharif would be joined by Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari. It will be the Pakistani leader's first visit to China – the South Asian country's long-time close ally – since he took power after Imran Khan was ousted in a no-confidence vote in April. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said Sharif was among the first foreign leaders to be invited to China after last week's Communist Party congress, at which Xi Jinping secured a third term as its chief and unveiled a new leadership line-up.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3197332/pakistan-leader-shehbaz-sharif-make-first-visit-china-next-week>

Full text of the report to the 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China

China Military Online, October 26, 2022

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) on Oct 22 approved the report presented by Xi Jinping on behalf of the 19th CPC Central Committee. Here is the full text of the report. "Hold High the Great Banner of Socialism with Chinese Characteristics and Strive in Unity to Build a Modern Socialist Country in All Respects

Comrades,

On behalf of the 19th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), I will now deliver a report to the 20th National Congress..."

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-10/26/content_10195124.htm

Russia informs China of concerns over 'dirty bomb' in Ukraine; Moscow 'might turn operation into war on terror' if nukes are used against Russians

Yang Sheng

Global Times, October 27, 2022

Chinese State Councilor and Defense Minister Wei Fenghe held a video conversation with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu, in which both sides exchanged views on "international and regional issues of shared concern," as the Russian defense chief also called his counterparts of other major powers to tell them about

his concerns over the use of "dirty bombs" in Ukraine. Tan Kefei, spokesperson of the Ministry of National Defense, confirmed the conversation at a routine monthly press conference, but without giving further details about the recent discussion between the Chinese and Russian defense chiefs. According to TASS, both sides discussed the situation in Ukraine, said a statement released by the Russian Defense Ministry. Shoigu conveyed Russia's concerns to Wei about Ukraine possibly using a "dirty bomb" in a false flag operation," the statement reads.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1278180.shtml>

U.S. Unveils Strategy for Nuclear Threats from China and Russia

W.J. Hennigan

TIME, October 27, 2022

The Biden Administration unveiled a new defence strategy that puts the U.S. military on a Cold War-footing with China and Russia, detailing a plan to confront two nuclear peer adversaries for the first time in history with a multi-year build-up of modernized weaponry, enhanced foreign alliances and a top-to bottom overhaul of the American nuclear arsenal. The 80-page document serves as the Administration's roadmap for global security for the decades to come, and makes clear the U.S. faces two powerful but very different competitors. It characterizes China as a long-term "pacing challenge" with its growing power projection in the Pacific region, while deeming Russia to be an immediate "acute threat" amid its ongoing war with Ukraine and continual threats to launch a nuclear strike.

<https://time.com/6225745/biden-nuclear-defense-strategy-china-russia/>

Xi calls for finding the right way for China and US to get along in new era, shows China's firm, consistent policy amid US heightened pressure

Zhang Hui and Wan Hengyi

Global Times, October 27, 2022

China stands ready to work with the US to find the right way to get along with each other in the new era on the basis of mutual respect, peaceful coexistence and win-win cooperation, Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed in a message sent to an event of the National Committee on US-China Relations, the Xinhua News Agency reported. Xi made the remarks in a congratulatory message sent to the annual Gala Dinner of the National Committee on US-China Relations. Xi congratulated Evan Greenberg, vice chair of the national committee and chair of Chubb Limited and Chubb Group, on receiving an accolade at the gala, and extended his appreciation to the committee and its members for their longstanding dedication to the growth of China-US relations and the exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in various areas.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1278173.shtml>

US should dispel negative factors hindering China-US military relations: Defense Spokesperson

China Military Online, October 27, 2022

"China attaches great importance to the mil-to-mil relations with the US and is willing to conduct communication between the two militaries, which, however, must comply with certain principles and bottom lines," said Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense (MND) at a regular press conference in Beijing. The spokesperson made the remarks in response to the words by US Secretary of Defense Austin in an interview that US is trying to reopen the military communication channel with China and hopes that China can cooperate with the US in this regard. "In response to the US side's vicious provocations earlier on, China has taken resolute countermeasures to firmly safeguard national sovereignty and dignity", said Tan, noting that the US side should bear full responsibility for the serious difficulties faced by the current China-US mil-to-mil relations.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-10/27/content_10195307.htm

China can use its leverage with Russia to prevent a nuclear war

Zhou Bo

Financial Times, October 27, 2022

Will Putin use nuclear weapons in Ukraine? This billion-dollar question matters not only to Kyiv and Europe, but also to China. So far Beijing has trodden a careful line between Russia, its strategic partner, and Ukraine, which is a significant trading partner. During September's Samarkand summit, Vladimir Putin thanked China for its "balanced position" on the Ukraine conflict. But if Moscow decides to use tactical nuclear weapons against Ukraine, China can hardly maintain such a position any more. A joint declaration between Beijing and Kyiv in December 2013 agreed that China will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against Ukraine and, more importantly, will provide security assurances in the event of any such threat by a third party.

<https://www.ft.com/content/f05fef3f-a8be-4007-a161-34764419847f>

U.S. nuclear review warns of Chinese 'coercion' in Indo-Pacific

Yukihiro Sakaguchi and Ryo Nakamura

Nikkei Asia, October 28, 2022

The Biden administration released its Nuclear Posture Review, outlining a U.S. strategy that emphasizes deterrence in the Indo-Pacific while facing China's increasingly large and sophisticated arsenal. The 25-page document, released alongside the National Defense Strategy and the Missile Defense Review, calls for multilateral dialogue with Japan, South Korea and Australia on strengthening extended deterrence, or

signaling Washington's willingness to use nuclear weapons in order to discourage adversaries from conducting nuclear attacks on allies. "By the 2030s the United States will, for the first time in its history, face two major nuclear powers as strategic competitors and potential adversaries," the document says, referring to Russia and China.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Indo-Pacific/U.S.-nuclear-review-warns-of-Chinese-coercion-in-Indo-Pacific2>

Pentagon's strategy hypes 'China threat' in tough rhetoric to save waning hegemony

Wang Qi

Global Times, October 28, 2022

Hyping the increasing "security challenge" and "threats" from China, the Pentagon released the Biden administration's national defense strategy, which Chinese experts viewed as a product of fear and filled with Cold War mentality that damages world peace and stability. Although the US has shown a strong willingness to contain China, or launch "competition" as it is referred to in the report, its own power is not strong enough to support its tough rhetoric, and that makes the guideline-like strategy relatively empty, experts said. The 80-page, unclassified report comes about two weeks after the release of the Biden administration's first formal national security strategy, which has been slammed by the Chinese Foreign Ministry for describing China as "America's most consequential geopolitical challenge." That same rhetoric is continued in the Pentagon's report, which described China as the "most comprehensive and serious challenge to US national security" that will determine how the US military is equipped and shaped for the future.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1278237.shtml>

China brushes off US request to resume military dialogues

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, October 28, 2022

The US needs to respect China's interests and concerns if it is serious about reopening military communications, a Chinese military spokesman said. Contact has been cut off since August, after US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan over Beijing's protests. Responding to US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin's recent call for China to resume contact, Tan Kefei, a spokesman for China's defence ministry, said that Washington bore all blame. "Everything happens for a reason," Tan told a monthly press conference in Beijing, adding that the suspension of the dialogues was China's response in "safeguarding national sovereignty and dignity" against "malicious provocation" by the US.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3197513/china-brushes-us-request-resume-military-dialogues>

China warns US nuclear policy will fuel arms race and threaten peace

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, October 28, 2022

The United States' nuclear arms policy would fuel a nuclear arms race and jeopardise peace and stability, China's foreign ministry warned. Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said that through its Nuclear Posture Review (NPR), the US was aiming to use nuclear weapons "as an instrument to promote geopolitical goals and going totally against the international expectation of preventing nuclear war and avoiding a nuclear arms race". "The US policy reflects their hegemonic logic of seeking absolute military superiority, which will stimulate a nuclear arms race," Wang said. "By strengthening the role of nuclear weapons in its national security policy and lowering the threshold for their use, the US has increasingly become a source of risk of nuclear conflict."

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3197671/china-warns-us-nuclear-policy-will-fuel-arms-race-and-threaten-peace>

China Expanding Nuclear Arsenal to Threaten US: New Defense Strategy

Andrew Thornebrooke

The Epoch Times, October 28, 2022

Communist China is developing its nuclear forces to threaten the United States and shield its authoritarian ambitions, according to the Biden administration's newly published National Defense Strategy. The new National Defense Strategy released on October 27, highlights China's communist regime as "the most comprehensive and serious challenge to U.S. national security," and directs political and military leaders to "act urgently to sustain and strengthen U.S. deterrence" against the regime. Of particular note is the document's advisory that China is developing new nuclear weapons in order to threaten the United States, possibly by preparing for a nuclear first strike. "The PRC is increasing its capability to threaten the United States and our Allies and partners with nuclear weapons," the strategy said, using an acronym for the official name of communist China, the People's Republic of China.

https://www.theepochtimes.com/china-expanding-nuclear-arsenal-to-threaten-us-new-defense-strategy_4827176.html

Chinese disarmament ambassador blasts US Nuclear Posture Review

China Daily, October 29, 2022

Chinese Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs Li Song blasted the newly released Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) of the United States. In his remarks at a plenary meeting of the First Committee of the UN General

Assembly, Li said the NPR reveals how the United States, with its nuclear weapons in hand, observes the world and deals with other countries. "This document hypes up major-power competition and bloc confrontation, which reflects the logic of hegemonism seeking absolute military superiority. This is clearly against the world's desire to prevent nuclear war and avoid a nuclear arms race," he said. The latest US nuclear strategy, together with its related policies and plans, will definitely have a complex, far-reaching and seriously negative impact on global strategic security and stability, the strategic security relationship among major powers, as well as on the international and multilateral nuclear arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation processes, he warned. In this NPR, the United States has made irresponsible remarks and accusations as well as groundless speculation on China's normal modernization of its nuclear forces. It has brazenly "tailored" a nuclear deterrence strategy against China. China is seriously concerned about and firmly opposes such a move, said Li.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202210/29/WS635cdd8aa310fd2b29e7f3ce.html>

China's new Politburo: United only by loyalty to Xi Jinping

Yuri Momoi

Nikkei Asia, October 29, 2022

When Chinese President Xi Jinping assembled a new Communist Party Politburo for his third term as the party leader, he picked loyalists from different phases of his career to make sure no particular group would become a dominant force. This was to encourage competition for limited posts at the top and thus further foster loyalty to Xi. But the members' lack of connection to each other could lead to greater rivalry and infighting within the leadership. The two dozen members of China's top decision-making body were revealed at this month's party congress. Of the 24 members who will set the party's economic, political and social policies, excluding Xi, 18 were either connected or owed their promotion to the president.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/China-s-party-congress/China-s-new-Politburo-United-only-by-loyalty-to-Xi-Jinping>

Upgrades for China's nuclear triad as Xi Jinping pushes for stronger strategic deterrence: analysts

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, October 29, 2022

China is expected to upgrade its air, ground and sea-based nuclear delivery systems – or nuclear triad – following President Xi Jinping's call for a "strong system of strategic deterrence". Xi made the call in his work report to the 20th Communist Party congress earlier this month in comments laying out the country's development path for the next five years and beyond. Deterrence is the ability to wield military power to

dissuade adversaries from launching an attack. Defence analysts said the Ukraine war and an increasingly uncertain global order had reminded Beijing that conventional weapons were not enough for real “strategic deterrence”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3197705/upgrades-chinas-nuclear-triad-xi-jinping-pushes-stronger-strategic-deterrence-analysts>

Tech war: US ban on chip exports to have little effect on Chinese military for now, analysts say

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, October 29, 2022

Tighter US export controls on semiconductors are unlikely to have an immediate impact on the Chinese military, but China will still need to work on chip self-sufficiency to face future challenges, analysts forecast. This comes amid an escalation in the US-China tech war, with Washington imposing further sanctions earlier this month, restricting the export of more key technologies and hi-tech items, including “advanced computing chips”. The sanctions also expand the US Commerce Department’s entity list, subjecting companies to government licensing and sanctions requirements. They also ban US persons from working for China in hi-tech areas, as Washington seeks to hobble the Chinese manufacture of advanced semiconductors and their use by the People’s Liberation Army.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3197720/tech-war-us-ban-chip-exports-have-little-effect-chinese-military-now-analysts-say>

China’s Type 075 amphibious assault ships ‘can form task groups with aircraft carriers, landing ships’

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, October 30, 2022

The Type 075 amphibious assault ships of the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) Navy can reportedly form task forces by joining up with aircraft carriers, amphibious landing ships and other warships, which experts believed can enhance their amphibious assault capabilities. A report by China Central Television (CCTV) introduced three patterns of Type 075 operations. A task force consisting of a Type 075 amphibious assault ship and an aircraft carrier will have very strong capabilities in amphibious assault as well as seizing air superiority and control of the sea, the report said. In an amphibious assault group consisting of a Type 075 amphibious assault ship and a Type 071 amphibious landing ship, the Type 075 can serve as the core force, while the Type 071 can take up amphibious transport missions.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1278274.shtml>

US Air Force to deploy nuclear-capable B-52 bombers to Australia as tensions with China grow

Angus Grigg, Lesley Robinson and Meghna Bali

ABC News, October 30, 2022

The United States is preparing to deploy up to six nuclear-capable B-52 bombers to northern Australia, a provocative move experts say is aimed squarely at China. The US has drawn up detailed plans for what it calls a "squadron operations facility" for use during the Northern Territory dry season, an adjoining maintenance centre and a parking area for "six B-52s". Becca Wasser from the Centre for New American Security says putting B-52s in northern Australia is a warning to China, as fears grow Beijing is preparing for an assault on Taiwan. The bombers are part of a much larger upgrade of defence assets across northern Australia, including a major expansion of the Pine Gap intelligence base, which would play a vital role in any conflict with Beijing.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-31/china-tensions-taiwan-us-military-deploy-bombers-to-australia/101585380>

Is US-Saudi row giving China a chance to expand its role in Middle East?

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, October 30, 2022

A row between the US and Saudi Arabia over oil production and Washington's diminishing influence in the Middle East give China a chance to expand its footprint in the region, experts say. Strengthened ties between China and countries in the Middle East, with President Xi Jinping reportedly set to visit Saudi Arabia and attend summit meetings with regional leaders after securing a third term as Communist Party general secretary, have raised the prospect of China stepping in as the US pulls back from the region. Xi's anticipated visit was announced by Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan after a virtual meeting with Foreign Minister Wang Yi, but it has yet to be confirmed by Beijing.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3197706/us-saudi-row-giving-china-chance-expand-its-role-middle-east>

China set world record with new super-speed 'electromagnetic lever' test, state media says

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, October 30, 2022

China has completed a super-speed electromagnetic test facility for the development of fighter jet catapults, maglev trains, space launches and other advanced technologies, according to state media. In a recent

operational test, the device accelerated more than 1 tonne of weight to a speed of 1,030km/h (640 miles per hour), setting a new world record, state broadcaster CCTV reported. Footage aired of the experiment showed a large object in a shape similar to a bullet train being shot off and moving speedily along a special track. "Five key technologies involved in the test, such as high-thrust high-speed linear motors and 100-megawatt wide-frequency inverter power supply, have also reached world-leading level," the report said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3197717/china-set-world-record-new-super-speed-electromagnetic-lever-test-state-media-says>

Ashley Tellis at Idea Exchange: 'India may be compelled to test again, and when it does, it's in US interest to avoid penalising it'

The Indian Express, October 31, 2022

A non-proliferation policy that overlooked China was bound to fail because China was an integral part of the security competition in 'South Asia.' China, of course, hated the idea of 'Southern Asia' because Beijing wanted to maintain the fiction that it had no role to play in the proliferation problems of the region. There were many in the United States who unfortunately bought into that argument. India can resist both Pakistani and Chinese aggression adequately with its conventional capabilities... India really does not require nuclear weapons except to prevent attacks and fend off nuclear blackmail.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/idea-exchange/ashley-tellis-at-exchange-india-may-be-compelled-to-test-again-and-when-it-does-its-in-us-interest-to-avoid-penalising-it-8239499/>

China slams planned US Air Force deployment of six B-52 bombers to northern Australia

Joshua Boscaini and Marian Faa

ABC News, October 31, 2022

China has responded to reports the United States is preparing to deploy nuclear-capable B-52 bombers to northern Australia, saying the move could trigger an arms race. Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Zhao Lijian slammed the planned deployment and said the move would increase regional tensions. "Defence and security cooperation between any countries should be conducive to regional peace and stability and not target or harm the interests of third parties," Mr Zhao said. He said the US had "increased regional tensions, seriously undermined regional peace and stability, and may trigger a regional arms race".

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-10-31/china-slames-planned-deployments-of-b52-bombers-to-australia/101598442>

U.S. midterms: Tech sector braces for further China decoupling

Yifan Yu

Nikkei Asia, October 31, 2022

With the U.S. midterm elections less than 10 days away, tech industry is holding its collective breath for a new group of elected officials to provide much-needed relief to the sector, as it is facing growing pressure from supply chain constraints, the economic downturn and U.S.-China tensions that refuse to abate this year. While the elections for the House of Representatives and Senate, along with state and local officials, are typically focused on domestic issues such as abortion rights and gun control, tech leaders across the globe are closely watching the November 8 vote for its implications on the industry at home and abroad.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/U.S.-midterms-Tech-sector-braces-for-further-China-decoupling>

China launches 2nd space station lab module Mengtian, a step forward toward completing space station assembly

Global Times, October 31, 2022

China launched Mengtian lab module - the third and final part of its three-module home-developed space station - into preset orbit, from South China's tropical island province of Hainan, kicking start the final battle of completing the country's T-shape and first-ever permanent space station. Mengtian, also the second lab module, will be the last piece before China completes the space station assembly.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202210/1278359.shtml>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjana C. Oak with inputs
from Mr. Aasi Ansari and Mr. Kushal Agrawal*

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