

December 20, 2024

SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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



Chinese Foreign Ministry on the US-based CSIS report entitled “China’s Intelligence Footprint in Cuba: New Evidence and Implications for US Security”

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, December 11, 2024

As Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío said, the US think tank’s accusations of so-called Chinese military bases in Cuba are just tales that do not exist and no one has seen. China’s cooperation with Cuba is done aboveboard, and does not target any third party. We certainly would not accept any deliberate vilification and smear from any third party. It is widely known that US intelligence agencies have an egregious record in Latin America and the Caribbean. The US unlawfully occupied Guantanamo Bay as its military base and imposed blockade and sanctions against Cuba for over six decades, which has been catastrophic for the Cuban people.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241217_11495833.html

Island in the crosshairs: U.S. is pouring billions of dollars into protecting its Pacific stronghold of Guam from a Chinese onslaught

Gerry Doyle, Vijdan Mohammad Kawoosa and Arathy J Aluckal

Reuters, December 11, 2024

“We need the capability to deter the PRC from an attack on sovereign U.S. territory,” said a U.S. defence official, referring to China by the initials of its formal name, the People's Republic of China. “The goal of whatever capability we put on Guam is defence of the homeland.” Over the next decade, the U.S. government plans to emplace missile defences at 16 sites around the island. They will use the best hardware in the country's arsenal, including the SM-3 Block IIA and SM-6, Patriot PAC-3 MSE, and THAAD missile systems, and a new, advanced radar, the AN/TPY-6, and short-range air-defence system, the Indirect Fire Protection Capability.

<https://www.reuters.com/graphics/USA-CHINA/GUAM/myvmbqngnpr/>

Joe Biden to hit Chinese cleantech imports with more tariffs

Aime Williams

Financial Times, December 11, 2024

The Biden administration is poised to unveil steep new tariffs on imports of critical materials from China in its final effort to protect US manufacturing from the Asian superpower’s dominant

cleantech industry. The US trade representative's office will announce a doubling to 50 per cent of the tariff on Chinese solar wafers and polysilicon, and hit tungsten products with a 25 per cent levy, according to people familiar with the plans. The new tariffs, which will take effect on January 1, just weeks before Donald Trump replaces Joe Biden in the White House, mark an effort to shelter the US's fast-growing solar energy sector from cheap Chinese suppliers.

<https://www.ft.com/content/4c5a4858-b47b-4535-bb4b-99738c50abda>

US-Japan space cooperation: a facade for hegemonic ambitions against China

Global Times, December 11, 2024

By claiming to be "countering China," the US plans to deploy advanced monitoring equipment on Japanese satellites as a so-called defensive measure to track Chinese satellite trajectories, while accusing China of "posing a threat." This strategy aims to justify the US' expanding militarization of space and its development of space warfare capabilities, using China as a fictitious adversary, an anonymous military expert told the Global Times. In the "Indo-Pacific" region, the US is strengthening its military presence and drawing allies into its geopolitical framework, thereby driving a new round of space arms races.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1324840.shtml>

China's hypersonic jumbo jet prototype hits Mach 6 in Gobi Desert test flight

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, December 11, 2024

Chinese scientists have sent a hypersonic aircraft with a remarkably bulky body soaring through the sky, reaching a speed that could cover the distance from Beijing to New York in two hours. During a 2021 test flight first widely publicised this week, a scaled-down prototype of the aircraft reached a top speed of Mach 6.56 – or over six times the speed of sound. The test has provided early validation of a design that, when first unveiled six years ago, was thought to be impossible. “At the time, everyone thought it was a crazy idea,” said Cui Kai, the project's leader and a researcher at the Institute of Mechanics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, speaking in Beijing in October.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3290363/chinas-hypersonic-jumbo-jet-prototype-hits-mach-6-gobi-desert-test-flight>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on Canada's sanctions against some Chinese personnel for alleged human rights violations

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 12, 2024

China has made clear its just position on Canada's decision. The whole thing is an ugly, hypocritical political stunt done by some Canadian political figures under the pretext of human rights to serve an unspeakable agenda and please the US. This is quite apparent to many in the world. Canada's false allegations about China's human rights and illicit sanctions against Chinese personnel are of an egregious nature and have serious consequences. China has made serious protests and expressed strong condemnation to the Canadian side and called on Canada to correct its wrongdoing at once. China will take all measures necessary to firmly safeguard our nation's sovereignty, security and development interests.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241217_11495839.html

China has been a significant contributor of humanitarian assistance to Africa: ICRC regional director

Xie Wenting

Global Times, December 12, 2024

Starting from December 1, 2024, China will provide zero-tariff treatment for 100 percent of tariff lines to all least developed countries with established diplomatic relations, including 33 African nations. This makes China the first major developing country and major economy to implement such a significant measure. The move has been hailed as a demonstration of enhanced cooperation between China and Africa. In recent years, this cooperation has undergone substantial expansion, focusing on areas such as social development, digital economy, and environmental protection. China has played a crucial role in helping many African countries address food security issues, bridge the digital divide, and strive for green, low-carbon, and sustainable development.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1324892.shtml>

Donald Trump has invited China's President Xi Jinping to his inauguration

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, December 12, 2024

US president-elect Donald Trump has invited President Xi Jinping to his inauguration in January, in an early sign that he intends to resume the high-level engagement with the Chinese leader that

marked his first term. Karoline Leavitt, the incoming White House press secretary, told Fox News that Trump wanted to create an “open dialogue” with countries that were American adversaries, not just with allies and partners. “We saw this in his first term. He got a lot of criticism for it, but it led to peace around this world. He is willing to talk to anyone, and he will always put America’s interests first,” said Leavitt.

<https://www.ft.com/content/68036935-2dc9-411e-b57b-bfd318b98165>

Chinese espionage targets European IT providers in new wave

Shannon Williams

Security Brief, December 12, 2024

Details have emerged regarding "Operation Digital Eye," a Chinese cyberespionage campaign targeting IT service providers in Southern Europe. The campaign, coordinated by suspected China-nexus threat actors, attempted to infiltrate digital supply chains and was revealed by SentinelLabs and Tinexta Cyber. The operation aimed at infiltrating large business-to-business IT service providers, potentially affecting downstream organisations they serve, according to the researchers. Operation Digital Eye, taking place from late June to mid-July 2024, highlighted the strategic and persistent threat posed by Chinese cyberespionage groups to European entities.

<https://securitybrief.co.uk/story/chinese-espionage-targets-european-it-providers-in-new-wave>

China-proposed BRI drives major infrastructure upgrades and fosters closer global connectivity

Li Xuanmin and Zhang Yiyi

Global Times, December 13, 2024

Based on a framework comprising "six corridors, six routes, and multiple countries and ports," a multi-tiered infrastructure network is now taking shape, according to a white paper released by China's State Council Information Office. Analysts said the network is laying a solid foundation for broader cooperation among BRI partners, in addition to strengthening cultural and people-to-people exchanges among the peoples. During the fourth symposium on Belt and Road construction work held this month, China said that ramped-up efforts should be made to create new space for win-win development at a higher level under the BRI framework, and with greater resilience and sustainability, Xinhua reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1325011.shtml>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the “Global Development Report 2024”

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, December 13, 2024

The release of the “Global Development Report” is an important step to implement the Global Development Initiative (GDI). As the third annual report on the GDI released by relevant Chinese institutions, it forges consensus on global development, and explores cooperative paths and practices to address global development challenges. As President Xi Jinping said, prosperity and stability would not be possible in a world where the rich become richer while the poor are made poorer. Faced with the wider development divide, China has always put development at the center of the international agenda. Since it was put forward more than three years ago, solid steps have been taken under the GDI in mobilizing resource, building mechanism, and promoting cooperation.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241217_11495844.html

More provocations lead to stronger countermeasures: Chinese defence ministry

China Daily, December 13, 2024

China's Ministry of National Defence issued a stern warning to the Philippines, pledging stronger countermeasures against escalating provocations in the South China Sea. Wu Qian, a spokesman for the ministry, accused the Philippines of stirring up troubles on many spots under the support and solicitation of the United States. "From Ren'ai Jiao to Xianbin Jiao and from Houteng Jiao to Huangyan Dao, such repeated provocations have allowed the international community to see clearly who is undermining peace and stability in the South China Sea and who is fabricating and spreading lies," Wu said. Wu made the remarks during a press briefing in response to a query concerning the Philippine Coast Guard's allegations that China had taken "aggressive actions" against Philippine vessels heading toward Houteng Jiao.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202412/13/WS675bedc2a310f1265a1d2d18.html>

US nuclear build-up would not help deter China from using atomic weapons in Taiwan, war game finds

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, December 13, 2024

A further build-up of US nuclear capabilities would have little effect on whether China might resort to using nuclear weapons in a war over Taiwan, the first large-scale unclassified war game

on such a scenario has found. A growing number of US experts have recommended Washington acquire more nuclear capabilities, possibly including new tactical weapons, in a sign of an incipient nuclear arms race with Beijing. But the tabletop exercise, conducted by the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies and a war gaming lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, suggested a build-up beyond current modernisation plans would not strengthen nuclear deterrence in a conflict over Taiwan.

<https://www.ft.com/content/6c500ffc-422c-4df6-93dc-ad951fab5288>

Alleged Chinese spy had 'unusual degree of trust' with Andrew

Dominic Casciani and Sean Coughlan

BBC, December 13, 2024

An alleged Chinese spy who formed an "unusual degree of trust" with the Duke of York has been banned from the UK, after a judgement by the UK's semi-secret national security court. The man, known only as H6 and described as a "close confidant" to Prince Andrew, brought an appeal against his initial ban but the decision was upheld by the court. Judges were told the businessman was attempting to leverage Prince Andrew's influence. Buckingham Palace declined to comment, saying they do not act for the prince, who is not a working royal.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd75vwdg3yvo>

Sci-tech to maintain its key role in China's economic work in 2025

Gong Zhe

CGTN, December 13, 2024

Science and technology will continue to play a key role in China's economic work in 2025, according to information from the country's annual meeting to decide economic priorities. The Central Economic Work Conference, listed nine key tasks for the country's economy in the next year, among which sci-tech innovation is a priority. The task requires China to make sci-tech innovation drive the development of "new quality productive forces," a concept introduced in 2023 that refers to a new development model of high-tech, high efficiency and high quality. While sci-tech innovation topped the economic priorities list in 2024, boosting consumption has taken precedence in 2025.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-12-13/Sci-tech-to-maintain-its-key-role-in-China-s-economic-work-in-2025-1ziVbFACW7S/p.html>

China's Amphibious Warfare: History, Doctrine, and Forces

Andrew S. Erickson

The Diplomat, December 14, 2024

In what is also a warning to the incoming Trump administration, Beijing pressured Taipei with military exercises yet again this week, along new dimensions. This latest iteration of China's all-domain pressure campaign involved deployment of many government-controlled vessels from China's Navy, Coast Guard, and "civilian" sector in the East and South China Seas: waters near Taiwan and Japan's southwest islands, with unprecedented coverage of the First Island Chain.

<https://thediplomat.com/2024/12/chinas-amphibious-warfare-history-doctrine-and-forces/>

Australian gemstone used in China's hypersonic weapons could be security risk: study

Stephen Chen

South China Morning Post, December 14, 2024

Zircon from Australia could become fiercely contested by China and the United States, a geologist who works with the Chinese military has warned. While zircon is commonly valued as a gemstone, inside, it contains the metal zirconium. The metal can withstand very high temperatures, enabling ceramics, for example, to be heated to above 3,000 degrees Celsius (5,432 degrees Fahrenheit) and providing indispensable protection for hypersonic aircraft. China has the world's largest demand for zirconium, but its reserves only account for 0.7 per cent of the global total. The US, another major consumer of zirconium, also has few reserves.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3290437/australian-gemstone-used-chinas-hypersonic-weapons-could-be-security-risk-study>

"China is bullying Taiwan": NATO Secy General Mark Rutte, condemns lack of transparency in nuclear expansion

The Economic Times, December 15, 2024

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte criticised China's stance towards Taiwan and said that "China is bullying Taiwan, and pursuing access to critical infrastructure in ways that could cripple societies." He said, "We need to be clear-eyed about China's ambitions. China is substantially building up its forces, including its nuclear weapons - with no transparency and no limitations. From 200 warheads in 2020, China is expected to have more than 1,000 nuclear weapons by 2030.

Its space-launch investments are skyrocketing. China is bullying Taiwan, and pursuing access to our critical infrastructure in ways that could cripple our societies"

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/china-is-bullying-taiwan-nato-secy-general-mark-rutte-condemns-lack-of-transparency-in-nuclear-expansion/articleshow/116335525.cms?from=mdr>

Xi brought down powerful rivals in the military. Now he's going after his own men

Nectar Gan

CNN, December 15, 2024

In the early years of Xi Jinping's war on corruption, the Chinese leader consolidated control over the world's largest military by taking down powerful generals from rival factions and replacing them with allies and proteges loyal to himself. A decade on, having given the People's Liberation Army (PLA) a structural overhaul and stacked its top ranks with his own men, the supreme leader is still knee-deep in his seemingly endless struggle against graft and disloyalty. And, like many strongman leaders in history, he is increasingly turning against his own handpicked loyalists. Late last month, Xi purged one of his closest proteges in the military – a decades-old associate entrusted with instilling political loyalty in the PLA and vetting senior promotions.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2024/12/15/china/china-military-purge-analysis-miao-hua-intl-hnk/index.html>

Big Chinese naval exercise leaves Taiwan and US struggling for response

Kathrin Hille and Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, December 15, 2024

A week ago, Taiwan was bracing for a Chinese military exercise to "punish" its president, Lai Ching-te, for a trip abroad that included two short visits to the US. It would have been another show of force from Beijing in retaliation for Taiwanese leaders asserting their country's independence. But what happened next took Taipei by surprise. Its military and national security officials observed what they called the largest Chinese naval deployment in nearly 30 years. At the same time, Beijing announced partial restrictions on air traffic in seven zones hugging its coastline from Shanghai to Hong Kong for two days.

<https://www.ft.com/content/025a81f1-2cb2-459d-8427-46fd44b1b2c3>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the United States-China Cooperation in Science and Technology (STA)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 16, 2024

On December 13, the representatives of the Chinese and US governments signed in Beijing a protocol to amend the Agreement Between the United States and China on Cooperation in Science and Technology (STA) and extend it for an additional five years, effective from August 27, 2024. Scientific cooperation between China and the US benefits both sides. The STA is one of the first government-to-government agreements signed between the two countries after establishment of diplomatic ties, and has been a strong buttress for scientific exchange and cooperation between the two countries. The extension of the agreement is an important move to follow up on the common understandings reached between the two presidents when they met. The extension is in the interest of both peoples, and what the international community hopes to see.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241218_11501316.html

China launches internet satellite group

China Daily, December 16, 2024

China successfully sent the first group of low Earth orbit satellites for a satellite internet constellation from the Wenchang Space Launch Site in southern Hainan province. This group of satellites was launched by a Long March-5B carrier rocket with a Yuanzheng-2 (Expedition-2) upper stage atop the rocket. The satellites have entered the preset orbits. The launch marked the 552nd mission of the Long March series carrier rockets.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202412/16/WS67602fbca310f1265a1d32db.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the EU's sanctions against China

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 17, 2024

China firmly opposes unilateral sanctions that have no basis in international law or authorization by the UN Security Council. China deplores and firmly opposes the EU's unjustified sanctions against Chinese companies. On the Ukraine crisis, China is committed to promoting talks for peace. China never provides weapons to the parties to the conflict and strictly controls the export of dual-use articles, and China's scope and measures of export control over drones are the most stringent worldwide. The normal exchanges and cooperation between Chinese and Russian companies should not be disrupted or interfered with. Most countries, including European countries and the US, have continued to trade with Russia.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241218_11501312.html

China, Indian Ocean countries hold special dialogue to bridge blue economy opportunities, highlighting regional integration

China International Development Cooperation Agency, December 17, 2024

China is seeking to deepen cooperation with countries in the Indian Ocean region to boost the blue economy and explore new maritime economic collaboration models, a senior Chinese official said. Wang Yong, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, outlined the initiative at the Third China-Indian Ocean Region Forum on Blue Economy Development Cooperation in Kunming, Yunnan province. "China aims to enhance partnerships in maritime transport, biomedicine, renewable energy, infrastructure, and marine science and technology," Wang said. "These efforts will inject fresh vitality into the development of countries in the region."

http://en.cidca.gov.cn/2024-12/17/c_1058301.htm

Chinese embassy urges UK to cease anti-China political manipulation regarding businessman banned from entering UK

Global Times, December 17, 2024

The Chinese Embassy in the UK urged the UK side to immediately stop creating trouble, stop anti-China political manipulations, and stop undermining normal personnel exchanges between the two countries after a Chinese businessman is reportedly being banned from entering the UK. It is reported that the businessman banned from entering the UK has asked his legal team to disclose his identity. This businessman has also made it clear in a statement that he has done nothing wrong or unlawful. In the meantime, the UK Parliament heard an urgent question on this issue, during which a few Members of Parliament continued to accuse the businessman of being a "Chinese spy," according to the Chinese Embassy.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1325219.shtml>

CCG monitors Philippine supply mission at Ren'ai Jiao: spokesperson

CGTN, December 17, 2024

A spokesperson for the China Coast Guard (CCG) briefed the media about the CCG's recent responses to a Philippine civilian vessel that delivered supplies to its illegally grounded military ship in the waters of China's Ren'ai Jiao in the South China Sea. The spokesperson, Liu Dejun, said with China's permission, the Philippines sent a civilian vessel to deliver supplies to its illegally grounded military ship on Ren'ai Jiao. The CCG inquired about and verified the Philippine vessel's activities and monitored them throughout the process. Liu expressed hope that the Philippine side

would honor its commitments, work together with China, and jointly manage the maritime situation.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-12-17/CCG-monitors-Philippine-supply-mission-at-Ren-ai-Jiao-spokesperson-1zpmzgVoiSk/p.html>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the US' proposed bills aimed at China's role in the fentanyl crisis

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 18, 2024

China certainly won't accept it when some US politicians distort the facts and use disinformation to smear China's counternarcotics efforts. China has the toughest resolve and policy against drugs and we have one of the best counternarcotics track records in the world. China has scheduled the largest number of substances and has the strictest drug control in the world. Every day, China's counternarcotics authorities fight the illicit diversion of precursor chemicals in strict accordance with the law and make sure that relevant companies do their business in accordance with the laws and regulations.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241218_11501527.html

Shenzhou-19 crew completes first extravehicular activities

Xinhua, December 18, 2024

Shenzhou-19 crew members aboard China's orbiting space station completed the first extravehicular activities (EVAs) of their mission, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). Cai Xuzhe, Song Lingdong and Wang Haoze, worked for nine hours on completing multiple tasks, including the installation of space-debris protection devices. They were assisted by the space station's robotic arm and a team on Earth. The mission of the first extravehicular activities of the Shenzhou-19 crew was a complete success, setting a new record for the duration of extravehicular activities by Chinese astronauts, said the CMSA.

<https://english.news.cn/20241218/c7b6f2f3a13445b9a8da0084287dd047/c.html>

Chinese company completes test flight of supersonic aircraft ramjet

CGTN, December 18, 2024

Chinese commercial space enterprise YUNXING completed on Tuesday in northwestern China the test flight for the ramjet of its series of supersonic airliners which is expected to have its maiden

flight in 2026. The jet engine coded "JINDOU-400" has the thrust of over 400 kilograms. It achieved four times the speed of sound at an altitude of more than 20 kilometers. According to YUNXING, the performance data in the test flight fully verified the stability and reliability of the engine. This test flight yielded in-flight performance data for the engine and included integrated assessments of critical technologies and systems, including the fuel supply, electrical, and control systems. The results fully validated the engine's stability and reliability, marking its transition from prototype to product. This milestone lays a solid foundation for the development of the "YUNXING" supersonic aircraft.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-12-18/Chinese-company-completes-test-flight-of-supersonic-aircraft-ramjet-1zrcS41okj6/p.html>

Report: Despite Corruption Problems, China Progresses Toward Modernization

US Department of Defence, December 18, 2024

The Defence Department today released the annual "Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China" report, a congressionally mandated annual report that offers insight into the capabilities, strategies and goals of China and its military. Of note in this year's report is a rise in corruption within the People's Liberation Army, China's efforts to curtail that corruption, and how that corruption might affect the PRC's ambitions. The corruption touches every service in the PLA, the report notes, and Xi Jinping, China's president, has made rooting out corruption in the military a focus of his tenure since taking office.

<https://www.defence.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4011541/report-despite-corruption-problems-china-progresses-toward-modernization/>

Quantum supremacy race heats up: China's new test blasts past Google

Gong Zhe

CGTN, December 18, 2024

The race to unlock the true potential of quantum computers just got a whole lot faster. Google's October breakthrough, hailed as a demonstration of quantum computers surpassing traditional supercomputers, has been eclipsed by a new Chinese test boasting a staggering improvement by six orders of magnitude. The Chinese experiment, conducted on the powerful 105-qubit "Zuchongzhi 3.0" machine, completed a complex task in mere hundreds of seconds. In stark contrast, the world's current supercomputing champion, Frontier, would require an estimated 6 billion years to tackle the same problem.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-12-18/Quantum-supremacy-race-heats-up-China-s-new-test-blasts-past-Google-1zqZGatID0Q/p.html>

China is rapidly expanding nuclear forces, says Pentagon

Demetri Sevastopulo

Financial Times, December 18, 2024

China has increased its arsenal of operational nuclear warheads to 600 from 500 in just a year, as the People's Liberation Army continues a rapid expansion of its forces, according to the US defence department. In its annual "China Military Power Report", the Pentagon said the PLA had expanded its arsenal by 20 per cent in the 12 months from mid-2023 and was on track to have 1,000 operational warheads by 2030. The Pentagon has in recent years warned that the US will soon face two nuclear peers as China's arsenal grows closer in size to the US and Russia.

<https://www.ft.com/content/5290c045-09d1-4da1-844b-166bf227584b>

Chinese national cyber centre says U.S. hacks stole trade secrets from tech firms

Reuters, December 18, 2024

China's national internet emergency response centre said it had found and dealt with two incidents of U.S. cyber attacks on Chinese tech firms to "steal trade secrets" since May 2023. The National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team/Coordination Centre of China (CNCERT/CC) said in a statement published on its website that an advanced materials design and research unit and a large-scale high-tech company focused on intelligent energy and digital information were "suspected of being attacked by a U.S. intelligence agency", without naming the agency.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/chinas-internet-emergency-center-says-it-dealt-with-two-us-cyber-attacks-against-2024-12-18/>

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the India-China border issue

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 19, 2024

Both sides positively evaluated the resolution reached on border-related issues between the two countries and reaffirmed the need to continue implementing the agreement. They agreed that the boundary question should be handled appropriately in the context of the overall bilateral relationship to ensure they do not affect the development of bilateral ties. Both sides also agreed to continue taking measures to maintain peace and tranquility in the border areas and to promote the healthy and stable development of bilateral relations. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to continuing to seek a fair, reasonable, and mutually acceptable package settlement to the boundary question in accordance with the political parameters and guiding principles agreed upon by the two countries' special representatives in 2005, and to taking active measures to advance this process.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241219_11506257.html

Congress funds removal of Chinese telecom gear as feds probe home router risks

Eva Dou, Cate Cadell and Joseph Menn

The Washington Post, December 19, 2024

Congress approved \$3 billion for a long-languishing project to cull Chinese equipment from networks nationwide over fears they are vulnerable to cyberattacks, underscoring the risk Beijing-sponsored hackers pose to phone and internet networks. The new funding comes as the Commerce Department reviews whether to ban routers made by the Chinese-owned company TP-Link, which account for more than half of the U.S. retail router market. The actions reflect the heightened attention among Washington policymakers to the threat posed by Chinese state-linked hackers. U.S. officials revealed the “Volt Typhoon” hack last year and in recent months have expressed alarm over the even bigger “Salt Typhoon” hack. In both cases, Chinese government hackers successfully penetrated major U.S. phone networks and critical infrastructure facilities, and U.S. officials said they still have not been able to expel the Salt Typhoon interlopers.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/12/19/us-china-telecommunications-defence-rip-and-replace/>

China’s Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory starts liquid injection, marks a final critical milestone

Chinese Academy of Sciences, December 19, 2024

The world's largest transparent spherical detector started filling with ultrapure water Wednesday, signifying that the construction of the neutrino research facility has reached its last critical stage. The ultrapure water, which has been filtered through multiple stages of the water purification system, is injected at a flow rate of 100 tonnes per hour into the detector pool of the Jiangmen Underground Neutrino Observatory (JUNO), according to the Institute of High Energy Physics under the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the project's leading institution.

https://english.cas.cn/newsroom/cas_media/202412/t20241219_895396.shtml

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the United States Defence Department’s annual report on China’s military and security developments

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People’s Republic of China, December 19, 2024

This report, like the ones we’ve seen before, lays little emphasis on truth. It is filled with bias and designed to amplify the “China threat” narrative only to justify the US’s desire to maintain military supremacy. China is fully committed to being a force for peace, stability and progress in the world.

We are equally determined to defend our sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. We call on the US to abandon the Cold War mentality and hegemonic way of thinking, view China's strategic intention and defence development in an objective and rational way, stop issuing this kind of irresponsible report year after year, and make sure what it does is conducive to a stable relationship between the two countries and the two militaries.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241219_11506257.html

Chinese Foreign Ministry on the reports about human rights violations in Xinjiang

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, December 19, 2024

This so-called report mentioned by certain media outlets is deeply flawed. It pretentiously quotes some vague accounts by so-called anonymous witnesses, but does not provide any factual basis, and even lacks the most basic field investigation. The fact is, the farming process of chili peppers in Xinjiang has largely been mechanized already—in some major production areas, 100 percent of the chili peppers are now harvested by machines. Is the report suggesting that there is “forced machine labor?” Earlier this week, an international symposium on employment and social security was held in Urumqi. More than 200 participants from over 40 countries, regions and international organizations attended the event, and many said the Xinjiang they saw is very much different from the false propaganda they had seen from sources outside China.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/fyrbt/lxjzh/202412/t20241220_11511068.html

China Coast Guard expelled Philippine aircraft after airspace incursion

Jiang Chenglong

China Daily, December 20, 2024

China Coast Guard said it expelled a Philippine aircraft that breached the airspace over China's Huangyan Island in the South China Sea. The CCG spokesman Liu Dejun said in a statement that a Philippine C-208 aircraft illegally entered the airspace over Huangyan Island without permission from the Chinese government. The CCG closely monitored the situation, warned and drove the aircraft away in accordance with the law, he said. Liu said that Huangyan Island is an inherent part of China's territory, stressing that the Philippine action "has seriously infringed upon China's sovereignty, posing an extremely high risk of maritime and aerial incidents".

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202412/20/WS676549ada310f1265a1d41d5.html>

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

Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA