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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

A Dragon in Sheep's Clothing: China's Drift Towards an Inadvertent Nuclear Posture or Assured Destruction

Paul A. Hesser

Air University, March 1, 2023

China is always committed to a nuclear policy of no first use (NFU) of nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances, and not using or threatening to use nuclear weapons against nonnuclear-weapon states or nuclear weapon-free zones unconditionally. It is essential not to conflate the consistency with which China espouses its declaratory policy with the clarity of the policy. Therein lies the impetus between what China says and what it means. In particular, China's definition of NFU can quickly morph into meaninglessness depending on how it conceptualizes a threat.

https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/AUPress/Papers/WF_91_Hesser_A_Dragon_in_Sheeps_Clothing_.pdf

China to formulate 6G industry development plan, seek breakthroughs

Global Times, March 1, 2023

China will formulate an industry development plan to promote research and innovation of 6G mobile technologies, Jin Zhuanglong, minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT), said, sending a clear message of the nation's determination to lead the trend of the cutting-edge technology. Amid the US' technology decoupling push, 6G development will keep China at the forefront of the technology's advance in which the telecommunications industry is a core, experts said, adding that China has the competitive advantage in the field in terms of technology capability and potential application scenarios.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286460.shtml>

China's imports of Russian uranium spark fear of new arms race

Jonathan Tirone

The Japan Times, March 1, 2023

China's so-called fast-breeder reactor on Changbiao Island is one of the world's most closely-watched nuclear installations. U.S. intelligence officials forecast that when it begins working this year, the CFR-600 will produce weapons-grade plutonium that could help Beijing increase its stockpile of warheads as much as fourfold in the next 12 years. That would allow China to match the nuclear arsenals currently deployed by the U.S. and Russia.

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/03/01/asia-pacific/china-nuclear-weapons-arms-race/>

U.S. House panel on China cites 'existential struggle'

Nikkei Asia, March 1, 2023

A new U.S. congressional select committee on competition with China held its first hearing with a focus on human rights on Tuesday, amid tense bilateral ties weeks after a suspected spy balloon flying over North America was shot down. "This is not a polite tennis match. This is an existential struggle over what life will look like in the 21st century -- and the most fundamental freedoms are at stake," Rep. Mike Gallagher, Republican chairman of the House of Representatives Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), said as he opened the hearing.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/US-China-tensions/U.S.-House-panel-on-China-cites-existential-struggle>

China to build constellation of very-low Earth orbit satellites

Global Times, March 2, 2023

China is planning on building up a constellation of very-low Earth orbit satellites, and the first launch will be this September, the Global Times learned from China Aerospace Science & Industry Corporation (CASIC). Very-low Earth orbit refers to an altitude of 150 to 300 kilometers away from the Earth. Compared with traditional orbits, satellites flying at very-low Earth orbit require less research and development costs and have enhanced efficiency in information acquisition and transmission.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286489.shtml>

Caught between Russia and the west, China is treading a tightrope on Ukraine

Zhou Bo

Financial Times, March 2, 2023

Caught between Russia, its strategic partner, and Ukraine, which counts China as its largest trading partner, Beijing is treading a tightrope. While stressing the importance of sovereignty, China has gently criticised Russia's invasion of Ukraine. But it has also emphasised that regional security cannot be strengthened by expanding a military bloc, an explicit rebuke to Nato and its most powerful member, the US. This position is frowned upon in western capitals as "pro-Russia neutrality". Beijing and Moscow's "unlimited" friendship has alarmed the west.

<https://www.ft.com/content/c012270e-f89c-4ca8-8533-357204dc432f>

China's homegrown 'Guohe One' third-generation nuclear technology to be broadly deployed before 2034

Global Times, March 2, 2023

China's third-generation nuclear power technology "Guohe One" has made new breakthroughs in its domestic building efforts, and the "Guohe One" will be using completely home-grown parts in 2023, the Shanghai Securities News reported, citing an executive from the State Power Investment Corporation Limited (SPIC). Breakthroughs have been achieved in a total of 11 sets of equipment to use domestic technology and parts to substitute foreign ones in 2022, according to Lu Hongzao, SPIC's deputy general manager at a meeting in Shanghai.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286505.shtml>

The Future of the China-US Chip War

Zhuoran Li

The Diplomat, March 2, 2023

The Biden administration has not offered Beijing a viable "exit strategy" to end the technology war; the White House neither demanded Beijing to improve its trade behaviors nor provided a roadmap for the lifting of sanctions. Thus, in the eyes of the Chinese leadership, the new semiconductor sanctions illustrate that the U.S. government is actively weaponizing its control over core technologies in order to contain China. As a result, China's government elevated supply chain security to its highest priority.

<https://thediplomat.com/2023/03/the-future-of-the-china-us-chip-war/>

Xi wants China's security apparatus under his direct grip

Katsuji Nakazawa

Nikkei Asia, March 2, 2023

Some party sources have expressed concern, worrying that China is at risk of becoming a suffocating police state like the former Soviet Union. The crux of the matter is the possibility of creating a new police and state security organization placed under the direct command of Xi, the "core" of the party's Central Committee. "There is a plan to beef up organizations related to state security and public security under a completely non-traditional framework," one source said, without giving details.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Editor-s-Picks/China-up-close/Analysis-Xi-wants-China-s-security-apparatus-under-his-direct-grip>

EU has no right to interpret one-China principle without China's recognition: Chinese envoy to EU

Chen Qingqing

Global Times, March 2, 2023

On the occasion of the one-year anniversary of the Ukraine crisis and more European leaders planning to visit China in the coming weeks and months, Fu Cong, head of the Chinese Mission to the EU, talked about China-EU relations, the impact of the Ukraine crisis on Europe, the position of European countries on the Taiwan question and the latest balloon row that has severely damaged the mutual trust between China and the US in an exclusive interview.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286503.shtml>

China leading US in technology race in all but a few fields, thinktank finds

Daniel Hurst

The Guardian, March 2, 2023

The United States and other western countries are losing the race with China to develop advanced technologies and retain talent, with Beijing potentially establishing a monopoly in some areas, a new report has said. China leads in 37 of 44 technologies tracked in a year-long project by thinktank the Australian Strategic Policy Institute. The fields include electric batteries, hypersonics and advanced radio-frequency communications such as 5G and 6G.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/02/china-leading-us-in-technology-race-in-all-but-a-few-fields-thinktank-finds>

China and US flex military might around Taiwan as tensions flare between rivals

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, March 2, 2023

China and the United States have flexed their military might around Taiwan over the past three days, as tensions between the two rival powers flared up. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) has sent 68 aircraft and 10 warships close to Taiwan since Monday, according to the island's defence ministry, while the US confirmed its P-8A Poseidon reconnaissance plane had been deployed to fly through the Taiwan Strait. Online flight-checking platforms showed the US had also sent aerial refuelling aircraft and bombers near the area.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3212081/china-and-us-flex-military-might-around-taiwan-tensions-flare-between-rivals>

US hypes 'China nuclear threat' as excuse for own expansion, military hegemony: Chinese FM

Global Times, March 3, 2023

The US has repeatedly hyped "China nuclear threat" as an excuse for its own expansion of nuclear arsenals to maintain military hegemony, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a regular press conference. Mao's remarks were made in response to the White House Assistant to the President for Homeland Security Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall's remarks on that the US needs to engage with China to "diminish existing nuclear threats and to find ways to invite Beijing to make meaningful contributions as its arsenal continues to grow," according to media reports.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286604.shtml>

The Chinese balloon saga could be part of a new space race closer to Earth

Emily Feng

NPR, March 3, 2023

Back in March 2018, Chinese officials and key state scientists gathered in Beijing to celebrate the start of a new front in research: near space. That's a part of airspace 60,000 to 330,000 feet from the ground, just before the beginning of outer space — and historically overlooked by militaries, until recently. "Strengthening the exploration and understanding of near space, seizing the strategic commanding heights of near space and cultivating emerging high-tech industries have become the focus of competition among countries around the world," declared Xiang Libin, a vice president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

<https://www.npr.org/2023/03/03/1159414026/china-balloon-near-space-scientific-research-weapons>

Huawei's rebirth as cloud provider faces total U.S. export ban threat

Takashi Kawakami, Risa Kawaba and Rintaro Tobita

Nikkei Asia, March 3, 2023

Huawei Technologies' pivot away from smartphones toward cloud technology and other business solutions faces a new threat: U.S. sanctions that now cover just high-performance semiconductors could be extended to all products. This year, consumer devices were barely a part of displays, an absence explained by U.S. trade restrictions imposed on Huawei.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Huawei-crackdown/Huawei-s-rebirth-as-cloud-provider-faces-total-U.S.-export-ban-threat>

China stands against 'long-arm jurisdiction,' focuses on legislation for countermeasures: NPC spokesperson

Yang Sheng

Global Times, March 4, 2023

China stands firmly against "long-arm jurisdiction" practices, said Wang Chao, spokesperson for the first session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC), at a press conference on Saturday, stressing that it is totally justifiable and necessary for China to make legislation effort to counter containment, suppression and interference from external forces. "Some countries have kept abusing the extraterritorial application of their domestic laws in violation of the international law, with the aim of suppressing foreign entities and individuals and serving their own interests," said Wang.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286630.shtml>

China Neutralizes 'F-35-Like' Fighter in Hypersonic Air Battle Simulation

Joe Saballa

The Defence Post, March 4, 2023

China claims to have conducted a hypersonic air battle simulation that involved neutralizing a fighter aircraft with F-35-like features. The experiment was conducted by a team of Chinese researchers led by a Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics professor seeking to develop tactics for downing enemy assets flying faster than the speed of sound. The enemy fighter jet involved in the computer simulation had a speed of Mach 1.3, close to the top speed of an American F-35. The order given to the Chinese plane was to head straight toward the target and neutralize it.

<https://www.thedefensepost.com/2023/03/04/china-hypersonic-air-simulation/>

China approves \$1.3bn loan rollover for Pakistan: finance minister

Nikkei Asia, March 4, 2023

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China on Friday approved a rollover of a \$1.3 billion loan for cash-strapped Pakistan, which will help shore up its depleting foreign exchange reserves, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said. The facility will be disbursed in three instalments. The first one of \$500 million has been received by Pakistan's central bank, Dar said in a tweet. "It will increase forex reserves," he said.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Finance/China-approves-1.3bn-loan-rollover-for-Pakistan-finance-minister>

It is 'necessary' and 'feasible' to build nuclear power plants in inland areas: national political advisors

Global Times, March 5, 2023

Fifteen national political advisors submitted a joint proposal to the ongoing two sessions, highlighting the necessity and feasibility of building nuclear power plants in inland areas, strengthening the development of nuclear power, expanding the spatial distribution of nuclear power and promoting the comprehensive use of nuclear energy for heating. The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China views energy security as an important part of the modernization of national security system and proposed to promote carbon peaking and carbon neutrality actively yet prudently and safely develop nuclear power.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286656.shtml>

China's military budget outpaces other spending in shift to security

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, March 5, 2023

China's military spending will grow at its fastest pace in four years in 2023 and outpace other categories of expenditure, underscoring Beijing's reweighting towards security over development. Defence expenditure will increase by 7.2 per cent in 2023, well ahead of the 5.7 per cent increase in general public expenditure, according to a draft budget presented to the National People's Congress, the country's rubber-stamp legislature.

<https://www.ft.com/content/66790beb-bd5b-4025-b12e-5d0e7dd8bbfb>

More than 40 Chinese vessels reported around Philippine-claimed island

Camille Elemia

Radio Free Asia, March 5, 2023

The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) spotted more than 40 Chinese vessels near Pag-asa, one of the islands occupied by Manila in the South China Sea. Coast Guard personnel stationed on the island – also known as Thitu – reported a People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy vessel, a China Coast Guard (CCG) vessel, and 42 suspected maritime militia vessels, anchored within 4.5 to 8 nautical miles of the shore. The PCG said this was “clearly inside the land feature's 12-nautical mile territorial sea.”

<https://www.rfa.org/english/news/southchinasea/40chinesevesselspi-03052023142105.html>

China is working on medium-high orbit quantum satellite: CPPCC member Pan Jianwei

Global Times, March 5, 2023

China is developing medium-high orbit quantum satellite, Pan Jianwei, an academician of Chinese Academy of Sciences said. Pan, also a member of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and executive vice president of University of Science and Technology of China, made the remark in an interview with media, Yicai reported. "We are cooperating with the National Space Science Center to develop a medium-high orbit satellite.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286655.shtml>

China's 'two sessions' 2023: PLA budget set to top US\$224 billion as focus on 'peaceful' foreign policy remains

Kawala Xie Minnie Chan and Teddy Ng

South China Morning Post, March 5, 2023

China will increase its defence budget to boost combat readiness while also striving to maintain friendly overseas ties, its top legislative assembly heard. Funding for the People's Liberation Army will increase by 7.2 per cent to about 1.55 trillion yuan (US\$224.3 billion), after a 7.1 per cent hike last year, according to the government budget tabled at the opening session of the annual National People's Congress.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3212421/china-two-sessions-pla-budget-set-top-us224-billion-focus-peaceful-foreign-policy-remains>

China sets modest economic targets as it seeks to bounce back from Covid woes

Helen Davidson

The Guardian, March 5, 2023

China has set a target of 5% GDP growth in 2023, its outgoing premier has said in a speech to the ruling party's rubber-stamp parliament – a goal that is at the lower end of analysts' expectations and follows a 2022 figure that came in far below target.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/mar/05/china-sets-modest-economic-targets-as-it-seeks-to-bounce-back-from-covid-woes>

China stands ready to put into action of GDI, GSI: Government Work Report

Chen Qingqing

Global Times, March 5, 2023

China remains committed to an independent foreign policy of peace and to peaceful development, pursues friendship and cooperation with other countries, and stands ready to work with the international community to put into action the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Global Security Initiative (GSI), Premier Li Keqiang said in his Government Work Report delivered during the first session of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC). Some Chinese experts believe that pursuing peace and pushing forward peaceful development are the biggest characteristics of China's foreign policy, and the GDI and GSI are China's solutions to tackling many urgent global issues.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286694.shtml>

At Unisoc's Shanghai showroom, China's chip ambitions remain strong in the mature technology arena

Lilian Zhang

South China Morning Post, March 5, 2023

Unisoc, a Shanghai-based fabless chip firm that is expanding its market share in low-end smartphone chips, is one example of how Chinese semiconductor companies can survive and perhaps even thrive under US trade sanctions. At the company's 2,200 square meter exhibition hall in the Zhangjiang hi-tech zone, recently visited by the South China Morning Post, Unisoc showcases its achievements, including the tech team assembled during Covid lockdowns last year that designs its 5G chips.

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/tech-trends/article/3212312/unisocs-shanghai-showroom-chinas-chip-ambitions-remain-strong-mature-technology-arena>

Two Sessions: China looks at reforms to deepen Xi Jinping control

Tessa Wong

BBC, March 5, 2023

The Two Sessions, as the meetings are known, are an annual affair. But this year's sessions are particularly significant as delegates are expected to reshape several key Communist Party and state institutions. They will also tighten control over bodies overseeing the finance sector and scientific and technology work, while "strengthening party-building work" in private businesses, according to state media.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-64819857>

China's chip sector needs more than state money to dull impact of US restrictions

The Economic Times, March 6, 2023

China plans to splurge to help its chip sector overcome U.S. export curbs, but money can only do so much unless Chinese firms can break from a cycle that hinders innovation and traps them at the low end of the value chain, industry players said. The government has earmarked \$140 billion that could include subsidising the purchase of domestically produced chipmaking equipment, Reuters reported in December, likely benefiting manufacturers such as China's sole semiconductor lithography specialist, Shanghai Micro Electronics Equipment Group (SMEE).

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/chinas-chip-sector-needs-more-than-state-money-to-dull-impact-of-us-restrictions/articleshow/98444007.cms?from=mdr>

60+ launches lined up; new-gen manned launch vehicle & super heavy-lift carrier rocket to debut in 2027, 2030: deputies, political advisors

Fan Anqi

Global Times, March 6, 2023

In another ambitious step toward becoming a strong space power in the world, China will fully kick off the research and development of its Phase-4 lunar research project and planetary exploration project, as well as the development of the Chang'e-7 and Tianwen-2 probes, deputies of the national legislature political advisors from the space sector told the Global Times during the ongoing two sessions.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286702.shtml>

China's military to refocus on R&D after decade-long hardware drive: analysts

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, March 6, 2023

China's defence industry will shift gear from big hardware projects to developing core technology, driven in part by lessons learned from the war in Ukraine, according to analysts. Observers said the war exposed a series of weaknesses in Russia's Soviet-designed weapons, equipment and military doctrines – approaches the People's Liberation Army inherited.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3212562/chinas-military-refocus-rd-after-decade-long-hardware-drive-analysts>

The Chip War With China Escalates

Milton Ezrati

Forbes, March 6, 2023

America's war on Chinese chip making has notched up to another level. Washington fired the first shots so to speak last October with the Chips and Science Act, which offers a significant subsidy for semiconductor manufacturers to establish and expand operations domestically and also bans exports of advanced chips and chip-making equipment to China. In the last month, steps against China have redoubled.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/miltonezrati/2023/03/06/the-chip-war-with-china-escalates/?sh=1e41d2321eea>

China urges Japan not to arbitrarily dump nuclear-contaminated wastewater: Chinese officials at IAEA meeting

Global Times, March 7, 2023

Two Chinese officials urged Japan not to arbitrarily start dumping nuclear-contaminated wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station into the Pacific Ocean, criticizing move "an extremely irresponsible act that has drawn grave concerns from the international community and relevant countries." Liu Jing, deputy director of the China Atomic Energy Authority, told a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors that Japan's nuclear-contaminated water dump plan is not purely a domestic matter, but concerns the global marine environment and public health, Xinhua News Agency reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286787.shtml>

Tech war: China's chip imports slump 27 per cent in the first 2 months of 2023 as US sanctions bite

Ann Cao

South China Morning Post, March 7, 2023

China's chip imports slumped 27 per cent in the first two months of 2023 by volume, according to China's customs data published. China imported 67.6 billion integrated circuits (IC) in January and February, down 26.5 per cent from the same period last year, according to data released by the General Administration of Customs. The drop was steeper than the 15.3 per cent decline recorded for all of 2022, which was the country's first annual fall in IC imports in two decades.

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/big-tech/article/3212677/tech-war-chinas-chip-imports-slump-27-cent-first-two-months-2023-us-sanctions-bite>

China breaks foreign monopoly of high-performance semiconductor temperature controller: scientist

Global Times, March 7, 2023

China has broken up foreign monopolies of high- performance semiconductor temperature controllers, according to Sun Dongming, a research fellow with the Chinese Academy of Sciences who is also a deputy to the 14th National People's Congress (NPC). Sun's team has been working on the research of adjusting the temperature of semiconductor chips and his team researches on micro semiconductor temperature controllers.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286815.shtml>

Tech war: 'two sessions' delegates proffer China's own CHIPS Act, semiconductor supply chain chieftains to advance tech self-sufficiency

Lilian Zhang

South China Morning Post, March 8, 2023

China's select political advisers have presented Beijing with an array of proposals to help boost the country's semiconductor self-sufficiency efforts and counter the US strategy of tech containment that threatens the domestic chip sector's survival, according to plans published by state media. A submission from Xie Shanghua, deputy chairman of the Sichuan People's Political Consultative Conference and a national delegate, proposed that the National People's Congress (NPC), the country's top legislature, enact a law similar to the US CHIPS and Science Act that came into effect in August last year.

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/tech-war/article/3212851/tech-war-two-sessions-delegates-proffer-chinas-own-chips-act-semiconductor-supply-chain-chieftains>

China provides financial assistance in support of Ukraine's nuclear safety: FM

Global Times, March 8, 2023

China will donate 200,000 euros to Ukraine's nuclear safety and security technical assistance program, aiming to strengthen the safety of Ukraine's nuclear facilities with concrete actions, said Mao Ning, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson, at a press conference. The decision was announced by Permanent Representative of China to UN and other International Organizations in Vienna Li Song at the Board of Governors meeting of International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Li said the financial assistance provided by China is to support the IAEA for technical assistance to Ukraine.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286905.shtml>

China ‘firmly opposes’ possible German ban of Huawei and ZTE 5G equipment

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, March 8, 2023

China said it strongly opposed Germany’s interference in Chinese investments after Berlin ordered a review of Huawei Technologies Co and ZTE Corp components in the country’s 5G networks. The Chinese embassy in Berlin expressed dissatisfaction over reports that Germany might ban Huawei and ZTE from its telecommunications networks because of national security concerns. The embassy said it was “puzzled” and described the German government’s decision as “hasty” and “without factual basis”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3212800/china-firmly-opposes-possible-german-ban-huawei-and-zte-5g-equipment>

Canberra urged not to risk national interests to serve Washington over possible submarine deal

Xu Keyue

Global Times, March 8, 2023

With the latest updates of Australia's possible purchases of five US Virginia class nuclear powered submarines being revealed by Western media in advance of the AUKUS meeting in the US, Chinese observers urged Canberra not to blindly follow Washington's strategy in containing Beijing, and risk its own national interests on economy and security only to serve Washington's interests. Reuters reported that Australia is expected to buy up to five US Virginia class nuclear powered submarines in the 2030s as part of a landmark defense agreement between Washington, Canberra and London, citing four US officials, saying this is "in a deal that would present a new challenge to China."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202303/1286993.shtml>

Dutch to restrict semiconductor tech exports to China, joining US effort

CNN, March 8, 2023

The Netherlands’ government on Wednesday said it plans new restrictions on exports of semiconductor technology to protect national security, joining the US effort to curb chip exports to China. The announcement marked the first concrete move by the Dutch, who oversee essential chipmaking technology, toward adopting rules urged by Washington to hobble China’s chipmaking industry and slow its military advances.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/03/08/tech/dutch-china-chips-ban-hnk-intl/index.html>

Russia Reportedly Supplying Enriched Uranium to China

David Vergun

U.S. Department of Defence, March 8, 2023

Various open-source outlets reported how Rosatom is providing highly enriched uranium for Chinese fast breeder reactors, said a U.S. official during a posture hearing today at the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces. Rosatom is a Russian state corporation that specializes in nuclear energy. "It's very troubling to see Russia and China cooperating on this," John F. Plumb, assistant secretary of defence for space policy, replied.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3323381/russia-reportedly-supplying-enriched-uranium-to-china/>

Nuclear Submarines Are Game-Changing Tech for Australia—and a Major Headache for China

Chad de Guzman

Time, March 9, 2023

The U.S., the U.K., and Australia made the first concrete step on Monday to fulfill a tripartite defense deal centered on boosting the latter's naval firepower to counter China's growing military threat in the Indo-Pacific region. During a press conference at the Naval Base Point Loma in San Diego, Calif., President Joe Biden confirmed the U.S. will send three Virginia-class nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, with the potential to send two more if needed. The U.S. aims to complete the sale of the first three submarines by 2032.

<https://time.com/6261279/australia-nuclear-submarines-aucus-china/>

US Defense Officials: China Is Leading in Hypersonic Weapons

Jeff Seldin

Voice of America, March 10, 2023

"While both China and Russia have conducted numerous successful tests of hypersonic weapons and have likely fielded operational systems, China is leading Russia in both supporting infrastructure and numbers of systems," the Defense Intelligence Agency's chief scientist for science and technology told U.S. lawmakers. China's hypersonic arsenal includes the DF-17, a medium-range ballistic missile with a hypersonic glide vehicle that has a range of 1,600 kilometers. It also has the DF-41 intercontinental ballistic missile, which also carries a hypersonic glide vehicle.

<https://www.voanews.com/a/us-defense-officials-china-is-leading-in-hypersonic-weapons/7000160.html>

Nation's reactor technology making headway in overseas market

Zheng Xin

China Daily, March 10, 2023

China should further expand investment and financing channels to promote the export of nuclear power projects and technology and devise more preferential policies to facilitate a larger role for its nuclear power technology on the global stage, said a political adviser on the sidelines of the two sessions in Beijing. The government should further increase fiscal, financial and insurance policy support for the country's nuclear projects, as the emissions-free energy resource has been developing by leaps and bounds in recent years, said Han Yongjiang, president of Tsinghua Tongfang Co Ltd, a subsidiary of China National Nuclear Corp.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202303/10/WS640a7f5ba31057c47ebb3722.html>

*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**