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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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



China's reaction to Biden-Kishida joint statement about China's nuclear build-up

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the People's Republic of China, April 11, 2024

The so-called concern expressed by the US and Japan over China's nuclear policy is a deliberate false narrative. We are firmly against it and will not accept it. China follows a policy of "no first use" of nuclear weapons and has committed to not using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states and nuclear-weapon-free zones. China always keeps our nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required by national security. We never engage in any forms of arms race. For any country, as long as they do not use nuclear weapons against China, they will not feel threatened by China's nuclear weapons.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/202404/t20240411_11280341.html

China's small nuclear reactor starts installation of digital control system

China Daily, April 11, 2024

The world's first land-based commercial small modular reactor (SMR) has started installation of its digital control system (DCS) in the country's southernmost island province of Hainan. The reactor, also known as the Linglong One, is a multi-purpose, small modular pressurized water reactor self-developed by the China National Nuclear Corporation. The DCS is called the "nerve center" of the operation of a nuclear power plant, and the reactor's DCS adopts two domestically-developed platforms, said Deng Xiaoliang, deputy general manager of Hainan Nuclear Power Co Ltd.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202404/11/WS6617a00ca31082fc043c1726.html>

A drone factory in Utah is at the epicentre of anti-China fervour

Eva Dou

The Washington Post, April 11, 2024

The U.S. small drone industry is experiencing a renaissance after having been all but given up for lost, due to the impossibility of competing with China on production costs. The reason for the resurgence is a grim one: Small drones have proven a potent battle tool in the Ukraine war, with soldiers strapping bombs on them and sending them on one-way missions. Nordfors said he believes there isn't a risk of data leakage to China from the drones when they are set to operate disconnected from the internet, which he says is how his team uses them. The pride of his fleet is

a top-of-the-line \$30,000 DJI drone that can zoom in on targets far out on the horizon and that has a thermal mode that makes people pop out of the landscape.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2024/04/11/drones-china-us-manufacturing/>

US blacklists 4 Chinese firms for helping military get AI chips

South China Morning Post, April 11, 2024

The United States is adding four Chinese companies to an export blacklist for seeking to acquire AI chips for China's military, a US official said. The companies are "involved with providing AI chips to China's military modernisation programmes" and military intelligence users, the Commerce Department's Kevin Kurland, an export enforcement official, said at a US Senate subcommittee hearing on strengthening export control enforcement.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3258569/us-blacklists-chinese-firms-tied-drones-used-russia-and-houthis>

US, Japan slammed as 'real threats to regional peace' with 'Cold War mentality'

China Military Online, April 12, 2024

The Chinese Foreign Ministry slammed the US and Japan's "Cold War mentality" and their acts that undermine regional peace and stability, after US President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida unveiled a range of moves aimed at deepening military ties, ahead of their summit with Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr, which is also regarded as having an eye on countering China, especially over the South China Sea issues. "Despite China's serious concerns, the US and Japan attacked and smeared China on the Taiwan question and maritime issues, grossly interfered in China's domestic affairs and violated the basic norms in international relations. China deplores and opposes it, and has made serious démarches to relevant parties," said Mao Ning, a spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/OPINIONS_209196/Opinions_209197/16300146.html

China lodges solemn representations to Japan, Philippines over negative moves in Washington

Xinhua, April 12, 2024

China has lodged solemn representations to Japan over its negative moves in Washington, according to the Chinese Foreign Ministry. Liu Jinsong, director general of the Department of

Asian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, summoned Chief Minister of the Embassy of Japan in China Yokochi Akira to lodge solemn representations and express serious concerns and strong dissatisfaction over Japan's negative moves during the Japan-U.S. summit in Washington and the trilateral summit among the United States, Japan and the Philippines. China has also lodged solemn representations to the Philippines on the same day over its remarks during the trilateral summit.

<https://english.news.cn/20240412/f7a6b34f83b141a19e82511ecf3bd819/c.html>

China feels boxed in by the U.S. but has few ways to push back

David Pierson and Olivia Wang

The New York Times, April 12, 2024

President Biden's effort to build American security alliances in China's backyard is likely to reinforce the Chinese leader Xi Jinping's view that Washington is leading an all-out campaign of "containment, encirclement and suppression" of his country. And there is not much Mr. Xi can do about it. To China, Mr. Biden's campaign looks nothing short of a reprise of the Cold War, when the world was split into opposing blocs. In this view, Beijing is being hemmed in by U.S. allies and partners, in a cordon stretching over the seas on China's eastern coast from Japan to the Philippines, along its disputed Himalayan border with India, and even across the vast Pacific Ocean to a string of tiny, but strategic, island nations.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/12/world/asia/china-us-biden-japan.html>

China successfully deploys Queqiao-2 relay satellite for future lunar exploration

Xinhua, April 12, 2024

The Queqiao-2 satellite has recently completed in-orbit communication tests, with its platform and payloads working normally, according to the China National Space Administration (CNSA). The functions and performance of Queqiao-2 meet mission requirements, and it can provide relay communication services for the fourth phase of China's lunar exploration project and future lunar exploration missions of China and other countries, said the CNSA, announcing the Queqiao-2 mission a complete success. The satellite successfully completed a communication test on April 6 with Chang'e-4, which is now carrying out an exploration mission on the far side of the moon. From April 8 to 9, it conducted communication tests with the Chang'e-6 probe, which is yet to be launched.

<https://english.news.cn/20240412/8d4c7f4c9a3148ea8701e9ade00cc342/c.html>

US lawmakers blast Biden after Huawei unveils laptop with new Intel AI chip

South China Morning Post, April 13, 2024

Republican US lawmakers criticised the Biden administration after sanctioned Chinese telecoms equipment giant Huawei unveiled a laptop this week powered by an Intel AI chip. The United States placed Huawei on a trade restriction list in 2019 over sanctions violations related to Iran, part of a broader effort to hobble Beijing's technological advances. Placement on the list means the company's US suppliers have to seek a special, difficult-to-obtain license before shipping to it.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3258888/us-lawmakers-blast-biden-after-huawei-unveils-laptop-new-intel-ai-chip>

US says China is supplying missile and drone engines to Russia

Demetri Sevastopulo, Guy Chazan and Sam Jones

Financial Times, April 13, 2024

The US has accused China of providing Russia with cruise missile and drone engines and machine tools for ballistic missiles, as it urges Europe to step up diplomatic and economic pressure on Beijing to stop the sales. In disclosing previously classified intelligence, senior US officials said Chinese and Russian groups were working to jointly produce drones inside Russia. They said China had also supplied 90 per cent of chips imported by Russia last year which were being used to make tanks, missiles and aircraft.

<https://www.ft.com/content/ecd934b6-8a91-4b78-a360-9111f771f9b1>

Fallacies spread by US Southern Command Commander on China-Argentina deep space exploration cooperation 'absurd, lack basic respect': embassy

Global Times, April 13, 2024

The Chinese Embassy in Argentina expressed its strong dissatisfaction and resolute opposition to the recent remarks made by the commander of the US Southern Command, slamming the remarks as "contrary to the facts, absurd, and lacking even the most basic respect for China and Argentina," for which the Chinese side is deeply shocked and angered. Regarding the Deep Space Station in Neuquén, Argentina and China-Argentina economic and trade cooperation, on April 2, Laura Richardson, the commander of US Southern Command, visited Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, to meet Argentine President Javier Milei and raised concerns about the deep space station, intended for radio astronomy, radar observations, and spacecraft missions of China, according to the media outlet Newsendip.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310525.shtml>

China asserts position on defence cooperation

China Daily, April 13, 2024

China has stated that defence cooperation between countries should not target any specific country or undermine regional peace and stability. China's Ministry of National Defence spokesman Wu Qian asserted that the nation's activities in the South China Sea are justified, lawful and beyond reproach. Wu highlighted that certain non-regional countries frequently dispatch military vessels and aircraft to the South China Sea with the intention to "flex muscle", forming alliances to create "small cliques" against China, and even employing threats and coercion under the guise of a so-called mutual defence treaty. These actions are deemed irresponsible and pose significant dangers.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202404/13/WS661978d2a31082fc043c1b87.html>

Why Olaf Scholz is set to visit China despite 'de-risking' calls

CGTN, April 13, 2024

Despite calls to "de-risk" from China, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will embark on a three-day visit to China with the aim of strengthening bilateral relations, expanding practical cooperation and resolving global hotspot issues, Chinese observers noted. "In recent years, the China-Germany relationship has seen steady progress. The two sides have witnessed frequent high-level exchanges and deepened practical cooperation in various fields, especially in economy and trade," Liu Zuokui, deputy director of the Institute of European Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), told CGTN. "As a 'bellwether' of China-European Union (EU) cooperation, Scholz's visit sets a good example and will continuously inject momentum into the steady development of China-EU relations," Liu added.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-04-13/Why-Olaf-Scholz-is-set-to-visit-China-despite-de-risking-calls-1sLLAq10uly/p.html>

Chinese navy steers a course for African ports in Beijing's renewed diplomatic push

Jevans Nyabiage

South China Morning Post, April 13, 2024

The Chinese navy has stepped up its port calls around Africa as part of Beijing's growing military diplomacy with the continent. After the People's Liberation Army (PLA) paused many of its African port visits during the pandemic, it is getting back to full strength again in a bid to cement

diplomatic ties as well as show off military hardware, according to observers. Earlier this week, China's 45th naval fleet, including guided-missile destroyer Urumqi, missile frigate Linyi and comprehensive replenishment vessel Dongpinghu, visited Madagascar after a visit to Tanzania and Mozambique last month. Such visits were an established practice before the Covid-19 pandemic threw them into disarray.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3258645/chinese-navy-steers-course-african-ports-beijings-renewed-diplomatic-push>

China's domestically developed mega reusable rocket engine completes ground ignition tests, setting new records

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, April 14, 2024

A 130-ton reusable liquid oxygen kerosene engine, developed by the Sixth Academy of the state-owned conglomerate and the nation's leading space contractor, the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp (CASC), successfully completed two ground ignition tests on Saturday, marking new breakthroughs in propulsion technology, the Global Times has learned from the mission insiders. To date, the engine has completed a total of 15 repeated tests, 30 ignition starts, and the cumulative test duration exceeded 3,900 seconds, breaking the record of the number of tests for liquid rocket main engines in China, according to a statement the academy provided to the Global Times.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310567.shtml>

Why China has a grave concern over AUKUS, even Pillar II

Wang Xiaolong

Newsroom, April 14, 2024

Besides, AUKUS has been slated as a setup targeted at China, as evidenced by the blatant remarks by the US State Department's No.2 diplomat suggesting AUKUS submarines could be used in situations in relation to Taiwan, which may increase regional tensions, provoke rivalry and usher in geopolitical zero-sum games in the region, casting a long shadow over the region's peace, stability, and development.

<https://newsroom.co.nz/2024/04/14/why-china-has-a-grave-concern-over-aucus-even-pillar-ii/>

The U.S. has received a rare invitation from China. There is only one right answer

W.J. Hennigan

The New York Times, April 15, 2024

Beijing did build hundreds of nuclear weapons during those years, but the nation's leaders insisted their modest arsenal was merely for self-defense. Since China's first nuclear weapons test, in 1964, the country has pledged loudly to never go first in a nuclear conflict — no matter what. That stance, coupled with a stated strategy of "minimum" deterrence, didn't demand the level of American fear, loathing and attention that the Russian threat did.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/15/opinion/china-nuclear-weapons.html>

Chinese company under congressional scrutiny makes key U.S. drugs

Christina Jewett

The New York Times, April 15, 2024

A Chinese company targeted by members of Congress over potential ties to the Chinese government makes blockbuster drugs for the American market that have been hailed as advances in the treatment of cancers, obesity and debilitating illnesses like cystic fibrosis. WuXi AppTec is one of several companies that lawmakers have identified as potential threats to the security of individual Americans' genetic information and U.S. intellectual property. A Senate committee approved a bill in March that aides say is intended to push U.S. companies away from doing business with them.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/15/health/wuxi-us-drugs-congress.html>

Volt Typhoon false narrative a collusion among US politicians, intelligence community and companies to cheat funding, defame China: report

Yuan Hong

Global Times, April 15, 2024

Labelling Volt Typhoon, a hacker group, as a China-sponsored actor, has been found to be an underhanded campaign by US politicians, intelligence community and companies, which intended to "kill two birds with one stone" - hyping the "China threat theory" and cheating funding from the US Congress and taxpayers, according to a latest report from China's National Computer Virus Emergency Response Center. On May 24, 2023, the cybersecurity authorities from The Five Eyes

countries - the US, UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand, issued a joint cybersecurity advisory, claiming that they had discovered cluster of activity of interest associated with a "China state-sponsored cyber actor," known as Volt Typhoon, and these activities "affected networks across US critical infrastructure sectors."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310584.shtml>

Trilateral summit raising regional tension: Experts

Prime Sarmiento

China Daily, April 15, 2024

The first-ever trilateral summit among the Philippines, Japan and the United States has escalated, rather than defused, tensions over the South China Sea, and even "hardened" the stance of the parties involved in the disputed but otherwise calm waterway, analysts say. The Philippines' involvement in the "provocative" April 11 summit has also made the country an "outlier" in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as member states of the regional bloc prefer a "nuanced" approach in resolving the dispute over the South China Sea, they said. US President Joe Biden hosted a summit in Washington, DC, where he met Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202404/15/WS661c8696a31082fc043c1f6e.html>

Re-engaging with the World: China's Military Diplomacy in 2023

Jie Gao and Kenneth W. Allen

China Maritime Studies Institute, US Naval War College, April 15, 2024

China's military diplomacy plays a crucial role in advancing the nation's foreign policy objectives and safeguarding its strategic interests. This report highlights a diverse array of activities within military diplomacy, including senior-level meetings, joint military exercises, naval port calls, UN peacekeeping operations, and academic exchanges. Our findings reveal a significant—but incomplete—recovery in China's military diplomacy activities in 2023, following a period of reduced contacts with foreign militaries during the COVID-19 pandemic. Southeast Asia and Russia remain primary partners for China, with emerging strategic importance also seen in Africa, Oceania, and the Middle East. Overall, China's military diplomacy underscores its efforts to diversify partnerships and assert its global influence, emphasizing regional stability and international cooperation in pursuit of its diplomatic goals.

<https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/cmsi-maritime-reports/37/>

Chinese FM expresses solemn position regarding US' actions to advance 'Indo-Pacific Strategy' targeting China, urging the US to stop bloc confrontation

Global Times, April 15, 2024

The Chinese Foreign Ministry blasted the US' recent actions to advance the "Indo-Pacific Strategy" targeting China, as well as the country's wrongful statements and actions in China's surrounding areas, especially its attempts to form a small clique with Japan and the Philippines and disrupt the situation in the South China Sea. China again urged the US not to engage in bloc confrontation or disrupt peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu met US Ambassador to China Nicholas Burns, US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Kritenbrink, and Sarah Beran, White House National Security Council's senior director for China affairs, in Beijing. Yang Tao, director-general of the Department of North American and Oceanian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, held talks with the US diplomats, according to a report from CGTN.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310643.shtml>

IAEA Conference on Enhancing the Operational Safety of Nuclear Power Plants Starts in China

Katy Laffan

International Atomic Energy Agency, April 15, 2024

An IAEA conference on improving the operational safety of nuclear power plants started in Beijing, to continue strengthening international collaboration and promoting 'safety culture' to further reduce risks of a nuclear incident. "Ensuring the safe and reliable operation of the existing nuclear power plants is a priority, to protect people and the environment," said the IAEA's Lydie Evrard, Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Nuclear Safety and Security in her opening address. "It is also the foundation for the long-term safe development of the nuclear power industry and of new designs such as small modular reactors, that will contribute to realize the goal of tripling nuclear power by 2050 and NetZero," she added.

<https://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/iaea-conference-on-enhancing-the-operational-safety-of-nuclear-power-plants-starts-in-china>

Xi Jinping meets with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz

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

On the morning of April 16, President Xi Jinping met with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. President Xi noted that this year marks the 10th anniversary

of the establishment of the all-round strategic partnership between China and Germany. Over the past 10 years, despite tremendous changes in the international landscape, China-Germany relations have maintained steady growth, and bilateral cooperation has strengthened and deepened across the board, providing impetus for the development of both countries. President Xi noted that the industrial and supply chains of China and Germany are deeply intertwined, and that the markets of the two countries are highly interdependent.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/202404/t20240416_11282464.html

China-Vietnam hotline sets example for handling of maritime disputes

China Daily, April 16, 2024

That China and Vietnam have agreed to establish a hotline between the Chinese People's Liberation Army's Southern Theater Command and the Vietnamese navy reflects the strategic mutual trust that exists between the two countries. The latest development indicates that the two sides do not want their territorial disputes in the South China Sea to impinge on their friendly relations, as the Philippines has allowed to happen. The move comes at a time when tensions are high in the South China Sea, mainly because Manila, supported and encouraged by Washington, has been taking increasingly aggressive actions to challenge China's territorial sovereignty over Ren'ai Reef and Huangyan Island.

<https://epaper.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202404/16/WS661dbf73a310df4030f50dd5.html>

PLA conducts live-fire air defense exercise on Chinese side of China-Myanmar border

China Military Online, April 17, 2024

In accordance with the annual training plan, the Southern Theater Command of Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) organized its army and air force troops to conduct a live-fire air defense exercise on the Chinese side of the China-Myanmar border from April 17, according to a statement released by the Southern Theater Command. "The exercise aims to test the troops' reconnaissance and early warning, three-dimensional blockade and control, warning and expulsion, and air defence strike capabilities," said the statement, adding that the troops of the PLA Southern Theater Command are always ready to deal with all kinds of emergencies and safeguard national sovereignty, border stability, and the safety of people's lives and property.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/CHINA_209163/Exercises/News_209184/16301492.html

Philippines plans ambitious exercise with U.S. as concerns over China grow

Regine Cabato and Rebecca Tan

The Washington Post, April 17, 2024

The Philippines and the United States are preparing to hold their most ambitious joint military exercise yet next week as tensions between the Philippines and China escalate in the South China Sea, according to more than a dozen officials. Tensions between China and the Philippines are the highest they've been in years, raising the specter of war in the Pacific, say security analysts. The situation has become especially perilous around the Second Thomas Shoal, a half-submerged reef where the Philippines has maintained the BRP Sierra Madre, a beached warship, as an outpost since 1999.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2024/04/17/philippines-balikatan-joint-military-exercise/>

Japan reboots 'mutually beneficial' China ties in new Diplomatic Bluebook

Shimpei Kawakami

Nikkei Asia, April 17, 2024

Japan seeks to build a "mutually beneficial" strategic relationship with China, according to its annual foreign policy report, a change of wording that suggests Tokyo is trying to reduce economic and security risks in bilateral ties. The Foreign Ministry's Diplomatic Bluebook, the 2024 edition of which was released on April 16, reflects Japan's view of and approach to dealing with other countries. The return of the phrase "mutually beneficial relationship based on common strategic interests" in reference to China for the first time since 2019 comes as Japan tries to maintain a stable relationship with a neighbor whose economic and military power is growing.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Japan-reboots-mutually-beneficial-China-ties-in-new-Diplomatic-Bluebook>

AUKUS: Hastily concocted, ill-thought, now falling over

John Queripel

China Daily, April 17, 2024

In September 2021, facing electoral defeat, the then Australian government, led by Scott Morrison, resorted to what is often successful around the world - a national security scare campaign directed against China, its centerpiece being a hastily concocted, ill-thought out AUKUS agreement with

the United States and the United Kingdom. Of course, while the Australian involvement in AUKUS is ostensibly about defense of Australia, the real purpose is to secure Australia as part of the US containment strategy regarding China. These submarines are not meant for the defense of Australia, but rather are meant to join the US navy in sitting off the coast of China.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202404/17/WS661f8d64a31082fc043c2810.html>

China could threaten critical infrastructure in a conflict, N.S.A. chief says

Julian E. Barnes

The New York Times, April 17, 2024

China has been trying to find ways to gain access to critical infrastructure in the United States so that it can threaten those systems in the event of a conflict, the National Security Agency director said. Gen. Timothy D. Haugh, who took the helm of the N.S.A. and the U.S. military's Cyber Command in February, said that Beijing had stepped up its cyberefforts and that the United States, in response, was working harder to disrupt that activity. Last year, U.S. officials uncovered an effort by China to gain access to critical infrastructure in Guam, home to U.S. military bases, and in the continental United States. Microsoft called the intrusions Volt Typhoon, after a Chinese network of hackers who often avoided using detectable malware and instead used stealthier techniques to enter wastewater systems and communication networks.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/17/us/politics/china-cyber-us-infrastructure.html>

South China Sea: will Beijing ramp up militarisation after US missile system deployed in the Philippines?

Seong Hyeon Choi

South China Morning Post, April 18, 2024

Beijing may further militarise the South China Sea, analysts said, after the “surprising” deployment of a US mid-range missile launcher in the Philippines, putting mainland China and Taiwan in striking distance. The US Army Pacific said the service “successfully” deployed its Mid-Range Capability (MRC) missile system, also known as the Typhon Weapon System, on the northern Philippine island of Luzon on April 11.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3259453/south-china-sea-will-beijing-ramp-military-presence-after-very-strategic-deployment-us-missile>

Russia and China working on sustainable Moon bases: What do we know about them?

Global Times, April 18, 2024

Establishing sustainable closed-loop research facilities capable of maintaining life on the Moon is an ambitious task only two countries have come close to so far. Over the last 50 years, Russian and Chinese scientists have managed to create virtually autonomous systems to sustain life in outer space. The lunar bases in focus are China's Yuegong-1 (also referred to as the Lunar Palace) and Russia's BIOS-3. Both are environmentally closed facilities capable of supporting a long-duration self-contained mission with no external inputs other than power.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310815.shtml>

NASA's chief says China is being 'very, very secretive' and pretending its space projects aren't linked to the military

Matthew Loh

Business Standard, April 18, 2024

National Aeronautics and Space Administration head Bill Nelson warned that China is passing off military endeavors in space as civilian projects, reiterating that the US is in a "race" with Beijing to reach the moon in the 21st century. "China has made extraordinary strides, especially in the last 10 years, but they are very, very secretive," Nelson told members of the House Appropriations Committee at a 2024 budget hearing. "We believe that a lot of their, so-called civilian space programs is a military program," Nelson continued. "And I think, in effect, we are in a race."

<https://www.businessinsider.in/science/news/nasas-chief-says-china-is-being-very-very-secretive-and-pretending-its-space-projects-arent-linked-to-the-military/articleshow/109392880.cms>

China opposes US' deployment of mid-range missile system in Asia-Pacific region: Foreign Ministry

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

China noted the announcement and expresses grave concern over the move. China strongly opposes the US deploying medium-range ballistic missiles in the Asia-Pacific and strengthening forward deployment at China's doorstep to seek unilateral military advantage. The US's move exacerbates tensions in the region and increases the risk of misjudgment and miscalculation. We urge the US to earnestly respect other countries' security concerns, stop stoking military confrontation, stop undermining peace and stability in the region, and take concrete actions to reduce strategic risks. The Philippines needs to see and be mindful of what the US is truly after

and the consequence of going along with the US on deploying MRBMs. The Philippines needs to think twice about being a cat's paw for the US at the expense of its own security interests, and stop sliding down the wrong path.

https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xwfw_665399/s2510_665401/2511_665403/202404/t20240418_11284243.html

Germany's doomed China strategy

Martin Sandbu

Financial Times, April 18, 2024

After a long period of funk, the recent pick-up in growth as well as the impressive production boom in green tech have left China with something to boast about. Not too surprising, then, that German big business wants to be in on the act. In the domestic debate, both the government and big corporations seem determined that any “de-risking” must go hand in hand with more trade and staying invested for the long haul. But dig into the details of Germany’s exposure to China and this particular political economy constellation looks increasingly brittle.

<https://www.ft.com/content/2ff22d32-390a-4126-865f-7365178a0d6c>

Chinese warships have ‘exclusive’ access at Cambodia port: US report

Seong Hyeon Choi

South China Morning Post, April 19, 2024

New questions have been raised about China’s military presence at a Cambodian naval base, after a US think tank reported that two Chinese navy ships have spent more than four months at the port. According to satellite image analysis by the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative (AMTI) at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), two Chinese corvettes have had a “consistent presence” at the China-funded Ream naval base in southern Cambodia since December 3.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3259617/chinese-warships-exclusive-access-cambodia-port-raises-new-questions-about-its-purpose-us-report>

China rejects U.S., Japan, Philippines concern about South China Sea

CGTN, April 19, 2024

The Chinese foreign ministry has dismissed accusations against China on the South China Sea issue by certain countries. Relevant countries' groundless accusations and deliberate smears

against China on the South China Sea issue are unacceptable, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said. Spokesperson Lin Jian said China strongly opposes the practice of bloc politics by said countries, firmly opposes any acts that stoke and drive up tensions and harm other countries' strategic security and interests, and is seriously against forming exclusive groupings in this region. Noting that the award of the South China Sea Arbitration is illegal, null and void, he said China did not accept or take part in the Arbitration, does not accept or acknowledge the so-called award, and much less does China accept any claim or action that is based on the award.

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2024-04-19/China-rejects-U-S-Japan-Philippines-concern-about-South-China-Sea-1sV4e6TS3Ha/p.html>

Taiwan says new Chinese air routes threaten Taiwanese islands' flight safety

Ben Blanchard and Ryan Woo

Reuters, April 19, 2024

Taiwan said China's decision to open new air routes that run perilously close to two Taiwanese-controlled islands was a flight safety risk taken without consultation, adding it will demand any aircraft using them be asked to turn around. Taiwan's government expressed anger in January after China "unilaterally" changed a flight path called M503 close to the sensitive median line in the Taiwan Strait. China claims democratically-governed Taiwan as its own territory.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/china-opens-new-air-routes-near-taiwanese-islands-2024-04-19/>

Xi Jinping tightens grip on China's military with new information warfare unit

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, April 19, 2024

China has established a new information warfare department under the direct command of its top military body as it begins its largest restructuring of the armed forces in more than eight years. The shift of information warfare to the direct command of the Central Military Commission — the top Communist party and state organ that controls the People's Liberation Army — would hand Chinese leader Xi Jinping even more direct control over the military, analysts said.

<https://www.ft.com/content/5584feb4-0e58-4b6c-8140-f9c6e8e3ba5e>

PLA sets up information support force, to advance Chinese military's competitiveness in modern warfare

Global Times, April 20, 2024

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) has set up an information support force and Chinese President Xi Jinping presented a flag to the force at its establishment ceremony in Beijing. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), stressed solid efforts to build a strong and modernized information support force. Xi said that the establishment of the information support force is a major decision that the CPC Central Committee and the CMC have made in light of the overall need for building a strong military.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202404/1310932.shtml>

Chinese team makes quantum leap in chip design with new light source

Ling Xin

South China Morning Post, April 20, 2024

Researchers in China have moved a step closer to building a quantum chip with the world-first use of a common semiconductor to create a quantum light source. Quantum chips have the potential to solve complex problems exponentially faster than conventional, electron-based computation but scientists have struggled to build the components needed for an integrated circuit. A team in China now says they created one of those components – a quantum light source – using the semiconductor gallium nitride (GaN), a material used for decades in blue light-emitting diodes.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/science/article/3259756/chinese-team-makes-quantum-leap-chip-design-new-light-source>

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

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