

Monday Dispatch

06 January, 2020

# 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 (IDSA)



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE  
STUDIES & ANALYSES  
रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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## **China says U.S. use of force aggravating Middle East tension**

Reuters, January 6, 2020

China criticized the United States for aggravating tension in the Middle East through its use of force in the standoff between Washington and Tehran and urged all parties to exercise restraint to ensure peace and stability. A U.S. drone strike that killed Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani has further escalated the conflict between the two countries already at odds over Tehran's nuclear activities. Tehran has publicly vowed to avenge Soleimani's death, and U.S. President Donald Trump has in turn threatened further retaliation to any Iranian attacks against American assets or citizens.

“Power politics are neither popular nor sustainable,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said at a daily briefing. “The U.S.’s risky military behavior in recent days goes against the basic norms of international relations.” “We call on the U.S. not to abuse its force, and appeal to relevant parties to exercise restraint to avoid the situation worsening,” he said, adding that China is “highly concerned” about the standoff between Iran and the United States. China also criticized the United States for threatening sanctions against Iraq in response to the Iraqi parliament's resolution calling for U.S. and other foreign troops to leave the country. “China has consistently opposed the wanton use or threat of use of sanctions,” Geng told reporters. “We wish that relevant countries, particularly major countries outside the region, can do more to promote the Middle East region's peace and security, and avoid taking actions that escalate regional tensions.”

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-security-iran-china/china-says-u-s-use-of-force-aggravating-middle-east-tension-idUSKBN1Z50MO>

## **Book of Xi's speeches on celebrating 70th anniversary of PRC published**

Xinhua, January 6, 2020

A compilation of Chinese President Xi Jinping's speeches marking the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) has been published by the Foreign Languages Press. In 2019, Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, attended a host of celebrations for the 70th anniversary of the founding of the PRC and delivered important speeches.

The book, which has Chinese and English versions, collects three speeches of Xi, namely the speeches at a grand rally and a reception to celebrate the 70th founding anniversary of the PRC, and the speech at a presentation ceremony of the national medals and honorary titles of the PRC. His speeches have greatly ignited patriotism among the Chinese people, boosted the morale of the Party, the military and the people, enhanced the confidence and sense of pride of the Chinese

people at home and abroad, and been well received in the international community, said an official announcement of the publication.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/06/c\\_138681681.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/06/c_138681681.htm)

### **China's heaviest satellite positioned in geosynchronous orbit**

Xinhua, January 5, 2020

China's heaviest and most advanced satellite, Shijian-20, reached its fixed position in geosynchronous orbit Sunday, marking the first successful flight of DFH-5 satellite platform, according to the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation. The Shijian-20 satellite is the first verification satellite for DFH-5 satellite platform, China's new generation of large geosynchronous orbit satellite platform.

At present, the satellite has completed the orbit transfer and verified the key technologies of the DFH-5 satellite platform, according to Li Feng, chief designer of the satellite. The Shijian-20 satellite was launched into space by the third Long March-5 rocket, China's largest carrier rocket on Dec. 27, 2019. It has carried out orbit experiments for a series of key technologies. Shijian-20 has the largest solar wings among all China's satellites, with the total wingspan 10 meters wider than that of a Boeing 737 aircraft. The solar wings has unfolded twice, and the increased solar wing area will supply the satellite with abundant power.

Compared with the DFH-3 and DFH-4 satellite platforms, the DFH-5 satellite platform has improved in weight, power and in-orbit lifespan, which will serve the needs of high-capacity satellites in the next 20 years, said Zhou Zhicheng, chief engineer of the DFH-5 satellite platform.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/05/c\\_138680100.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/05/c_138680100.htm)

### **China capable of defending against deadly drone attacks: experts**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, January 5, 2020

The US drone strike that killed top Iranian general Qasem Soleimani in Iraq has raised concerns from Chinese netizens of drones being an increasingly dangerous instrument of war that could one day threaten China. China is fully capable of defending targeted drone attacks and places great importance on having a complete air defense system and powerful military strength as deterrent, Chinese experts said on Sunday. Sixty-two-year-old Soleimani, head of Iran's elite Quds Force,

was killed by a missile fired from a US drone when he was near Baghdad's international airport in Iraq on Friday, CGTN reported.

Chinese netizens and media feared targeted strikes from drones are changing the way a war is fought, which is very dangerous as such attacks are more unpredictable and ruthless. China has a complete national air defense system, making it very capable of defending surprise and targeted strikes from drones, Wei Dongxu, a Beijing-based military analyst, told the Global Times on Sunday. China operates detection and early warning radars both on land and in the air, so it can spot hostile drones from multiple angles and levels, Wei said, noting that the drones will then face China's aircraft interception network consisting of long, intermediate and short-range, as well as high, mid and low-altitude anti-aircraft missiles and guns. Soft kill is also an available option, which means China can jam enemy drones, Wei said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1175804.shtml>

### **Chinese embassy in US issues safety alert following Soleimani's death**

Global Times, January 5, 2020

Chinese embassy in the US on Sunday issued a safety alert amid the enhanced security measures in the US following the death of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani. Soleimani, 62, head of the elite Quds Force, was killed on Friday by missiles fired from a US drone as he was leaving Baghdad's international airport, according to US officials. Five Revolutionary Guards were also killed in the attack, along with five members of a pro-Iranian paramilitary force in Iraq, the Hashed al-Shaabi.

Washington had entered a state of alert following the incident, the embassy's notice stressed. The embassy warned Chinese people in the US to pay close attention to their security situation and take prudent precautions before going to public places. The notice said people should call 911 or contact the embassy or local consulates if they encounter dangers or emergencies.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1175733.shtml>

### **China's fat satellite hits orbit**

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, January 5, 2020

The country's heaviest and most advanced communication satellite smoothly entered its fixed service point in 36,000 kilometer geosynchronous orbit early Sunday morning, marking a

successful maiden flight for the spacecraft based on the Dongfanghong-5 satellite platform (DFH-5). After a nine-day flight and changing orbits seven times, the experimental high-throughput communication Shijian-20 satellite successfully arrived at 105.5 meridian east early Sunday morning, according to a statement by developers the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST) sent to the Global Times on Sunday. The 8,000 kilogram-plus satellite was launched by Long March-5, the strongest carrier in the Chinese rocket family, in its December comeback mission.

Li Feng, chief designer of Shijian-20, told the Global Times the satellite had accomplished orbit changes and conducted key tests for the DFH-5 satellite platform, marking the successful maiden flight of a satellite for a platform-developed spacecraft. More tests are coming, Li said. The satellite will carry out orbital experiments for key technologies, CAST said, including satellite-ground communication tests using Q/V bands, which lie between the extremely high frequency 33-75 GHz range of the radio spectrum. These frequencies are used mainly for satellite communications. Such tests are key to the development of the next generation of high throughput satellites capable of delivering 1Tbps bandwidth for ultrafast speeds, according to CAST. The satellite also has the country's largest solar panel wings, with a full span of more than 40 meters, 10 meters longer than a Boeing 737. The wings were only partially open when the satellite was first sent into preset orbit by the launch vehicle, as that stage did not require much energy. After arriving at geosynchronous orbit, the satellite spread its wings for a second time, using more power to provide services including communication, radio and TV signal transfers.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1175753.shtml>

## **Chinese FM says China to play constructive role in maintaining peace, security in Middle East**

Xinhua, January 4, 2020

China will play a constructive role in maintaining peace and security in the Middle East and the Gulf region while remaining objective and fair, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Saturday. Wang made the remarks during a phone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. The dangerous U.S. military actions violated the basic norms of international relations and would aggravate regional tensions, Wang said. He voiced China's opposition to the use of force in international relations, saying military means only lead to a dead end and maximum pressure will get nowhere.

China urges the United States not to abuse force and calls for dialogue to seek solutions to problems, he said. For his part, Zarif briefed Wang on Iran's position regarding the attack on a senior Iranian commander. The Iranian foreign minister strongly condemned the U.S. brutal act,

which he said would bring severe consequences. Iran has sent a letter to the UN secretary-general and hopes that China will play an important role in preventing the escalation of regional tensions, said Zarif.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/04/c\\_138678546.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/04/c_138678546.htm)

### **China urges easing of Iran-US tensions**

Chen Qingqing and Leng Shumei

Global Times, January 4, 2020

As the US killing of a top Iranian military officer risks seriously aggravating the Middle East, Chinese officials urged all sides to remain calm and opposed to the use of force in international relations, as a wider war was unaffordable for the world and no country including China would be immune from it.

After the US killed Iranian major general Qasem Soleimani, head of the Quds Force of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, a commander of Iraq's Shia Hashd al-Shaabi, or Popular Mobilization Units, in an air-strike on Friday, tension quickly escalated as tens of thousands of mourners and pro-Iranian fighters flooded the Baghdad streets chanting "Revenge is coming!" Chinese officials have communicated actively with all parties on the escalating conflict between Tehran and Washington during the weekend, a reflection of China's firm position of safeguarding regional peace and calling for conflict resolution through diplomatic means, according to Chinese analysts.

Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, told US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a phone call on Friday night that China was very concerned about the Middle East. The Chinese government always supports resolving differences through dialogue and opposes the use of force in foreign relations, Yang said. Yang called for all relevant parties, especially the US, to remain restrained and de-escalate the situation.

On Saturday, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke with foreign ministers of Iran, Russia and France. In a phone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Wang said the risky US military action, contrary to the basic norms of international relations, would exacerbate tensions and instability in the region, according to a statement published on the website of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The use of military means in relations would lead to nowhere, the statement said, and the Chinese side urged the US not to abuse military power and to resolve issues through dialogue. China and Russia also opposed the abuse of military force in the US-Iran conflict and agreed to strengthen joint strategic coordination to maintain

international justice, according to a phone call between Wang and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1175783.shtml>