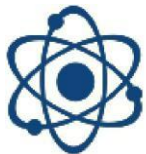


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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY



INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE
STUDIES & ANALYSES

रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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China's space achievements draw global attention

China Daily, February 24, 2020

A total of nearly 100,000 overseas social media users show interests in China's recent space achievements, according to an online quiz co-conducted by Global Media Services Center of People's Daily Online and Beihang University.

The quiz, consisting of three multiple choice questions about China's recent space achievements, was posted on Beihang Twitter account on December 25, 2019. The first question was about Yuegong-1, or Lunar Palace 1, a simulated space lab in which Chinese volunteers tested living conditions in the lunar environment, setting a record of 370 days for the longest stay in a self-contained cabin. Background data indicated that the quiz reached out to 31,415 Beihang Twitter account users.

The second question, also the one that most people gave an attempt at answering, was "A Beihang alumnus, chief designer of China's Shenzhou spacecraft and leading technician of China's first satellite, was recently inducted into the International Astronautical Federation Hall of Fame. What is his/her name?" 43.8% of quiz takers chose the right answer: Qi Faren.

Qi, a well-known space technology expert, was awarded the honor for his substantial contributions to the progress of space science and technology to mankind.

26.3% of quiz takers gave the right answer to the last question concerning Beihang-developed Fengru-3, an oil-powered UAV that set a world record for finishing a non-stop flight lasting 30 hours 6 minutes and 42 seconds.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202002/24/WS5e535e9ea310128217279cea.html>

Chinese Army to procure 1.4 million body armor units in 2 years

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 23, 2020

As the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) is striving to enhance its combat readiness and preparing for military conflicts, potentially against Taiwan secessionists and US provocations, the PLA Army announced its plan to procure a whopping 1.4 million units of high-quality body armor with plates for a top limit price of about 13 billion yuan (\$1.85 billion) in the coming two years, which is expected to keep PLA casualty numbers as low as possible.

According to the 2019 edition of China's defense white paper, the PLA has about two million personnel, and the PLA Army is only a part of it, meaning every frontline army soldier could get one of these armor suits, with extra in reserve, analysts said.

The PLA Army is holding open tenders to procure 930,000 units of plates for universal bulletproof vests and 467,000 units of plates for enhanced bulletproof vests, according to two statements released on weain.mil.cn, the Chinese military's weapon and equipment procurement website, on Friday.

A regular plate unit should cost under 7,950 yuan, or 7.4 billion yuan in total, and an enhanced unit less than 12,900 yuan, or 6 billion yuan in total. Each plate unit consists of two bulletproof plates, and the plate manufacturer will assemble the plates into the vests, which are not included in these procurements, before delivery. The products will be delivered in batches in the 24 months after

contracts are signed. Both open tenders will end on March 6, according to the statements.

Song Zhongping, a military expert and TV commentator, told the Global Times on Sunday that the procurement had the lives of Chinese soldiers in mind, as the armor can keep casualties to a minimum.

Some mainland military enthusiasts on the internet speculated that the procurement might aim at threat from Taiwan secessionists and their US supporters. They said armor plates' effectiveness expires in several years, so buying so many in such a short time period could mean preparations for potential military conflicts against Taiwan secessionist forces and other imminent threats in coming years.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1180499.shtml>

Xi urges solid, meticulous epidemic prevention, control

Xinhua, February 23, 2020

Chinese President Xi Jinping Sunday called for firm, solid and meticulous efforts in the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) epidemic. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, urged Party committees and governments at all levels to remain vigilant and make unremitting efforts in the epidemic prevention and control work.

No victory should be lightly announced until there is a complete win, Xi said at a meeting in Beijing on coordinating the prevention and control of the COVID-19 and economic and social development, making the following demands:

Hubei Province, as well as its capital city Wuhan, should be safeguarded with resolute efforts, with focal attention paid to containing the spread at communities and treating the patients; The epidemic prevention and control work in Beijing should be carried out with all-out efforts. Both imported cases and spread within the city should be prevented;

Medical resources and key supplies should be allocated in a scientific manner, providing more protection for the medical workers; Scientific research should be accelerated in terms of drug and vaccine development. Effective diagnosis and treatment plans should be summarized and promoted in time;

International and regional cooperation should be expanded. Good communication with the World Health Organization and experience sharing with relevant countries should be continued; Public communication through news media should be more effective. Release of epidemic information should be improved. -- Social stability should be well safeguarded. Illegal activities disturbing medical treatment, epidemic prevention, and market and social order should be severely punished.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/23/c_138811266.htm

China launches 4 new technology experiment satellites

Xinhua, February 20, 2020

China sent four new technology experiment satellites into planned orbit from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province Thursday.

The satellites, launched by a Long March-2D carrier rocket at 5:07 a.m. (Beijing Time), will be mainly used for the new Earth-observation technology experiment.

The carrier rocket and two of the satellites were developed by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology, the other two satellites were respectively developed by the Harbin Institute of Technology and the DFH Satellite Co. Ltd.

Thursday's launch was the 326th mission of the Long March rocket series.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-02/20/c_138799871.htm

Intensive missions signal Chinese Air Force's transformation into strategic force

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 20, 2020

The Chinese Air Force conducted three major missions in February, namely combat readiness patrols around Taiwan, large-scale medical deliveries to Wuhan and flight performances in Singapore, which is an initial indication that the service is on track to become a strategic force this year.

Running three distinctively different missions in different directions at the same time demonstrated the Chinese Air Force's capabilities, an expert said on Thursday.

In a move that experts said sends a warning to Taiwan secessionists, Air Force units with the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theater Command conducted combat readiness patrols and joint drills featuring J-11 fighter jets, KJ-500 early warning aircraft and H-6K bombers near the island of Taiwan on February 9 and 10.

To help control the coronavirus outbreak, the PLA Air Force dispatched three Il-76 large transport planes to Wuhan on January 24, eight Il-76s on February 2, 11 transport aircraft consisting of Y-20s, Il-76s and Y-9s on February 13 and eight more on Monday, which sent thousands of military medical personnel and hundreds of tons of medical supplies to the outbreak epicenter.

The August 1st Air Demonstration Team of the PLA Air Force returned to China on Wednesday after leaving for Singapore on February 5, completing five flight performances at the 2020 Singapore Airshow for the first time, and served as an envoy of peace, culture and friendship, the PLA Daily reported on Thursday.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1180298.shtml>

ASEAN defense ministers speak highly of China's efforts against COVID-19 outbreak

China Mail, February 20, 2020

The ASEAN defense ministers' informal meeting was held in Hanoi on February 19, 2020. The defense ministers of the participating countries issued a joint statement, which spoke highly of China's efforts to combat the novel coronavirus(COVID-19) epidemic, and emphasized the need for ASEAN countries to strengthen cooperation in response to the epidemic.

The joint statement expressed serious concerns over the COVID-19 outbreaks, spoke highly of China's efforts to combat the epidemic, and expressed condolences to the affected countries,

regions and people.

The statement said that ASEAN countries should work together to actively respond to the outbreaks and promised to strengthen defense cooperation in areas including military medicine and information sharing.

Vietnamese Minister of National Defence General Ngô Xuân Lịch addressed at the meeting that the meeting laid the foundation for ASEAN countries to conduct practical cooperation in military medicine, humanitarian assistance and other fields. Vietnam has called on all parties to strengthen cooperation in order to enhance ASEAN countries' capability to respond in military medicine and other areas.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/20/content_9747529.htm

Chinese military adopts new rules against cybersecurity risks

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 19, 2020

The Chinese military will adopt a new regulation on confidentiality in a move to better manage cybersecurity risks amid the increasingly intense strategic games between China and the US, experts said on Wednesday.

President Xi Jinping, who is also chairman of the Central Military Commission, recently signed an order to publish the new military confidentiality regulation, which will come into force on March 1, the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Daily reported on Wednesday.

The regulation will provide a strong basis for military development, reform and preparations for military struggle, the report said.

It aims to effectively deal with the current grim situation in confidentiality work, use innovations in management of carriers of military secrets and focus on the confidentiality of information network systems and smart electronic devices, according to the report.

Cybersecurity has become an urgent issue for the Chinese military, since some electronic information facilities remain relatively vulnerable and may cause leaks of secrets if not used with caution, Li Daguang, a professor at the National Defense University of the PLA in Beijing, told the Global Times on Wednesday, noting that some hardware and components are imported and may have backdoor programs.

"The confidentiality work of the military, particularly in terms of cybersecurity, is very important at a time when China and the US are in the midst of increasingly intense strategic games," Li said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1180128.shtml>

Chinese arms companies race to keep up with production schedule delayed by virus outbreak

Global Times, February 18, 2020

Chinese arms enterprises have been racing to keep up with their production schedule after resuming work following an extended Spring Festival holiday due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak with a key amphibious assault ship maker scrambling to outfit an "important" ship and aviation companies running test flights for newly built warplanes.

Shaanxi Aircraft Industry (Group) Corporation Ltd under the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) was the first to send a new aircraft into the sky after resuming work on February 10, a little more than a week later than the original plan, cannews.com, an aviation news website run by AVIC, reported.

With the support of the Chinese Air Force, the company successfully conducted a test flight for a newly built KJ-500 early warning aircraft, according to the report.

Hongdu Aviation Industry Group, another subsidiary of AVIC, conducted a test flight for a new L-15 advanced training and light combat jet on Monday, according to a statement the company released on its WeChat public account on Monday.

Other AVIC subsidiaries, including fighter jet makers Chengdu Aircraft Industrial (Group) Co Ltd and Shenyang Aircraft Company Limited, have also resumed operation, cannews.com said.

Shipyards, including the Dalian Shipyard and Jiangnan Shipyard, which are known for their construction of aircraft carriers and destroyers, also resumed work on February 10 with extra attention being paid to epidemic control measures, according to statements the companies released recently.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1179994.shtml>

China opposes US "long-arm jurisdiction": FM spokesperson

Global Times, February 8, 2020

China firmly opposes unilateral sanctions and "long-arm jurisdiction" imposed by the United States citing its domestic law, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Monday.

According to the Federal Register, the United States has decided to impose sanctions on six Chinese enterprises, three Russian enterprises, one Iraqi enterprise and one Turkish enterprise in accordance with its Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act.

"China has lodged stern representations with the US side," spokesperson Geng Shuang said during an online press briefing, adding China urges the United States to correct its mistake at once and withdraw the sanctions. Geng said China is committed to strengthening the international non-proliferation system, strictly fulfilling the international obligation on non-proliferation and maintaining communication and cooperation with other countries on the basis of mutual respect.

By contrast, in non-proliferation and other areas, the United States has been obsessed with unilateralism and wantonly imposing unilateral sanctions and "long-arm jurisdiction" on others, which has been universally rejected by the international community as it severely undermines other countries' interests and international efforts in non-proliferation and safeguarding peace and stability, Geng said. "The Iranian nuclear issue is a case in point," he said. "We urge the United States to squarely face the international community's concerns and earnestly respect other countries' legitimate rights and interests."

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1179957.shtml>

China's Chang'e 4 probe resumes work for 15th lunar day

China Daily, February 18, 2020

The lander and rover of the Chang'e 4 probe have resumed work for the 15th lunar day on the far side of the moon after "sleeping" during the extremely cold night.

The lander woke up at 6:57 am Tuesday (Beijing time), and the rover awoke at 5:55 pm Monday. Both are in normal working order, according to the Lunar Exploration and Space Program Center of the China National Space Administration.

The rover, Yutu 2 or Jade Rabbit 2, has traveled 367.25 meters on the far side of the moon, with a plan to drive northwest and then southwest to continue its scientific exploration.

The Chang'e 4 probe, launched on Dec 8, 2018, made the first-ever soft landing on the Von Karman Crater in the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the far side of the moon on Jan 3, 2019.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202002/18/WS5e4b8edba310128217278706.html>

China urges five nuke powers to safeguard NPT regime

Chen Lufan

China Mail, February 17, 2020

The ninth formal conference among the five nuclear-weapon states (also the five permanent members (P5) of the United Nations (UN) Security Council) was held in London from February 12 to 13, 2020. It was chaired by Thomas Drew, Director General for Consular and Security at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the UK, with Chris Ford, Assistant Secretary of State of the US, Vladimir L. Leontiev, Deputy Director of the Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control of the Russian Foreign Ministry, and David Bertolotti, Director of Strategic, Security and Disarmament Affairs of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs also attending the meeting. Fu Cong, Director-General of the Arms Control Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, headed Chinese delegation to the conference.

Fu said that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the cornerstone of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation system and also an important part of the post-war international security system. With intensifying competition among major powers, the process of nuclear disarmament between the US and Russia is regressing and the use of emerging technologies for military purposes is accelerating. Global strategic stability is undermined. At the same time, the prevalence of unilateralism in some countries has caused difficulties to solve regional nuclear hotspots. The tendency to politicize in the peaceful use of nuclear energy is prominent, obstructing normal international cooperation. The NPT regime faces severe challenges as a result of the above factors.

The P5 regime is a coordination mechanism formed by China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US as NPT legal nuclear weapon states during the review process of the treaty. Since 2009, the five member states have been maintaining regular communication on important issues of strategic security and jointly promoted the NPT review process.

This conference focused on the current international strategic security situation and the cooperation among the five nuclear powers in preparation for the tenth NPT Review Conference to be held this year.

The delegations from the five countries formed a work plan for the next step and agreed to carry out continued exchanges and cooperation on nuclear policies and strategies, as well as the

reduction of strategic risks.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/17/content_9744561.htm

Naval drills enhance ability in Pacific Ocean

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 17, 2020

A warship fleet of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy recently conducted an air defense exercise in the far seas of the Pacific Ocean, a move experts said on Monday showed the Navy's high capability in the Pacific waters.

The far sea joint training fleet under the PLA Southern Theater Command Navy, featuring guided missile destroyer Hohhot, guided missile frigate Xianning, electronic surveillance ship Tianshuxing and replenishment ship Chaganhu, held air defense drills at an undisclosed area in the Pacific Ocean, media reported on Sunday.

Beijing-based military expert Wei Dongxu told the Global Times on Monday that the drills demonstrated the Chinese Navy's high capability of joint fleet air defense in the waters of Pacific Ocean, and further improved this capability through training.

China may face aerial threats from the US from the Pacific Ocean, so the Chinese Navy's drills in these waters could lead to a higher capability of defending against potential hostile attacks, pushing the defense line farther away from the mainland, analysts said.

Using a combination of missiles and the close-in weapon system for the first time, the fleet successfully intercepted multiple waves of incoming target drones, reports said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1179922.shtml>

Chinese Air Force's strategic projection capability proven in epidemic: experts

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 17, 2020

In the fourth of a series of missions, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force on Monday transported military personnel and supplies via cargo planes to Wuhan to help control the novel coronavirus outbreak.

These missions have proved the Air Force's strategic projection capability, experts said.

A total of eight transport aircraft, namely three Y-20s, one Il-76 and three Y-9s, left their bases across China on Monday morning, arriving in Shenyang, Zhanjiang, Lanzhou, Datong, Chengdu, Shanghai and Xinjiang to load personnel and supplies, before taking off again to arrive at Wuhan's Tianhe International Airport, the Xinhua News Agency reported on Monday.

In about 21 minutes, the eight aircraft that took off from seven different locations across China all landed in Wuhan, the report said.

Military expert Du Wenlong said that this would require very accurate air traffic control, coordination and support, making it a challenging task, Xinhua reported.

While this might not seem so significant in fighting the epidemic, it will play a very important role in a war, a military expert who asked not to be named told the Global Times on Monday.

This means a large number of Chinese soldiers, together with heavy weapons and equipment like tanks and anti-aircraft installations, can be deployed by air in a short time instead of being transported slowly, allowing them to form combat capabilities in the frontline very quickly to grasp valuable battle opportunities, the expert said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1179916.shtml>

Complementary advantages, win-win cooperation basis of China-Germany ties: Chinese FM
Global Times, February 14, 2020

China and Germany have agreed that the basis of bilateral relations is to complement each other's advantages and achieve mutual benefit and win-win results, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Thursday.

Speaking at a press conference with his German counterpart Heiko Maas after the two co-chaired the 5th round of China-Germany strategic dialogue on diplomacy and security, Wang said the two sides have reached a series of important consensuses.

First, the two countries have agreed that their shared interests go far beyond their differences, Wang said.

As long as China and Germany show mutual respect for each other, accommodate each other's core interests and concerns, and keep consolidating political mutual trust, their bilateral relations will achieve long-term, stable and sound development, while the China-Germany all-round strategic partnership will reach a new level, he said.

Second, the two countries will keep turning competition into open and win-win cooperation and always work together in a way in which the whole is bigger than the sum of its parts, he said.

Noting that this year features multiple important items on the political agenda between China and the European Union (EU), Wang said that China is willing to work with Germany to speed up the negotiation on the China-EU investment agreement, and develop a China-EU cooperation plan for the next five years, especially to reach more agreements and send out positive signals to the world on upholding multilateralism and improving global governance.

Fourth, as two major countries with significant influence, China and Germany have agreed to strengthen international cooperation in regional and global affairs, and contribute to promoting world peace and development, Wang said.

China stands ready to support Germany in playing an active role as a non-permanent member of the United Nations (UN) Security Council, and is willing to strengthen coordination with Germany within the framework of multilateral mechanisms including the G20, uphold the UN-centered international multilateralism, and safeguard the free trade system based on the World Trade Organization, he said.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1179575.shtml>

Chinese reactor design clears hurdle

Bo Leung

China Daily, February 14, 2020

Britain's Office for Nuclear Regulation has completed the third stage of its assessment of the first Chinese-designed nuclear reactor technology to seek such approval.

The regulator will now move on to the fourth and final stage of its Generic Design Assessment, or GDA, of the UK HPR1000 design.

It is hoped that the design will be used in future on a United Kingdom power plant that will be jointly built by China General Nuclear Power Group, which is also known as CGN, and French energy giant EDF.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation says it increased its regulatory scrutiny and undertook a more detailed assessment of the design for Step 3, during which it focused on the safety and security methods and approaches used by General Nuclear System Limited, the joint venture of CGN and EDF.

The UK HPR1000 technology, if approved, is likely to be used on a project in Bradwell, in the southern England county of Essex.

Ana Gomez-Cobo, the Office for Nuclear Regulation's head of UK HPR1000 regulation, said: "During Step 3 of GDA we have undertaken assessment work across 19 technical disciplines and covered topics of a cross-cutting nature. Our assessment to date has not identified any fundamental safety or security shortfalls that would prevent us issuing a Design Acceptance Confirmation for the UK HPR1000 design."

However, the regulator pointed to a number of areas for which further substantiation is needed from General Nuclear System Limited and "these have been captured as regulatory observations".

"Although progress so far is encouraging, a lot of work by (General Nuclear System Limited) is still required," Gomez-Cobo added. "We will continue to rigorously assess safety and security submissions throughout Step 4 of GDA."

The regulator also noted that, heading into Step 4 of the assessment, "the timely provision of detailed information containing the necessary evidence will be vital to ensuring that ONR has suitable and sufficient documentation to undertake a meaningful assessment".

The cooperation deal between CGN and EDF was agreed by China and the UK in 2015.

Under this agreement, CGN will take a 33.5 percent stake in the construction of Hinkley Point C, which will be the first nuclear power station to be built in the UK for almost 20 years. It will provide about 7 percent of the country's electricity. The partners will then work on other projects, including the one at Bradwell.

Mao Qing, chief technology officer of the HPR1000, said the reactor was the first to be considered by the UK regulator that did not encounter major problems or issues during the third stage of its assessment.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202002/14/WS5e466723a310128217277a92.html>

Homemade strategic cargo plane Y-20 joins battle against epidemic

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, February 13, 2020

China's domestically developed large transport aircraft Y-20 for the first time conducted a large-scale military operation in a situation other than war, arriving Thursday in Wuhan, epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak with medical reinforcements and supplies to join the battle against the epidemic.

The arrival of the homemade strategic aircraft has become another confidence boost to the Chinese people, and showed China's determination to eliminate the coronavirus threat as quickly and effectively as possible, analysts said.

A total of 11 transport aircraft of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force, including multiple Y-20s, Il-76s and Y-9s, arrived at Wuhan's Tianhe International Airport from multiple locations across China on Thursday morning, carrying a military medical team of 947 people and 74 tons of medical supplies, media reported on Thursday.

This is the first time the Y-20 has conducted a large-scale military operation in a situation other than war, and also the first time the PLA Air Force has conducted a large-scale emergency aerial delivery mission systematically featuring large and mid-sized cargo planes, the PLA Air Force said in a statement on Thursday.

The Y-20, with a takeoff weight of up to 200 tons, is a strategic transport aircraft capable of transporting large batches of personnel, equipment and supplies, and has similar functions to the imported Russian Il-76, a military expert who asked not to be named told the Global Times on Thursday, noting that the domestically made Y-20 is not dependent on any other country and is more technically advanced than the Il-76.

To fight the viral outbreak, the PLA Air Force dispatched three transport aircraft to Wuhan on January 24, and eight more arrived on February 2, sending medical teams and supplies that were much needed there. The aircraft used in these two missions were Il-76s.

The deployment of large transport aircraft to fight the epidemic is an indication of China's determination to end the crisis as quickly as possible, as the military has shown a high level of efficiency due to its discipline and expertise, the expert said, noting that the three batches of military transport aircraft deliveries since January showed the Chinese military's strong emergency response and medical support capabilities.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1179422.shtml>

China won't join trilateral arms talks with US and Russia

China Daily, February 13, 2020

The Chinese Foreign Ministry reiterated on Wednesday that China has no intention of joining the so-called trilateral arms control negotiations with the US and Russia, and that this position is clear and understood by Russia and the wider international community.

"It is worth pointing out that the US, sitting on the largest arsenal of the most advanced nuclear weapons, should earnestly fulfill its special responsibility in nuclear disarmament, respond to Russia's call to extend the New START, and further cut down its massive nuclear arsenal, thus

creating conditions for other nuclear weapon states to join multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations," said spokesperson Geng Shuang.

China is committed to preserving world peace, security and stability and upholding international arms control and non-proliferation regimes, a position well known by the international community, said Geng.

China stands ready to work with all parties to strengthen communication and coordination within such frameworks as the conference on disarmament and the mechanism of five nuclear-weapon states; discuss a wide range of issues concerning global strategic stability; and earnestly safeguard multilateralism and multilateral disarmament mechanisms, he stressed. China will also uphold the international order based on international law, defend the authority and efficacy of existing arms control and non-proliferation legal system, and make contributions to international peace and security, Geng said.

<https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202002/13/WS5e44adffa310128217277397.html>

Chinese military never engages in cyber espionage : Defense Spokesperson

Li Jiayao

China Mail, February 13, 2020

“The Chinese military has never engaged in any form of cyber theft. The US accusation is groundless and totally hegemonic,” said Senior Colonel Wuqian, spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense, in a written statement published on Thursday.

The US Department of Justice recently announced charges against four Chinese military members for hacking a US credit reporting agency in 2017. In response, Senior Colonel Wu Qian said on Feb. 13 that the US accusation is groundless, totally hegemonic and judicial bullying. China firmly opposes this and strongly condemns it.

Wu Qian pointed out that China is a staunch defender of international cyber security. The Chinese government has always firmly opposed and cracked down on illegal cybercrimes in accordance with the law. The Chinese military has never engaged and participated in any form of cyber theft.

He said that it is an open secret with irrefutable proof that the US has long been violating international law and basic norms governing international relations by conducting large-scale, organized and indiscriminate cyber espionage, monitoring and surveillance activities against foreign governments, enterprises and individuals. From the case of WikiLeaks to Edward Snowden, the US still owes an explanation to the international community. On the issue of cyber security, the US has applied a naked double standard and acted in a hypocritical manner.

http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/13/content_9741182.htm

US military build-up threatens global arms control: Chinese FM

Zhang Hui

Global Times, February 12, 2020

The Chinese foreign ministry said on Wednesday that the US' unilateralism and building up of military power using all its resources poses a great obstacle to the international arms control process, but is instead shifting the blame to China, following a US national security official's remarks claiming China does not intend to join arms control negotiations as it is modernizing its

armed forces.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said at Wednesday's media briefing that China has no intention of joining the so-called trilateral arms control negotiations with the US and Russia, and this position is clear and understood by Russia and the wider international community.

It is worth pointing out that the US, sitting on the largest arsenal of the most advanced nuclear weapons, should earnestly fulfill its special responsibility in nuclear disarmament, respond to Russia's call to extend the New SART (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty), and further cut down its massive nuclear arsenal, Geng said.

US National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien said on Tuesday to the Atlantic Council in Washington that the US withdrawal from the ineffective Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) may bring Russia and even China to the negotiating table for serious discussions on nuclear arms reductions in the coming months, and he said it's not surprising that China does not intend to join arms control negotiations now, as the wealthy country is modernizing its armed forces.

As for the modernization of China's national defense, Geng said that China's national defense strategy is defensive in its nature, which remains unchanged, and it is only reasonable and legitimate to increase input into the national defense sector proportionally as the country's economy continues to expand, adding that such an increase does not target or threaten any country.

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1179312.shtml>