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# SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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## **Asking China to participate in "trilateral arms control negotiation" infeasible: Chinese envoy** Global Times, October 13, 2020

A Chinese envoy said on Monday that asking China to participate in the "trilateral arms control negotiation" is unfair, unreasonable and infeasible. Geng Shuang, head of the Chinese delegation and deputy permanent representative of China to the United Nations, rejected the so-called "trilateral arms control negotiation" recently hyped up by the United States, in his statement delivered at the general debate of the First Committee of the 75th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). Geng pointed out that recently the United States named China as "the third largest nuclear power on Earth," hyped up "nuclear arms race between the US, Russia and China" and proposed the so-called "trilateral arms control negotiation."

"This is just a trick to shift the focus of the international community. The US intention is to find an excuse to shirk its own special and primary responsibility for nuclear disarmament, and seek a pretext to free its hands and gain absolute military supremacy," he said. China has pursued a nuclear strategy of self-defense, always kept its nuclear capabilities at the minimum level required for its national security, and has never and will never take part in any nuclear arms race with any other country, said the envoy. "Given the huge gap between the nuclear arsenals of China and those of the US and the Russian Federation, it is unfair, unreasonable and infeasible to expect China to join in any trilateral arms control negotiation," he added. "China will never participate in such a negotiation and will never accept any coercion or blackmail," Geng added.

The ambassador emphasized that China's rejection of the so-called "trilateral arms control negotiation" does not mean that China evades its own responsibility for nuclear disarmament or refuses to participate in the global nuclear disarmament process. "Ever since the first day of possessing nuclear weapons, China has been advocating the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons," he noted. China has declared the policy of "no-first-use" of nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances, and unconditionally commits itself not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states or nuclear-weapon-free zones, said the envoy. "China is the only P5 (five permanent members of the UN Security Council) country who has made such commitments," Geng noted. "China is ready to engage in meaningful dialogue on the issues related to strategic stability with all parties on the basis of mutual respect, and will continue its participation in the arms control process under the framework of the United Nations, the Conference on Disarmament and the P5," the ambassador stressed.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1203287.shtml>

## **US sent 60 spy planes close to China in September: Beijing think tank**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, October 13, 2020

Marked rise in flights in Yellow Sea region between China and Korean peninsula, according to Chinese government-backed body. Increase in air refuelling may suggest United States is preparing for future long-distance missions in the South China Sea, it says. At least 60 American warplanes conducted close-up reconnaissance flights near China in September and the US may be preparing for future long-distance missions in the South China Sea, according to a think tank in Beijing. Among the 60 warplanes

recorded, 41 flew over the disputed South China Sea, six over the East China Sea and, further north, 13 over the Yellow Sea, the Chinese government-backed South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative (SCSPI) said in a report released. The report said air refuelling activities had shown an uptick last month, possibly suggesting the United States was preparing for future long-distance attacks against targets in the South China Sea. It said several air refuelling aircraft sent to add fuel to the surveillance planes over the South China Sea had departed from the US' military base in its western Pacific island territory of Guam.

“It’s unusual for the US to dispatch fuel tankers from Guam [instead of from Kadena airbase in Japan] because such operations are uneconomical and inefficient,” the report said. “Such operations are more probably preparing for future long-distance refuelling in extreme conditions, and thus deserve great attention. “This showed that the South China Sea region is still the US’ primary focus, but what is equally notable is that activities in the Yellow Sea region had a marked increase when compared with the sporadic activities two months ago,” the report said.

The warplanes typically carry out two kinds of reconnaissance flights: routine and specific. The former are more predictable, given their set pattern of plane type, frequency and region.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3105279/us-sent-60-spy-planes-close-china-september-beijing-think-tank>

### **China's Xichang launch center to carry out 10 missions by end of March**

Xinhua, October 12, 2020

Southwest China's Xichang Satellite Launch Center will carry out 10 space launches including the Chang'e-5 lunar probe by the end of March next year, a center official said. The center will carry out launch missions twice a month on average, with a minimum interval of five days, said Zhang Xueyu, director of the launch center. The country sent its new optical remote-sensing satellite, the Gaofen-13, into orbit from the center, marking the center's first launch since its ground system was upgraded. To cope with the needs of China's space launches, the center has made great efforts to strengthen sci-tech innovation and shorten project cycles by using domestically developed core technologies, laying the technical foundations for the country's subsequent intensive launch missions.

[http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-10/12/c\\_139435025.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-10/12/c_139435025.htm)

### **Chinese military stages island invasion drill during Taiwan’s ‘Double Tenth’ holiday**

Liu Zhen

South China Morning Post, October 11, 2020

The People’s Liberation Army held a large-scale exercise that simulated the invasion of an island during Taiwan’s Double Tenth holiday, Chinese state media has reported. The drill included new units such as drones, special forces and airborne troops, and saw forces moving from multiple locations in the coastal provinces of Guangdong and Fujian, some of them by night, state broadcaster CCTV reported. “This exercise, with the effective integration of multiple new combat forces, increased the PLA’s capabilities in joint landings and three-dimensional assaults,” the report said.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3105059/chinese-military-stages-island-invasion-drill-during-taiwans>

## **Chinese envoy rejects US accusations over COVID-19, disarmament**

Global Times, October 10, 2020

A Chinese envoy on Friday rejected US accusations against China over COVID-19 and disarmament at the General Debate of the First Committee of the UN General Assembly. In his statement, a US representative made groundless accusations against China over COVID-19, and claimed that Russia and China are engaged in nuclear build-up. Geng Shuang, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, exercised the right of reply and rejected the accusations.

The US representative spread "political virus" and smeared China over COVID-19, which is totally unacceptable, he said, adding that shrugging off responsibility cannot cover the mistakes the United States has made in combating the pandemic, and cannot fool the international community. China categorically rejects the baseless accusations leveled by the US representative against China's arms control policy. China opposes arms race, upholds multilateralism, implements its obligations under relevant arms control treaties and agreements and supports dialogue and cooperation in the security area. China's positive contribution to international security and disarmament is widely recognized, he said. The United States, however, poses the gravest threat to global strategic security and stability, he said.

Multilateral arms control and disarmament concern international peace and security and the well-being of all countries. UN member states, big or small, rich or poor, strong or weak, have a responsibility and obligation to participate in the process on an equal footing. Unilateralism, exceptionalism, and bullying practices will get nowhere, he said. As the strongest military power with the most advanced weaponry in the world, the United States has a special and primary responsibility in arms control and disarmament. "America First" should be converted to "compliance first, dismantlement first, and disarmament first," he said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1203021.shtml>

## **Ambassador Geng Shuang: Ten Facts about US Wrongdoings in Disarmament and International Security**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Global Times, October 10, 2020

On October 9, the First Committee of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly held its general debate. Ambassador Geng Shuang, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, exercised the right of reply to the accusations leveled by the US representative on China.

In exercising China's right of reply, I have just one message: the US is the gravest threat to global strategic security and stability. Why? Here are 10 basic facts.

First, the US is obsessed with military build-up. The US ranks first in military expenditure. It spent

more than 700 billion dollars on military in 2019, nearly 40% of the world's total, and more than the next 10 countries combined.

Second, the US is returning to cold war mentality. In its National Security Strategy Report and Nuclear Posture Review Report, the US blatantly defined China and Russia as strategic competitors, hyping up external threats, and stirring up confrontation among major countries.

Third, the US is pursuing unilateralism. It withdrew from the INF Treaty and the JCPOA, unsigned the ATT, and adopted a negative attitude towards the extension of the New START Treaty, exposing its pure pragmatism on bilateral and multilateral arms control treaties and regimes.

Fourth, the US is seeking to free its hands. The US has been upgrading its nuclear arsenals, and lowering the threshold for nuclear weapons use. It has dodged its special responsibility for nuclear disarmament with the pretext of so-called trilateral negotiations, and even had discussions on resuming nuclear test.

Fifth, the US is pushing political maneuvering. The US follows double standards on nuclear non-proliferation, abuses unilateral sanctions, and serves its geopolitical agenda by using the hot-spot issues such as the Iranian nuclear issue and the Korean nuclear issue.

Sixth, the US is breaking strategic balance. The US has deployed missile defense systems in the Asia-Pacific and Central and Eastern Europe, and is planning to deploy land-based medium range missiles in the Asia-Pacific and Europe. The purpose is to enhance military presence and seek absolute dominance.

Seventh, the US is impeding biological arms control. The US is the only country blocking the relaunch of negotiations for a protocol that includes a verification regime to strengthen the BWC, and obstructing international efforts to verify biological activities. The US is now a stumbling block for multilateral biological arms control.

Eighth, the US is delaying the destruction of chemical weapons. As the only CWC State Party still in possession of chemical weapons, the US has extended the deadline for the destruction of chemical weapons for several times, and failed to fulfill its obligations under the Convention. The US has become the biggest obstacle to a world free of chemical weapons.

Ninth, the US is relaunching its star wars program. The US has created the Space Force, reestablished the Space Command, and sped up weapon tests and military drills in outer space. These acts threaten outer space security, and seriously contradict peaceful use of outer space.

Tenth, the US is building an empire of hacking. The US is engaged in massive cyber attacks and surveillance worldwide through programs such as PRISM, and developing its cyber warfare capacity in an attempt to dominate cyberspace.

The ten facts above are merely a glimpse of the US wrongdoings in the field of international security and disarmament. If time permits, I can give more examples. The international community sees the US wrongdoings very clearly.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1203022.shtml>

## **PLA slams ‘provocative action’ as US warship sails through South China Sea**

Mandy Zuo

Beijing will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national sovereignty and security, statement says. China has demanded the United States stop its “provocative actions” in the South China Sea after an American warship was spotted close to the disputed Paracel Islands.

The People’s Liberation Army’s Southern Theatre Command described the actions of the USS John S. McCain guided missile destroyer as dangerous. Senior Colonel Zhang Nandong, who is also the command’s spokesman, said in a statement that the PLA dispatched naval and aerial forces to track the destroyer and drive it away. Colonel urges US to ‘strictly manage and control its maritime and air military operations’ after guided missile destroyer spotted close to Paracel Islands.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3104971/china-us-relations-pla-slams-provocative-action-us-warship>

## **PLA's new insulated cabin debuts for plateau border defense**

China Military Online, October 10, 2020

Recently, a new dismountable self-energized insulated cabin has been deployed to the PLA frontier defense troops stationed in the plateau, marking a new breakthrough in logistics support for large-scale and fast field camping in high-altitude and alpine regions. Developed by the PLA Army Engineering University, the insulated cabin comprises the dorm, canteen, integrated washing room, dry self-cleaning bathroom, warehouse, micro grid, and heating device, totaling seven modules. It mainly serves troops stationed in plateau and alpine areas where transportation and logistics support are challenging. This “self-energized” plug-and-play cabin will make the troops less reliant on long-distance fuel delivery.

With strong plateau adaptability, the insulated cabin can function normally in areas at the elevation of 5,500m in the temperature of -55°C (-67°F), and with various transportation conditions. Featuring a short assembly time and easy operation, the cabin can be installed in areas without water, electricity. The dismountable unit can fit into various spaces with over 90% of its components reusable. The cabin’s heating system combining passive solar house and active solar collectors ensures a good insulating performance that keeps the temperature in the cabin at 15°C(59°F) or above when it is -40°C(-40°F) outside, and diesel heaters can be used at times of emergency when it rains or snows ceaselessly. The cabin adopts a biodegradable dry self-cleaning bathroom, and the integrated PV-based micro grid ensures energy self-sufficiency.

It is learned that the new dismountable self-energized insulated cabin is mainly used by the frontier and coastal defense troops stationed on plateaus or in alpine regions to support their combat readiness operations and training exercises in extreme weather conditions. In the past two years, the insulated cabin has been put into use at a few sentry posts on plateaus or in alpine regions and has stood the test of extreme geographical and weather conditions.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/10/content\\_9915832.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-10/10/content_9915832.htm)

## **Mars probe makes deep-space maneuver**

Zhao Lei

China Daily, October 10, 2020

Mars probe Tianwen 1 is seen in its first selfies in space on Oct 1, 2020. [Photo/Xinhua]  
China's Tianwen 1 Mars probe carried out a key in-flight maneuver about 30 million kilometers away from Earth. The deep-space orbital operation began at 11 pm, after the robotic vehicle received signals from ground controllers at the Beijing Aerospace Control Center. Its main engine, which has 3,000 newtons of thrust power, was activated and operated about eight minutes, moving the spacecraft toward a Martian orbit. The spacecraft will continue traveling about four months in an Earth-Mars transfer trajectory toward the red planet and will conduct two to three more orbital corrections before entering Mars' gravitational field, according to the China National Space Administration.

Rao Wei, a project manager for Tianwen 1 at the China Academy of Space Technology, said on Friday night that the elaborately designed maneuver was intended to adjust the flight route to enable the spacecraft to fly accurately toward the preset point where the vehicle is expected to be captured by Mars' gravity at the beginning of 2021. The operation will also allow the probe to continue its journey in a fuel-efficient manner, he explained. "The biggest challenge in tonight's operation was that the 3,000-newton-thrust engine would need to work for a relatively long period of time under very high pressure and temperature," Rao said, adding that the long-distance control and tracking was also a major challenge.

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202010/10/WS5f8085f2a31024ad0ba7dbf0.html>