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SYLLOGE ON CHINA

Focus: Nuclear, Space, Missiles and other Security Issues

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INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY

Russia's new strategy shows US' failure to split China-Russia ties

Yang Sheng

Global Times, July 05, 2021

Russia's latest updated national security strategy shows that the US attempt to split China-Russia ties has failed again, and this is a clear signal sent by Moscow to the world that it still considers the main threat is from the West rather than the East. Chinese experts said the Russian leadership with strategic wisdom has found the influence and strength of the West is declining and that is why it is prioritizing ties with non-Western major powers like China and India. The National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation is a strategic document outlining the means by which citizens, society and the state are to be protected against external and internal threats in every sphere of national life. The first such document was created in 1997, and it has been continually updated to account for new developments, said Sputnik News.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1227805.shtml>

Chinese astronauts complete first extravehicular activities for space station construction

China Military Online, July 04, 2021

Chinese astronauts have completed extravehicular activities (EVAs) and returned to the space station core module Tianhe, according to the China Manned Space Agency (CMSA). The first EVAs during the construction of the country's space station were a complete success, the CMSA declared. The Shenzhou-12 spaceship crew, after approximately 7 hours of extravehicular activities (EVAs), have completed all the scheduled tasks, and astronauts Liu Boming and Tang Hongbo returned to the space station core module at 2:57 p.m. (Beijing Time), according to CMSA.

Astronaut Nie Haisheng has been staying inside Tianhe in cooperation with Liu and Tang for their EVAs. This was the second time that Chinese astronauts have performed EVAs after the Shenzhou-7 mission in 2008. The scheduled tasks of the EVAs, including equipment installation and panoramic camera lifting, were accomplished with close coordination between space and the ground, as well as between the astronauts inside and outside of the spacecraft. The EVAs tested the performance and function of the new-generation homemade extravehicular mobility units and the coordination between the astronauts and the mechanical arm, as well as the reliability and safety of related EVA supporting equipment. This has laid an important foundation for subsequent EVAs for the space station construction, said the CMSA. The three astronauts on board the Shenzhou-12 spaceship were sent into space and entered Tianhe on June 17 and have since carried out a number of tasks as planned. Currently, they are in good health and will perform EVAs for a second time during their stay in orbit, the CMSA said.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-07/04/content_10058137.htm

Type 052D destroyer Kaifeng enters PLA naval service, celebrates CPC centennial with drill

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, July 04, 2021

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy has commissioned the fourth new Type 052D destroyer this year, the Kaifeng, it was revealed for the first time on Friday in an official statement

introducing a recent drill by the ship amid the celebrations of the Communist Party of China's (CPC) centennial. Under the leadership of the CPC, the country's shipbuilding industry has developed rapidly and led to commissioning of many warships in the first half this year alone, with even more to come in the second half, analysts said.

Immediately after the grand celebration ceremony of the CPC's 100th anniversary held in Beijing on Thursday, troops of the PLA Navy North Sea Fleet began to study the Party spirit from the event and vowed to strengthen the military and win battles by training and practicing for combat, according to a statement released on the fleet's WeChat account. As a part of the efforts, the warship Kaifeng set sail and held a combat scenario exercise in an undisclosed body of water, the statement said. Photos attached to the statement show that the Kaifeng is a Type 052D destroyer with the hull number 124. It conducted training exercises including live-fire shooting of the main gun and the close-in weapons system, the takeoff and landing of the vessel-based helicopters and light arms shooting at sea. This is the first time the Kaifeng has been seen featured in an official report engaged in a maritime exercise, and this indicates that the warship has entered service with the PLA Navy North Sea Fleet and is generating operational capability very fast, observers said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1227782.shtml>

To compete with Elon Musk's Starlink, China's private space ventures must work with their state-owned competitors

Xinmei Shen

South China Morning Post, July 04 , 2021

When Xie Tao was working at a Chinese state-owned space company in the early 2010s, he had an epiphany: if he did not start his own company soon, he would miss his chance.

He and his colleagues were inspired by Google's Lunar X Prize, a competition for privately funded teams to be the first to land a lunar rover on the Moon. Since paying a state-run company to launch the rover would have been too expensive – and there were no private options – they had to give up before they could even start. “I felt like someone in China must start this, even though at the time it still wasn't recognised by most people, and there weren't clear policies,” said Xie, founder and CEO of Chinese commercial satellite start-up Commsat. “By the time we realised it was the right time, it might have been too late.”

<https://www.scmp.com/tech/tech-trends/article/3139643/compete-elon-musks-starlink-chinas-private-space-ventures-must>

China's arms trade: which countries does it buy from and sell to?

Maryann Xue

South China Morning Post, July 04, 2021

The deep-sea drones, ballistic missiles, tanks, and fighter jets flaunted in military parades and at events like the Communist Party's centenary celebrations increasingly demonstrate China's growing military power. China has long been engaged in an arms race with other global leaders to import and produce the most advanced military technology. But where does it acquire its foreign weapons, and where do its own armaments go? Who is China's main supplier of weapons?

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3139603/how-china-grew-buyer-major-arms-trade-player>

Changing Taiwan ocean conditions could affect PLA's submarines

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, July 04, 2021

The Chinese military has been warned that changes to the currents and temperatures off Taiwan's east coast mean it will have to adapt its submarine warfare plans in the event of an invasion. A recent report posted on the South China Sea Wave, an anonymous social media account dedicated to military analysis, said the changes to the conditions in the Kuroshio Current – also known as the black stream – could hamper any attempted invasion by mainland China, but also offered new attacking opportunities. The eastern side of the island is harder to attack from the mainland and is the site of many major Taiwanese military bases – making it key to the PLA's invasion plans.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3139715/changing-taiwan-ocean-conditions-could-affect-plas-submarines>

China's nuclear deterrence buildup cannot be tied down by the US: Global Times editorial

Global Times, July 03, 2021

The US has the strategic ambition to subdue China. Once a military confrontation between China and the US over the Taiwan question breaks out, if China has enough nuclear capacity to deter the US, that will serve as the foundation of China's national will.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1227692.shtml>

China launches five new satellites

Xinhua, July 03, 2021

China sent five satellites into planned orbits from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in northern Shanxi Province on Saturday. The satellite Jilin-1 01B, Xingshidai-10 and three Jilin-1 Gaofen 03D satellites were launched by a Long March-2D rocket at 10:51 a.m. (Beijing Time). This was the 376th flight mission of the Long March rocket series, the launch center said.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-07/03/c_1310041178.htm

US' Indo-Pacific Strategy a 'regression of history,' should be swept into dustbin: Wang Yi

Li Qingqing and Lu Yuanzhi

Global Times, July 03, 2021

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Saturday expounded China's rising confidence and global role in international affairs, criticized the US and some of its allies for their outdated Cold War mentality, and emphasized the importance of upholding multilateralism and abandoning zero-sum game mentality in dealing with challenges faced by all countries. Wang delivered

a keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the 9th World Peace Forum organized by Tsinghua University and Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs on Saturday. "The CPC will never seek hegemony and will never engage in expansionism. For a century, the CPC has always adhered to fairness and justice, and has been unremittingly promoting the freedom and liberation of human being," Wang stressed. The CPC just celebrated its 100th anniversary on July 1. Wang also criticized the US on the Taiwan question. He said "the US is trying to take risks on the Taiwan question. This is extremely wrong and dangerous. Achieving complete reunification of China is a historical trend and any person or force cannot stop it."

"Today's China is no longer the same country 100 years ago," Wang said. While China has contributed to fighting unilateralism and promoting peace and stability, the US has played a quite different role worldwide. Sung Kim, US special envoy for North Korea, had talks with Noh Kyu-duk, South Korea's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, on June 21. Kim has offered to meet officials from Pyongyang "anywhere, anytime" but he also said that the US will continue to enforce UN Security Council sanctions on North Korea over its nuclear weapons program and urged other countries to do the same. Wang also called on the US to not just "pass the buck to others and walk away. As a friendly neighbor, China has always adhered to the Afghan peaceful reconciliation process led by Afghan people themselves."

On the Iranian nuclear issue, Wang said the US' unilateral withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and exerting its maximum pressure on Iran are the root causes of the current Iranian nuclear crisis. As another example of harming world peace and stability, Wang also cited the US' Indo-Pacific Strategy as an example, calling it a "regression of history that should be swept into the dustbin." "Dreaming the old dream of Cold War hegemony will not help win a promising future, let alone building a better world," Wang said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1227701.shtml>

Is China building a vast network of nuclear missile silos?

Liu Zhen and Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, July 02, 2021

Mainland military analysts pour cold water on a recent Washington Post report that said satellite images suggest new facilities were being built in the desert. Nuclear hawks favour more sea-based weapons and point out that the most advanced land-based ICBM can be launched from a mobile platform. Chinese military observers have dismissed US media reports that China is building a network of nuclear missile silos in its northwestern desert, saying that they would be too vulnerable to attack and the technology involved is obsolete.

A report published by The Washington Post on Thursday said 119 construction sites that resembled existing launch facilities for nuclear-armed ballistic missiles were being built near the city of Yumen in Gansu province. The report was based on a study of commercial satellite images by the California-based James Martin Centre for Nonproliferation Studies and fuelled speculation that China is seeking to expand its nuclear capabilities.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3139667/china-building-vast-network-nuclear-missile-silos>

WashPost-quoted researcher amateur to say suspected silos are for DF-41

Hu Xijin

Global Times, July 02, 2021,

The Washington Post reported that China has begun the construction of 119 nearly identical sites in a desert near the northwestern city of Yumen, Gansu Province. The report claimed that researchers at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies in California judged from the commercial satellite images that these construction sites contain features that mirror those seen at existing launch facilities for China's arsenal of nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles. Thus they asserted that China is building more than 100 new missile silos, which, if completed, would represent a "historic shift" for China's nuclear arsenal.

The report also cited an expert from the nonproliferation studies center that such construction boom suggests a major effort to bolster the credibility of China's nuclear deterrent, and the scale of the building spree was "incredible." The researcher, Jeffrey Lewis, also told the Washington Post that the silos are probably intended for DF-41 intercontinental ballistic missiles which can carry multiple warheads and reach targets as far as the US mainland.

It's unknown if the construction sites mentioned by the Washington Post are really silos for intercontinental ballistic missiles. But I must say that Lewis is an amateur. In reality, DF-41 is solid-fueled road-mobile intercontinental ballistic missile and one of its biggest advantages is its mobility and vitality. There is no point to put it inside a silo. Lewis may not understand the basic features of DF-41 before shooting off his mouth at the media. Silos are of course very important. They can store high-thrust liquid-fuel intercontinental missiles and carry higher-yield nuclear warheads. Silos are an important part of the nuclear power of major powers. China certainly has reasons to build them. However, real silos are often built at the same time as decoy silos. The actual distribution of silos is a top secret of nuclear powers.

I believe Washington Post produced the report in cooperation with US think tank with the aim to put pressure on China. It wanted to force China to issue a statement regarding its nuclear plan and squeeze the room for China's nuclear development through public opinion pressure. I suggest the Chinese side ignore this report and other similar reports in Western media. China should neither confirm nor deny such "revelation" and let the Western media imagine it. This is what nuclear deterrent means. By doing so China will smash any US attempt to suppress China's nuclear capacity building. China must continue to strengthen its nuclear deterrence. How this is accomplished is a decision made within China's sovereign rights as a nuclear power. The Chinese side has no obligation to respond to Western media reports which have clear ulterior motives. We must now be constrained by those reports.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1227655.shtml>

Reports that China is building new intercontinental ballistic missile silos 'concerning', says US

South China Morning Post, July 02, 2021

The United States expressed concern on Thursday over a report that China is building more than 100 new silos for intercontinental ballistic missiles. The Washington Post, citing a study of commercial satellite images by a California-based group, reported on Thursday that the silos were being built in a desert near the northwestern city of Yumen. The James Martin Centre for Nonproliferation Studies in Monterey said the 119 construction sites in Gansu province were similar to existing Chinese launch

facilities for nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles. US State Department spokesman Ned Price was asked about the report on Thursday.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/world/united-states-canada/article/3139519/reports-china-building-new-intercontinental>

Air parade pays tribute to Party centenary

China Military online, July 02, 2021

Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee, said on Thursday that China will build its military into a world-class force to better defend the country. "We must accelerate the modernization of national defense and the armed forces. A strong country must have a strong military, as only then can it guarantee the security of the nation," Xi, who is also Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, said at a grand gathering on Thursday in Beijing to celebrate the CPC's centenary. "On the journey ahead, we must fully implement the Party's thinking on strengthening the military in the new era as well as our military strategy for the new era, maintain the Party's absolute leadership over the people's armed forces, and follow a Chinese path to military development," he said.

The Party will strive to make the People's Liberation Army a top military in the world so that it will have greater capability and more reliable means to protect China's national sovereignty, security and development interests, according to Xi.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-07/02/content_10057453.htm

Chinese researchers develop AI-steered platform facilitating COVID-19 prevention and control

Global Times, July 01, 2021

Chinese researchers developed a big data and artificial intelligence (AI)-steered model in a bid to reduce economical cost while carrying out accurate COVID-19 prevention and control work. The model, developed by a task force from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at Southern University of Science and Technology, is able to complete deduction based on the model's simulation. Such model facilitated the establishment of a platform which has provided reference for the government to combat the virus.

The platform started its demonstration experiment in Shenzhen at the beginning of the year and finished the data analysis in May, Song Xuan, leader of the team and also a researcher at the department, told the China Science and Technology Daily. As South China's Guangdong Province encountered a COVID-19 flare-up in recent month, Song said a second round of testing will be carried out in the province's COVID-19 medium and high risk areas soon. The platform has applied for more than 40 Chinese and international patents, the researcher noted.

Working together with Shenzhen disease control and prevention center and Smartcity Tech, the team worked out the platform by integrating, processing and analyzing a variety of people's mobility and travel data. With AI technology, the platform can provide predictions and simulations of virus transmission based on the model. In order to protect users' privacy, the task force did not require any personal information. "How to use big data while protecting people's privacy remains one of the difficulties of our research," Song told the newspaper. "We finished the trial out of the model by not tracing people's

movement but only using aggregated data. As a result, it raised high demands for our choice of model and algorithm design."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202107/1227594.shtml>

China's J-20 'Mighty Dragons' take starring role in aerial display for Communist Party centenary celebrations

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, July 01, 2021

The Chinese Communist Party's centenary celebrations featured the largest display yet of its most advanced active stealth fighter, the J-20. Fifteen of the jets, known as the "Mighty Dragon", featured in Thursday's performance above Tiananmen Square in Beijing, compared with the five that took part in the National Day parade in October 2019. But that event featured nearly 170 aircraft – the country's largest military fly-past – compared with the symbolically important total of 71 on display.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3139487/chinas-j-20-mighty-dragons-take-starring-role-aerial-display>

China's innovation road unstoppable under CPC's leadership

Global Times June 30, 2021

Basking in a festival atmosphere, the Chinese people are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China (CPC) which has led the nation breaking through challenges one after another and emerged as a giant economy, a world-class manufacturing hub, as well as a high-tech powerhouse. It has never been plain sailing. Taking the technological development of China as an example, external obstruction has been a long-existed challenge alongside its development. However, the 100-years of history of CPC already showed that these obstacles can never stop the forward progress of China, not in the early days when China had no nuclear weapons or decades later when China was excluded from the US-dominated International Space Station.

Starting from a backward, war-torn agrarian economy, China at that time had nearly no foundation to develop technology; and against the backdrop of the Cold War between East and West, China knew the significance of pursuing an independent approach in developing technologies. Alongside its great efforts to promote economic construction, the technology advancement journey was also embarked.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202106/1227476.shtml>

China supports S. Korea's just position in condemning Japan's decision to dump wastewater into sea, urges Japan to withdraw mistaken plan: FM

Global Times, June 30, 2021

China's Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that China supports South Korea's just position in condemning Japan's decision to dump wastewater into the sea and urges Japan to withdraw its mistaken decision after a South Korean parliamentary committee on Tuesday approved a resolution condemning the plan. Over the past two months since Japan unilaterally made the decision to discharge the contaminated radioactive

water from the Fukushima nuclear power plant into the sea, Pacific Rim countries including China and South Korea, as well as the international organizations including the Pacific Islands Forum have all expressed grave concerns over Japan's decision, said Wang Wenbin, spokesperson of the ministry, at a press conference on Wednesday.

Japan could have spent the two months in full consultation with stakeholders in the international community, adjusting the disposal of the wastewater, and rectifying the chaotic management of the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO). However, the Japanese government has wilfully persisted in pushing forward the preparations for the discharge of the wastewater, and so far has failed to respond seriously and responsibly to the concerns of the international community, Wang pointed out.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202106/1227512.shtml>

China, Vietnam navies wrap up 30th joint patrol in Beibu Gulf

China Military Online, June 30, 2021

The 30th joint patrol in the Beibu Gulf, conducted by the Chinese PLA Southern Theater Command and the Vietnam People's Navy, wrapped up successfully on June 25. China and Vietnam each dispatched two naval vessels to participate in this joint patrol. They sailed for nearly 26 hours, with a total voyage of more than 275 nautical miles. The joint patrol has played an active role in maintaining security, stability and good order in the Beibu Gulf waters and promoting the healthy development of relations between the two militaries.

The patrol fleets of China and Vietnam arrived at the assembly location respectively on June 24. After communication waves correction and welcoming speeches, they started the crossover patrols along the China-Vietnam maritime boundary in the Beibu Gulf. During the joint patrol, the fleets of the two sides informed each other of the hydrological and meteorological conditions, sea and air conditions, and the heading and speed information, which enhanced both sides' resource sharing and maritime communications.

http://english.chinamil.com.cn/view/2021-06/30/content_10056665.htm

Xi, Putin announce extension of China-Russia friendly cooperation treaty

Xinhua, June 27, 2021

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a joint statement Monday, officially deciding to extend the China-Russia Treaty of Good-Neighborliness and Friendly Cooperation. The announcement came during talks between the two heads of state via video link. Hailing the upcoming 20th anniversary of the signing of the treaty, Xi said in Beijing that the treaty has established the idea of enduring friendship, which conforms to the fundamental interests of the two countries as well as the themes of peace and development.

The treaty is a vivid example of fostering a new type of international relations and building a community with a shared future for humanity, he said. Putin said the treaty demonstrates the willingness of enduring friendship between the two peoples. The relevant principles and spirit established by the treaty have played an important and unique role in the long-term and sound development of Russia-China relations. "Russia is satisfied with the unprecedented high level of current China-Russia ties as well as

comprehensive and steady development of bilateral cooperation," he said. The treaty extension will lay a more solid foundation for the long-term bilateral ties development, Putin said. "On the treaty's basis, China-Russia relations have developed rapidly in various fields, covering politics, the economy, and culture over the past 20 years. The relationship between the two countries has also upgraded to a comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination for the new era," said Li Ziguo, director of the Department for European-Central Asian Studies of the China Institute of International Studies.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2021-06/29/c_1310032860.htm

Chinese military steps up training along disputed Indian border

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, June 26, 2021

The People's Liberation Army has conducted more than 100 joint exercises so far this year and has stepped up its training along the disputed border with India, the Chinese defence ministry has said. Military spokesman Ren Guoqiang told a regular press conference on Thursday that operations had continued despite the Covid-19 pandemic and included a "record-breaking" high-altitude drill involving more than 1,000 troops from 20 units earlier this month. Ren said the exercise, which included the use of drones and was "aimed at boosting the border troops' combat capabilities in an extremely cold, tough and risky environment", was part of the celebrations of the Communist Party's centenary. He also said that the exercises included both militia units and regular forces to strengthen their combat capabilities.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3138824/chinese-military-steps-training-along-disputed-indian-border>