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# 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 (MP - IDSA)



INDIAN PUGWASH SOCIETY



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## **China clarifies neutral stance as Russia, Ukraine poised for talks**

Global Times, February 28, 2022

Although the US and some other Western countries are trying to handle the current situation in Ukraine with waves of sanctions against Russia and questioning Beijing's neutral stance, China has once again clarified its neutrality and the reason to the EU, France, Germany and the UK as to why it opposes sanctions ahead of the UN Emergency Special Session on Sunday. Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had phone conversations with UK Foreign Secretary Elizabeth Truss, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs Josep Borrell, French Diplomatic Advisor to the President Emmanuel Bonne and German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock from Friday to Saturday, according to the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Sunday. Wang stressed that "China supports and encourages all diplomatic efforts conducive to a peaceful settlement of the Ukraine crisis. China welcomes the earliest possible direct dialogue and negotiation between Russia and Ukraine."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202202/1253364.shtml>

## **Record number of satellites share space ride in Long March-8 second flight**

Global Times, February 27, 2022

China's new-generation medium size carrier rocket Long March-8 took off from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in South China's Hainan Province for a second flight at 11 am on Sunday. The rocket successfully sent a total of 22 commercial satellites into their pre-determined orbits, an amount which is a record high for a single launch mission in the country's aerospace history. The satellites in this commercial rideshare mission were designed and manufactured by seven entities and the users are from seven domestic commercial aerospace companies and two scientific research institutions, and they include optical remote sensing Taijing3-01, Taijing4-01 manufactured by the Minospace Co, Data collection satellite Tianqi-19 by the Shandong Institute of Aerospace Electronics Technology and Phosphorus-1 also an optical remote sensing satellite by the Wuhan University.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202202/1253286.shtml>

## **Linglong 1's lower cylinder of steel containment successfully lifted**

Global Times, February 27, 2022

The lower cylinder of the steel containment of the world's first commercial modular small reactor on land, the Linglong 1, was successfully lifted into position on Saturday in Changjiang Nuclear Power Plant in South China's Hainan Province, completing the milestone 46 days ahead of schedule, according to media reports. Launched by China National Nuclear Corporation, the multipurpose modular small reactor technology demonstration project officially started its construction in July, 2021, which will have a power generation capacity of 125,000 kilowatts, according to Xinhua News Agency.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202202/1253295.shtml>

## **Russia's attack shows drones are high on hit lists – and often under the radar**

South China Morning Post, February 27, 2022

Experts are calling for higher awareness of the operations of drones in low-altitude airspace as the autonomous weapons become increasingly active, especially during conflicts. On Monday, Saudi Arabia's state-run news agency said 16 people of various nationalities had been wounded at an airport after the interception and destruction of a drone carrying explosives, which it said was launched by Yemen's Iran-backed rebels. And on Thursday, drones were among the first batch of attack targets that Russia's forces destroyed in Ukraine, along with key military assets such as airbases.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3168464/russias-attack-shows-drones-are-high-hit-lists-and-often-under>

## **Security Council extends mandate of committee for nuclear, biological, chemical weapons**

Xinhua, February 26, 2022

The UN Security Council on Friday renewed the mandate of its committee monitoring implementation of a resolution that aims to prevent non-state actors from acquiring nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and their means of delivery. Unanimously adopting resolution 2622 (2022) and acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, the council decided to extend, until Nov. 30 2022, the mandate of the committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) with the continued assistance of its group of experts. By the text, the council further decided that the committee should continue to conduct and complete the comprehensive review on the status of implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) and submit its conclusions to the council.

<https://english.news.cn/20220226/2f163e762e014f75ab66b29fd668b34b/c.html>

## **How mainland Chinese transport plane highlighted 'serious weaknesses' in Taiwan's air defences**

South China Morning Post, February 26, 2022

The failure by Taiwan's military to spot a civilian plane from mainland China near an islet held by Taipei earlier this month has highlighted a "serious weakness" in its radar system, a former instructor has said. Last week Taiwan's defence ministry confirmed that "an unidentified fixed-wing twin-propeller aircraft" that flew close to Dongyin earlier this month was a Y-12, a small transport plane, from the Chinese mainland.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3168407/how-mainland-chinese-transport-plane-highlighted-serious>

## **PLA develops new emergency cold-proof equipment for plateau troops**

China Military Online, February 25, 2022

Recently, a scientific research team from the PLA Army Research Institute went to the training camp of a firepower regiment under the PLA Xinjiang Military Command in the plateau area with an elevation of 5,300 meters to conduct on-site testing of three types of plateau emergency cold-proof equipment. The snow-covered plateau features low temperature and hypoxia all year round, which puts higher requirements for equipment operation. The research and development of cold-proof facilities and equipment concerns the physical and mental health of border troops and affects their combat capabilities. With this in mind, the research team was to test three new projects: the inflatable tent, the new thermal insulation water tank and the improved tent for extremely cold condition. Song Yao, a member of the research team and an engineer at the PLA Army Research Institute, introduced that an inflatable tent takes an area of 36 square meters after being deployed, which can accommodate 25 people to change clothes at the same time. Driven by a 10-kilowatt diesel generator, it can raise the indoor temperature and keep it stable at 26°C after running for only 20 minutes. It is easy to use and has low power consumption.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-02/25/content\\_10135367.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-02/25/content_10135367.htm)

## **Chinese Navy completes delivering disaster relief supplies to Tonga**

China Military Online, February 25, 2022

Amphibious dock landing ship Wuzhishan and comprehensive supply ship Chaganhu attached to the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy departed from the port of Nuku'alofa on the morning of February 23, 2022, after delivering disaster relief supplies to Tonga. Tongan government officials, staff of the Chinese Embassy in Tonga and overseas Chinese representatives came to the pier to see off the ships. The second batch of disaster-relief supplies provided by Chinese government, weighting 1,400 tons in total, included prefab houses, tractors, electric generators, pumps, water purifiers, emergency food and medical equipment.

[http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-02/25/content\\_10135366.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2022-02/25/content_10135366.htm)

## **Australia should make more self-reflection: Defense Spokesperson**

China Military Online, February 24, 2022

A Chinese defense spokesperson on Thursday urged Australia to stay out of other countries' businesses and spend more time reflecting on itself. Senior Colonel Tan Kefei, spokesperson for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense, made the remarks at a regular press conference in response to the latest comment made by Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton, who criticized China's "militarization" activities in the South China Sea and thought that Australia has to confront China in the region. Snr. Col. Tan said that the South China Sea islands are China's inherent territory. China's infrastructure construction and deployment of necessary defensive forces on its own soil are perfectly justified and beyond reproach. No one, including Australia, has the right to arrogantly make irresponsible remarks.

[http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2022-02/24/content\\_10135145.htm](http://www.81.cn/jwywpc/2022-02/24/content_10135145.htm)

## **U.S. "Indo-Pacific Strategy" interferes in China's internal affairs: defense spokesperson**

Xinhua, February 24, 2022

A Chinese defense spokesperson on Thursday criticized the recently released U.S. "Indo-Pacific Strategy." The U.S. report hyped up foreign threats and tried to form exclusive cliques yet claimed to promote regional freedom, openness, prosperity and security, which is "void of any logic or reason," said Tan Kefei, a spokesperson for China's Ministry of National Defense, at a press conference. China firmly opposes the negative content regarding Taiwan in the U.S. report, which is a gross interference in China's internal affairs and a violation of the one-China principle and the basic norms governing international relations, Tan said.

<https://english.news.cn/20220224/695c215a7fed4add957399214503576f/c.html>

## **Taiwan military ordered to be combat ready in case of disruption by 'outside force' amid Ukraine crisis**

South China Morning Post, February 23, 2022

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen has ordered the island's armed and security forces to step up their surveillance, remain alert for military activity in the region and strengthen combat readiness as tensions between Russia and Ukraine mount. Tsai, concerned about the worsening Ukraine situation, met top officials on Wednesday and sought counsel over how the self-ruled island should react and how the crisis would affect Taiwan.

[https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3168052/taiwan-military-ordered-be-combat-ready-case-disruption-outside?module=perpetual\\_scroll\\_0&pgtype=article&campaign=3168052](https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3168052/taiwan-military-ordered-be-combat-ready-case-disruption-outside?module=perpetual_scroll_0&pgtype=article&campaign=3168052)

## **China's Type 055 large destroyer Lhasa conducts live-fire drills, enhances combat capabilities**

Global Times, February 22, 2022

The Lhasa, the second Type 055 10,000 ton-class large destroyer of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy, recently conducted live-fire drills against sea, air and land targets, effectively enhancing the warship's comprehensive combat capabilities. This is the second time the Lhasa has held seagoing exercises since the start of 2022 and experts said on Monday that the drills consolidated the vessel's operational capability in advance of more important operations soon to come. A vessel training center attached to the PLA Northern Theater Command Navy recently organized the Type 055 guided missile destroyer Lhasa to participate in a maritime exercise in the Yellow Sea to boost the crew's comprehensive combat capabilities, China Central Television (CCTV) reported on Monday.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202202/1252825.shtml>

## **Chinese FM holds phone talks with U.S. secretary of state over Ukraine, Korean Peninsula nuclear issue**

Xinhua, February 22, 2022

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday held a phone conversation with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken over the Ukraine issue and the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue at the latter's request. Blinken also updated Wang about the latest relations between the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Wang said the problem between the United States and the DPRK is at the heart of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, noting that the U.S. side should attach importance to the DPRK's legitimate and reasonable concerns and take substantial actions. China stands for direct talks between the United States and the DPRK, and will as always play a constructive role in promoting the resolution of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.

<https://english.news.cn/northamerica/20220222/1b508259c95142e6a4a10a87d9516acf/c.html>

## **France to host 1st ministerial meeting on Indo-Pacific, eyes 'leading role'**

Global Times, February 21, 2022

France is scheduled to host the first European ministerial meeting on the Indo-Pacific on Tuesday, rolling out the red carpet for foreign ministers of EU member states and some 30 countries in the Indo-Pacific region, as well as representatives of European institutions and the main regional organizations. However, China and the US have not been invited. Chinese observers on Monday said the absence of Beijing and Washington from the forum showed that France and the EU are looking at underscoring their independent voices on Indo-Pacific regional affairs as stakeholders through the event, and desire to play a constructive role in building a new balance in the region. France's guest list for the event runs from regional heavyweights like Japan, India and South Korea through to archipelagos like Comoros and Micronesia, as well as the ASEAN bloc.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202202/1252806.shtml>

## **Chinese FM Wang Yi calls for diplomatic solution, not hyping war over Ukraine issue**

Global Times, February 20, 2022

Related parties to the Ukraine crisis should return to the Minsk Agreement, lay out a road map and schedule to solve the problem rather than hyping war and creating panic, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi stressed when attending the Munich Security Conference on Saturday. At the conference, Wang commented on the expansion of NATO, security in Europe and the Ukraine tensions in response to questions raised by MSC Chairman Wolfgang Ischinger during the session, according to CGTN. As a product of the Cold War, which has ended long ago, NATO should make necessary adjustments, said the Chinese diplomat. "If NATO keeps expanding eastward, is it conducive to maintaining peace and stability in Europe?" Wang asked.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202202/1252641.shtml>

## **Taiwan reveals plans for live-fire drills at islets near Chinese mainland**

South China Morning Post, February 20, 2022

Taiwan will stage a series of live-fire drills next month at several islets under its control, including two close to the Chinese mainland, to test the combat readiness of its forces there. The drills come amid growing concerns that cross-strait conflict could become imminent if the mainland's People's Liberation Army (PLA) were to seize one of the islets to force self-ruled Taiwan to the table for reunification talks.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3167686/taiwan-reveals-plans-live-fire-drills-islets-near-chinese>

## **US report finds big weaknesses in China's defence industry base**

South China Morning Post, February 19, 2022

China's reliance on hi-tech imports and potential workforce shortages in the next decade are two big looming vulnerabilities for its defence industry, according to a new report by a US think tank. In the report released last week, researchers at the Rand Corporation said other weaknesses included a lack of transparency in the massive state-owned conglomerates and – despite some advantages – single-party control over the enterprises. The report – “Assessing Systemic Strengths and Vulnerabilities of China's Defence Industrial Base” – was commissioned by the US Congress and completed in October, 2021.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3167693/us-report-finds-big-weaknesses-chinas-defence-industry-base>

## **Australia says Chinese navy ship fired laser at military aircraft**

South China Morning Post, February 19, 2022

A Chinese navy vessel directed a laser at an Australian aircraft in flight over the country's northern approaches, illuminating the plane and potentially endangering lives, Canberra's defence department said on Saturday. A P-8A Poseidon – a maritime patrol aircraft – detected a laser emanating from a People's Liberation Army – Navy (PLA-N) vessel on Thursday, the Defence Department said in a statement. “Illumination of the aircraft by the Chinese vessel is a serious safety incident,” the department said. “We strongly condemn unprofessional and unsafe conduct. These actions could have endangered the safety and lives of the ADF personnel.”

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/australasia/article/3167676/australia-says-chinese-navy-ship-fired-laser-military>