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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

## **China says it ready to work with Australia to improve relations as foreign ministers meet after years of tension**

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, December 21, 2022

China has said it is ready to reset relations with Australia as both sides agreed to step up talks on issues such as trade, security and human rights. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met his Australian counterpart Penny Wong in Beijing for talks following a meeting between the two countries' leaders last month. The visit by Wong, the first Australian foreign minister to visit China since 2018, comes amid signs of a thaw following years of frosty relations and coincided with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations. In a Chinese foreign ministry statement, Wang said lessons should be learned from previous "setbacks", calling for the two sides to "set off" again.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3204169/china-says-it-ready-work-australia-improve-relations-foreign-ministers-meet-after-years-tension>

## **US targets China's potential chip stars with new restrictions**

Qianer Liu and Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, December 21, 2022

In China's southern tech hub of Shenzhen, employees at chipmaking start-up PXW Semiconductor Manufactory began to panic after the US put their company on a trade blacklist last week. American suppliers are barred from exporting to companies on the list without approval, which in many cases is expected to be denied. Analysts said the latest blacklisting was "housekeeping" to close loopholes in sweeping measures imposed in October, which allow Washington to block Chinese access to high-end chips and the talent and tools to make them. "It is a game of whack-a-mole," said Douglas Fuller, an expert on the Chinese chip industry at Copenhagen Business School. "Whenever Washington comes up with sanctions, there are new projects popping up which they then try to block."

<https://www.ft.com/content/0693edbb-d3d5-4e15-9c33-08f82e6460bc>

## **China, Russia begin naval drills in waters near Taiwan, Japan**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, December 21, 2022

China and Russia kicked off a week of naval drills in the East China Sea, the closest they have been held to the Taiwan Strait since the annual war games began a decade ago. China's defence ministry said the exercise, known as Joint Sea 2022, would be held in waters off the coast of eastern Zhejiang province. The area spans from Zhoushan to Taizhou, which is about 350km (about 200 miles) from the Taiwan Strait. Military analysts said the drills aimed to send a message to self-ruled Taiwan – which Beijing regards as

part of China – as well as to Japan over a new security strategy to boost its military strength unveiled last week.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3204157/china-russia-begin-naval-drills-waters-near-taiwan-japan>

## **China and Australia are talking again, but hopes for meaningful progress remain low**

Kawala Xie

South China Morning Post, December 22, 2022

China and Australia agreed to resume high-level talks on diplomacy, trade, and security after a meeting between their foreign ministers this week, but experts said lingering distrust means a “meaningful reset” in relations is unlikely. The two sides released a joint statement on Wednesday, agreeing to start or resume talks covering six areas – bilateral relations, trade, consular affairs, climate change, defence, and international and regional issues – after years in which their dialogue mechanisms were suspended. “They agreed to a relationship based on mutual respect, equality, mutual benefit and navigating differences, in keeping with our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership,” the statement said. The joint statement came after foreign ministers Wang Yi and Penny Wong met in Beijing, the first visit by an Australian foreign minister since 2018.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3204262/china-and-australia-are-talking-again-hopes-meaningful-progress-remain-low>

## **Wang Yi urges US to stop ‘containing China while calling for dialogue’ in phone call with Blinken**

Global Times, December 23, 2022

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi had a phone conversation with US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, during which Wang called on the US to stop its old tricks of unilateral bullying and containing China's development. Analysts said that the US needs to strengthen the credibility of its China policy, control the negative factors and actively maintain the trend of positive cooperation brought by the latest meeting between the heads of state, which is in line with the interests of both China and the US as well as the rest of the world. Wang told Blinken in the phone call that the two countries should focus on turning the consensus reached by the top leaders into tangible policies and actions.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282510.shtml>

## **Mystery airship spotted over Philippines near South China Sea**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, December 23, 2022

An unidentified high-altitude, long-endurance airship spotted near a former US naval base in the Philippines has raised concerns that some countries in the region are using stratospheric airships to collect military intelligence. Images of the stratospheric airship – allegedly taken in Pangasinan province, about 100km (62 miles) from Subic Bay in the northern Philippine island of Luzon – were first posted on Facebook last weekend. The pictures were deleted, but not before they were also shared on Twitter. There is no evidence that the airship was from China, although its design appears to be similar to several unmanned types developed by the state-owned Aviation Industry Corporation of China's Special Aircraft Research Institute and other scientific academies. These have been displayed at the biannual AirShow China in Zhuhai, in the southern province of Guangdong, since 2014.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/diplomacy/article/3204389/mystery-airship-spotted-over-philippines-near-south-china-sea>

## **China denies presence of 'secret police station' in Korea**

Nam Hyun-woo

The Korea Times, December 23, 2022

The Chinese foreign ministry has denied allegations that its government is operating a "secret police station" in Korea to monitor and terrorize Chinese nationals as part of Beijing's efforts to keep them under its influence. "China has always adhered to the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, strictly observed international law and respected the judicial sovereignty of all countries," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said in a press conference. "The so-called 'overseas police stations' simply do not exist." The comment came after a Spain-based human rights group, Safeguard Defenders, reported that the United Front Work Department, a Chinese Communist Party body that coordinates influence operations in China and abroad, is operating more than 100 secret police stations in at least 53 countries, including Korea.

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/12/113\\_342286.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/12/113_342286.html)

## **Chinese commercial space company to launch stackable satellites**

Global Times, December 23, 2022

China's private company GalaxySpace is accelerating the research and development of flat-panel stackable satellites, for rapid construction of a satellite internet constellation. GalaxySpace said the design enables dozens of satellites to be stacked on top of each other like tablet personal computers and be launched at the same time on a single rocket. It can improve the use efficiency of a rocket and shorten the construction period. Satellite internet will provide extensive broadband connection with satellite communication

technology. It is to use the satellites in space playing the role of the base station on the ground for the terrestrial network connection. Each satellite is a mobile base station in space. It can provide users worldwide with high bandwidth, flexible, and convenient internet access service.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282512.shtml>

## **Biden signs \$858bn defense bill including funds for Taiwan, allies**

Nikkei Asia, December 24, 2022

U.S. President Joe Biden signed into law an \$858 billion defense policy bill set to increase security cooperation with Taiwan by providing billions in aid over the coming years, while continuing to invest in alliances and partnerships amid China's assertiveness and Russian threats. The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal 2023 through next September authorizes about 10 percent more in spending than last year's budget, with \$11.5 billion eyed for an initiative to enhance U.S. deterrence and defense in the Indo-Pacific. As Taiwan faces growing pressure from China, which endeavors to bring the self-ruled democratic island back into its fold, by force if necessary, the legislation authorized up to \$10 billion in security assistance over the next five years to modernize Taiwan's security capabilities to deter aggression by Beijing. Taiwan and mainland China have been governed separately since they split in 1949 due to a civil war.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/Taiwan-tensions/Biden-signs-858bn-defense-bill-including-funds-for-Taiwan-allies>

## **US raises arms race risk with Taiwan security bill, Chinese analysts warn**

Minnie Chan

South China Morning Post, December 24, 2022

New US legislation to help Taiwan strengthen its defences will ignite an arms race and renew tensions across the Taiwan Strait, according to Chinese military analysts. On December 24, US President Joe Biden signed the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA) for the coming financial year, legislation that includes the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act (TERA), designed to increase security cooperation between Washington and Taipei. The legislation authorises up to US\$10 billion in grants and loans for security assistance over the next five years, and encourages Taiwanese forces to take part in the US-led multinational naval exercises known as Rimpac, in 2024. The Chinese foreign ministry said Beijing was “resolutely opposed” to the bill’s passage, saying it amounted to a “serious political provocation”.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3204497/us-raises-arms-race-risk-taiwan-security-bill-chinese-analysts-warn>

## **China blasts US defense act for playing up 'China threat' and poisoning bilateral ties**

Global Times, December 24, 2022

The US passage of National Defense Authorization Act, which plays up the "China threat" theory in disregard of the facts, not only undermines China's national sovereignty, security, and development interests, but also poisons bilateral and military relations. The US should refrain from implementing the negative China-related provisions, multiple Chinese departments urged. Multiple departments, including the Ministry of National Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), have voiced opposition over the US' National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, which contains a large number of negative provisions targeting China.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282534.shtml>

## **US spy planes edge closer to China's shores in 2022: think tank**

Kristin Huang

South China Morning Post, December 25, 2022

China faced a growing threat of close-in reconnaissance in 2022, especially from the United States, with a sustained number of flights conducted nearer to Chinese shores, according to a Beijing-based think tank. The US sent 589 large warplanes from January to November to conduct close-in intelligence gathering over the South China Sea alone, according to data from the South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative (SCSPI). While flight data for December is not yet available, the US dispatched 47 large reconnaissance aircraft to patrol the South China Sea region in December last year, according to the SCSPI. The latest reconnaissance flight came on December 21, when the US deployed aircraft – three P-8A Poseidon anti-submarine patrol aircraft, one E-3G early warning and control aircraft and one RC-135V reconnaissance aircraft – from Kadena airbase in Japan and Clark airbase in the Philippines that patrolled the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea region.

<https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3204442/us-spy-planes-edge-closer-chinas-shores-2022-think-tank>

## **New improvements expected for China's J-20 stealth fighter jet**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, December 25, 2022

Chinese military analysts said constant upgrades are expected for China's J-20 fighter jet, after foreign media reported recently that a new and more powerful variant of the stealth aircraft has appeared. The new J-20 features changes to the shape of the aircraft, which might improve its aerodynamic and performance capabilities as well as low-observable qualities, US media outlet thedrive.com reported, citing unverified photos circulating on social media. One of the most notable changes is the modified, flattened cockpit

canopy that blends into the raised spine, the report said. This kind of aerodynamic arrangement likely has the effect of improving performance and handling during transonic flight by reducing the drag on the airframe, and the enlarged spine could also provide useful space for additional avionics and fuel, thedrive.com said.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282610.shtml>

## **China Space Station attracts more with true openness, technology advantages**

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, December 25, 2022

Four out of the total nine of the first batch international experiments are expected to be sent to the China Space Station in 2023, according to the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) Acting Director Niklas Hedman in a recent interview, who also lauded the space station as "truly international" and one that offers an "absolutely fantastic opportunity for researchers around the world." The UNOOSA official's remarks over the weekend came following China's completion of the assembly of the country's first permanent space station and all space launch missions scheduled at the construction stage with the latest Shenzhou-15 manned spaceflight mission. Chinese space observers said that the country's genuine openness in sharing the use of its mega space infrastructure greatly contrasts with and offsets the current turbulence around the world, which is result of certain countries' political games of forcing countries to take a side in bloc confrontation even in space.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282612.shtml>

## **China vows to maintain a global vision and write a new chapter in major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics: FM Wang Yi**

Global Times, December 25, 2022

In the new global context, any attempt of conflict, confrontation, containment and decoupling runs against the prevailing trend of the times and is doomed to fail; peace, development, cooperation and win-win represent the popular will of the people and are an international trend, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during a symposium on the international situation and China's foreign relations. Reviewing China's diplomatic work in 2022, Wang said the country has conducted major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics in an all-round way, making a new contribution to upholding world peace and promoting common development.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282556.shtml>

## **Signal on tighter scrutiny of US-listed Chinese firms unwise**

Global Times, December 25, 2022

At a time when China and the US have already won hard-earned results in bilateral auditing cooperation, it

is unwise for the US to signal that more political pressure may be coming for US-listed Chinese companies. US Congress passed legislation that will speed up the timeline for delisting US-listed Chinese companies that fail to provide audit work papers for inspection to two years from three, Bloomberg reported. While Chinese and US regulatory officials reached a historic agreement on audit supervision this year, the US ratcheting up pressure on Chinese companies sends a discouraging signal, which is nothing more than to show that squeezing Chinese companies' space for legitimate operation in the US will be an inevitable trend under the political atmosphere in Washington.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282686.shtml>

## **Taiwan to extend conscription to a year in bid to counter China threat**

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, December 26, 2022

Taiwan has pledged to beef up its armed forces with longer military service and more muscular training as President Tsai Ing-wen seeks to strengthen the country's defences against the threat of an attack from China. "Nobody wants war — neither the Taiwanese people and government nor the international community. But peace will not fall from the sky," Tsai said when announcing the defence push, two days after Beijing staged its largest air manoeuvres around Taiwan in more than four months. "Only preparing for war will help avoid war. Taiwan must strengthen its capability to defend itself," she said. From 2024, compulsory military service for men will be extended from the current four months to a year and conscripts' pay will be quadrupled to bring it in line with the minimum wage, said Tsai.

<https://www.ft.com/content/a236c762-c978-4888-b301-c46ec1d9a556>

## **China hits back at news report about honey trap targeting former South Korean governor**

Jack Lau

The Korea Times, December 26, 2022

The Chinese Embassy in Seoul has denied a media report accusing Beijing of setting a honey trap for a former South Korean governor and presidential hopeful. "I would like to emphasize that the report is fabricated, deliberately slanderous and contrary to etiquette," a spokesperson said in a statement on Chinese social media platform WeChat. The statement is the embassy's second rebuke against allegations raised by South Korean media outlets. It did not mention a newspaper by name. But the Chosun Ilbo newspaper published an article citing an unnamed source saying the South Korean government was investigating a Chinese restaurant in Seoul's Gangnam area as a possible Chinese "secret police station."

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/12/113\\_342429.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/12/113_342429.html)



## **China launches military drills around Taiwan after US passes defence act**

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, December 26, 2022

China staged its largest military manoeuvres near Taiwan over the weekend since the Taiwan Strait crisis in August, days after the US passed an annual defence spending bill that authorised up to \$10bn in security assistance to the country for the first time. In the 24 hours to Monday morning, 47 People's Liberation Army aircraft entered the country's air defence identification zone, with at least 41 flying across the Taiwan Strait median line, Taiwan's defence ministry said. This marks China's third-largest number of single-day violations of Taiwan's ADIZ, a self-declared buffer zone, and the most since August 5, during week-long exercises that Beijing staged to retaliate against US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taipei.

<https://www.ft.com/content/ffc493bb-001f-47f9-b5d0-b44e9bf8b375>

## **PLA wraps up year 2022 with intensive drills, rapid development**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, December 27, 2022

In an epitome that highlights a busy year of missions and development, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) carried out several concurrent major military exercises at the end of 2022, including the China-Russia joint naval drill, far sea training of the Liaoning aircraft carrier group and the cross-service joint exercises around the island of Taiwan, with observers expecting the PLA to continue making strides and achieve its centenary goal in 2027, safeguarding the country's sovereignty, territorial integrity and development interests. China and Russia wrapped up the weeklong Joint Sea 2022 naval exercise in the East China Sea, in which some of the PLA Navy's main combat and support surface, aerial and underwater elements joined their Russian counterparts in training courses including joint blockade, joint air defense and joint anti-submarine, according to a statement released by the PLA Navy.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282736.shtml>

## **CCPIT supports taking US export control measure on semiconductors to WTO dispute appellate system**

Global Times, December 27, 2022

China's main foreign trade promotion agency said that it firmly supports the Chinese government in safeguarding the legitimate rights and interests through legal means, commenting on China's recent move taking US export control measures on semiconductors to the WTO dispute appellate and settlement mechanism. In recent years, the US has placed a good number of Chinese companies on its "entity list" for export controls, while the original purpose of export control is to protect all countries from the threat of proliferation of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and relevant means of delivery, Yang Fan, a spokesperson for China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), said during a press conference.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282719.shtml>

## **China sends another Gaofen remote sensing satellite into orbit; CAST secures victory streak in all 41 launch missions in 2022**

Deng Xiaoci

Global Times, December 27, 2022

China's Long March-4B carrier rocket delivered another successful orbital launch mission, sending a new remote sensing satellite codenamed Gaofen-11 04 into its preset orbit from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi Province. Developed by the China Academy of Spacecraft Technology (CAST,) the Gaofen-11 04 satellite will join forces with the 01, 02 and 03 satellites which are optical remote sensing satellites, to form a network, as part of the country's high-resolution Earth observation project. The Global Times learned from CAST that the new satellite will greatly enhance the network's Earth observation capabilities, and it will be used in fields such as land survey, urban planning, road network design, agriculture, and disaster relief. The data will also be used for the Belt and Road Initiative. Since the Gaofen project began in 2010, China has gained an increasingly clearer view of the planet.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282761.shtml>

## **Chinese experts arrive in Kathmandu for feasibility study of the China-Nepal cross-border railway**

Global Times, December 28, 2022

Chinese experts arrived in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu for feasibility study of the China-Nepal cross-border railway, a move described by the Nepalese side as a new step for the project, according to the Xinhua News Agency. The six-member team was greeted at the airport by Wang Xin, charge d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy in Nepal, and Aman Chitrakar, spokesperson for Nepal's Department of Railways. "Chinese expert team has arrived for the feasibility study of the China-Nepal railway and we must say that we have taken a new step for our feasibility work," said Chitrakar. "China has achieved progress in railways," he said, "And this project is definitely not easy for us, there are many technical challenges, but if we look at their expertise and technological advancement they have achieved so far, we're confident that this project will be successful, and Nepal and China will become closer with the railway."

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282797.shtml>

## **Philippines, China clash over new South China Sea flash point**

Yuichi Shiga and Tomoya Onishi

Nikkei Asia, December 28, 2022

The Philippine military is beefing up its presence in the South China Sea following reports of new landfill work and mooring by Chinese ships in the area, potentially complicating President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s visit to Beijing starting January 3. Chinese fishing boats, which are militia ships in effect, carried out landfill work at four reef sites around the Spratly Islands, including Eldad Reef, which is located west of Palawan Island, Bloomberg reported last week. The Western Command (Wescom) of the Armed Forces of the

Philippines later confirmed the presence of the Chinese vessels. The countries have long been embroiled in a territorial dispute in the South China Sea, with regular incidents such as Chinese vessels shadowing a Philippine Navy supply boat around the Spratlys this month.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/South-China-Sea/Philippines-China-clash-over-new-South-China-Sea-flash-point>

## **China sets space mission record in 2022 with over 50 rocket launches, 100% success rate**

Fan Anqi

Global Times, December 29, 2022

China drew a perfect ending to this year's rocket launch mission as a Long March-3B carrier rocket successfully lifted off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Southwest China's Sichuan Province, sending an experimental satellite into preset orbit. The launch, the 53rd for the Long March family this year, marks the first time that launch vehicles developed by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC) have delivered over 50 successful missions in a year, sending more than 140 spacecraft into space with a 100 percent success rate. The record has laid a solid foundation for China to become a strong global space power, China Space News reported. While the number of annual launches has reached at an all-time high, the proportion of launches by new-generation vehicles is also increasing, reaching about 27 percent in 2022, leading Chinese rocket scientist Long Lehao said, Science and Technology Daily reported.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282943.shtml>

## **TSMC reaffirms 'commitment to Taiwan' despite U.S. chip push**

Cheng Ting-Fang

Nikkei Asia, December 29, 2022

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. sought to allay concerns that its massive investment in chip production in the U.S. could weaken Taiwan's own strategically important semiconductor industry at a time of heightened tensions with China. TSMC Chairman Mark Liu said the world's largest contract chipmaker has invested a total of 1.86 trillion New Taiwan dollars (\$60.4 billion) for 3-nanometer and 5-nm chip production -- among the most advanced in the world -- at its factory in the Tainan Science Park in southwestern Taiwan. That amount, which is about 50% more than the \$40 billion it plans to invest in the U.S., "shows TSMC's commitment to Taiwan," Liu said at a ceremony at the park marking the expansion and start of mass production of 3-nm chips.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Business/Tech/Semiconductors/TSMC-reaffirms-commitment-to-Taiwan-despite-U.S.-chip-push>

## **China's aircraft carrier Liaoning spotted edging close to Guam for first time amid US strategic threats**

Liu Xuanzun

Global Times, December 29, 2022

The Liaoning aircraft carrier group of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy was spotted for the first time sailing close to Guam, a key US military node in the second island chain, during its ongoing exercises in the West Pacific, a move analysts said showed that the Chinese carrier is ready to defend the country against potential US attacks launched from there, including military interference attempts over the Taiwan question. Japan's Ministry of Defense Joint Staff updated the Liaoning aircraft carrier group's movements in a press release, saying that Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force spotted the PLA Navy's aircraft carrier Liaoning, the Type 055 large destroyer Wuxi, the Type 052D destroyer Chengdu, the Type 054A frigate Zaozhuang and the Type 901 comprehensive replenishment ship Hulunhu continuing their voyage in the West Pacific since entering the region on December 16. The Liaoning has hosted about 260 fighter jet and helicopter landing and takeoff operations from December 17 to Tuesday, according to the Japanese press release.

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202212/1282934.shtml>

## **US clears sale of \$180m anti-tank systems to Taiwan**

Al Jazeera, December 29, 2022

The US State Department has approved the possible sale of Volcano anti-tank mine-laying systems to Taiwan for an estimated \$180m, the Pentagon said on Wednesday, amid mounting tensions between the self-governing East Asian island and China. The Volcano system, developed by the US army in the 1980s, uses prepackaged mine canisters which contain multiple anti-tank mines which are dispersed when ejected from the canister. The potential deal comes as China ramps up military, diplomatic and economic pressure on Taiwan to assert its sovereignty claims, including almost daily Chinese air force missions near the island during the past three years. Tensions spiked earlier this year after US Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan despite China's opposition to the trip. Beijing views Taiwan as a part of China. On Monday, China sent its largest-ever contingent of planes across the median line of the Taiwan Strait, the de facto maritime border between the two. A day later, Taiwan extended its mandatory military service duration from four months to a year.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/12/29/us-approves-sale-of-180mn-anti-tank-systems-to-taiwan#:~:text=The%20US%20State%20Department%20has,East%20Asian%20island%20and%20China>

## **China and Philippines to open South China Sea hotline**

Yuichi Shiga

Nikkei Asia, December 30, 2022

The Philippines will open a new line of communication with China to prevent an accidental escalation of

maritime tensions, Manila said ahead of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s state visit to Beijing next week. The aim is to avoid miscalculations and miscommunication in the West Philippine Sea, a Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs official said, using his country's term for the part of the South China Sea that it claims in a long-running dispute with Beijing. The Philippine foreign secretary and the Chinese foreign minister are expected to sign an agreement on the channel for dialogue during Marcos' visit. Details were not disclosed, but the official said the agreement would enable direct communication at all levels of their foreign ministries.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/China-and-Philippines-to-open-South-China-Sea-hotline>

## **US accuses Chinese fighter jet of ‘unsafe manoeuvre’ that risked collision**

Kathrin Hille

Financial Times, December 30, 2022

A Chinese fighter jet flew within 6 metres of a US military aircraft in the South China Sea earlier this month, the latest in a series of encounters that Washington and its allies have warned are risky, unprofessional and increasingly frequent. The incident, which occurred on December 21 but was disclosed late on December 22, highlighted the danger of inadvertent conflict as economic and geopolitical competition between the US and China fuels tensions. A J-11 Chinese navy jet “performed an unsafe manoeuvre during an intercept of a US Air Force RC-135 aircraft, which was lawfully conducting routine operations over the South China Sea in international airspace”, the US Indo-Pacific Command said in a statement that included video footage of the encounter. The Chinese pilot flew “within 20ft of the nose of the RC-135”, forcing the US plane to take evasive manoeuvres, the statement added.

<https://www.ft.com/content/f4ba2112-4fd3-4d00-abea-1198e41f6409>

## **Operator of suspected Chinese police station accuses media of spreading misinformation**

Jack Lau

The Korea Times, December 30, 2022

The businessman who controls the Chinese restaurant suspected of being a front for a "secret Chinese police station" denied the allegations about his business, accusing the media of disseminating misinformation and hurting Korea-China relations. Wang Haijun, a Chinese national living in Korea and the operator of the Dongpangmyeongju Chinese restaurant in southern Seoul, said that his business had become a public target following media reports that there is a secret Chinese police station operating in Seoul, an allegation raised by Spain-based human rights group Safeguard Defenders. "I sincerely ask all sides to remain calm, whether they are interested parties or government agencies," he said during a press conference held at the restaurant in Jamsil Hangang Park.

[http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/12/113\\_342636.html](http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2022/12/113_342636.html)

## **China appoints Xi's trusted aide Qin Gang as foreign minister**

Nikkei Asia, December 30, 2022

China has appointed Qin Gang, its ambassador to the United States and a trusted aide of President Xi Jinping, as its new foreign minister, as Beijing and Washington seek to stabilize rocky relations. Qin, 56, replaces Wang Yi, who has been foreign minister for the past decade. Wang, 69, was promoted to the Politburo of the Chinese Communist Party in October and is expected to play a bigger role in Chinese foreign policy. In solving challenges common to all of mankind, China's diplomacy will offer "Chinese wisdom, Chinese initiatives and Chinese strength," Qin said in his first comments as foreign minister in a statement posted on his ministry's website.

<https://asia.nikkei.com/Politics/International-relations/China-appoints-Xi-s-trusted-aide-Qin-Gang-as-foreign-minister>

## **Tesla supplier Panasonic seeks to balance US and Chinese markets in tech war**

Eri Sugiura and Kana Inagaki

Financial Times, December 31, 2022

Panasonic will actively pursue growth in both the US and China as the Tesla supplier bolsters cash management to navigate the headwinds of the technology dispute between the world's two largest economies. In an interview with the Financial Times, chief executive Yuki Kusumi said the Japanese conglomerate would also conduct a review to streamline its vast business portfolio, which spans car batteries, air conditioners and microwave ovens, after two years of trying to make its operations more nimble and cost-efficient. "It is true that the decoupling of the US and China is becoming a bigger challenge for us," Kusumi said, adding that the company was studying ways to produce more car battery materials in the US that have previously been procured in China. "But both the US and China are major markets that will steadily grow," he said. "For us, both markets are important and we will bring each of these businesses to a state where they will be less vulnerable to political influence."

<https://www.ft.com/content/10ae18ae-9306-4b90-9e31-0174df4e09db>

*Sylloge on China is compiled by Mr. Niranjan C. Oak with inputs  
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**Nuclear and Arms Control Centre, MP-IDSA  
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