

China's "Reciprocal Response" to US Aggression

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When the Soviet Union placed its nuclear weapons in Cuba in 1962, the United States threatened to attack if the R-12 "Dvina" and R-14 "Chusovaya" nuclear-tipped missiles deployed on the Caribbean island country weren't removed. After most of October that year was spent in strenuous talks and strategic military maneuvers that nearly escalated into full-scale confrontation barely 17 years after WW2, Washington DC and Moscow finally negotiated a mutually beneficial (albeit last-minute) agreement that moved the world away from the thermonuclear abyss that threatened to destroy it.

For decades, much of the world was convinced that what today is (unjustly) called the Cuban Missile Crisis was initiated by Russia.

And even nowadays, when we all know that it was started by the US and its 1961 deployment of the PGM-19 "Jupiter" nuclear-tipped missiles in Turkey and Italy, Washington DC still insists that Moscow was responsible for the crisis.

Something eerily similar is unfolding as we speak. However, instead of Russia, the other party involved in this case is China. Namely, according to the Wall Street Journal, Beijing is currently in talks with Havana to establish new military facilities in Cuba.

The report, [published on June 20](#), states that the two socialist allies are working out the final arrangements of the deal that would reportedly secure a military base for the PLA (People Liberation Army) in northern Cuba.

The WSJ reports that this has "sparked fears among US officials that [Cuba] could eventually host a permanent Chinese troop presence", prompting the troubled Biden administration to intervene with Cuban officials, seeking to block the establishment of permanent military installations. This will reportedly also include the expansion of ISR (intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance) capabilities of the PLA's existing military facility.

The claims about China's supposed military bases in Cuba are based on anonymous sources from unnamed US intelligence services. However, the authors admit that the aforementioned services are not exactly certain about the possibility of a full-blown joint Chinese-Cuban military base, stating that

"the reference to the proposed new training facility in Cuba is contained in the highly classified new US intelligence, which State Department officials described as convincing but fragmentary".

The report further adds that "it's being interpreted with different levels of alarm among policy-makers and intelligence analysts".

"Most worrying for the US: The planned facility is part of China's 'Project 141', an initiative by the People's Liberation Army to expand its global military base and logistical support network, one current and one former US official said. China and Cuba already jointly run four eavesdropping stations on the island, according to US officials. That network underwent a significant upgrade around 2019, when a single station expanded to a network of four sites that are operated jointly, and Chinese involvement deepened, according to the officials," the WSJ authors detail.

It's quite difficult to measure [the sheer magnitude of Washington DC's hypocrisy and double standards](#) when it comes to this issue. Considering [not only the outright hostile](#) and oftentimes openly Sinophobic rhetoric, but also [the numerous concrete moves aimed against China](#), could anyone honestly blame Beijing for anything except reciprocity? Apart from the trade war initiated under former president Donald Trump, [the US has been conducting a comprehensive crawling aggression against China](#), openly seeking to contain the Asian giant with a massive network of military bases and other installations across Asia-Pacific.

Most alarmingly for Beijing, the US is aiming to push its military infrastructure ever closer to China's shores, particularly by exerting greater control over the Asian giant's breakaway island province of Taiwan.

And this is only the tip of the iceberg of [resurgent Neo-McCarthyism in US foreign policy](#) that involves the sending of [entire delegations of Washington DC warhawks to Taipei](#), in addition to the massive shipments of weapons and equipment (that now includes F-16 Block 70/72 fighter jets and [hundreds of anti-ship missiles](#)), amounting to approximately \$20 billion, [albeit mostly backlogged due to US \(over\)focus on the Kiev regime](#).

Taking into account such unadulterated hostility, can anyone blame Beijing for wanting to strengthen its ties with Havana? Worse yet, Cuba is an independent country, while Taiwan is internationally recognized as part of China (including by the US itself), meaning that the expansion of America's military infrastructure to the island directly threatens Chinese sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, in its endless hypocrisy and double standards, [Washington DC wants to maintain the Monroe Doctrine by exerting additional pressure on Latin America](#) while encroaching on other superpowers' geopolitical backyards.

"Some intelligence officials say that Beijing sees its actions in Cuba as a geographical response to the US relationship with Taiwan: The US invests heavily in arming and training the self-governing island that sits off mainland China and that Beijing sees as its own," the WSJ admitted begrudgingly, adding: "The Journal reported that the US [has deployed more](#)

[than 100 troops](#) to Taiwan to train its defense forces.”

In addition, the WSJ authors also acknowledged that “Taiwan is roughly 100 miles from mainland China, about the same distance Cuba is from Florida”, effectively conceding that there’s strategic equivalency between the two.

“China has no combat forces in Latin America, according to US officials. Meanwhile, the US has dozens of military bases throughout the Pacific, where it stations more than 350,000 troops. Chinese officials have pointed this out when they push back on American efforts to counter their military expansion outside of the Indo-Pacific,” the WSJ report concludes.

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