


HOM MEDIA BRIEF

DETAILS

Name	s 22(1)(a)(ii)
POSITION	STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH, WASHINGTON DC
EVENT	Radio interview (by phone)
ORGANISATION	Sirius XM
DATE AND TIME	Tuesday, 21 February 2023 Call in at 8.33 am for interview to start at 8.35 am
LOCATION	Phone interview Call in number: s 47E(d) <u>Please dial in at 8.33 am</u> Back up number: s 47E(d)
POINT OF CONTACT	DFAT – s 22(1)(a)(ii) SIRIUS XM – s 47F(1) Email: s 47F(1)
INTERVIEWER	 <p>Julie Mason is a veteran White House correspondent reporting for POLITICO, the Houston Chronicle and the Washington Examiner. In 2009, Julie was elected by the White House press corps to serve as an at-large member of the White House Correspondents Association board. Mason is a 2013 winner of The Gracie Award, which recognizes exemplary programming created for women, by women and about women.</p>

Speaker requirements: Live phone interview, 7 minutes

BACKGROUND

Julie has suggested the following topics for this conversation: your time as Ambassador to the US; the bilateral relationship; China threat; Australian tourism.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

CHINA

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

- Australia appreciates US efforts to manage the Chinese balloon issue in a careful and measured way, as noted by FM Penny Wong [6 Feb]
- We share the US' concerns about the infringement of US airspace and the effect on US sovereignty
 - we note US Secretary of State Blinken's comments that the US remains open to diplomatic engagement
 - Australia encourages the Chinese Government to do the same.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: Arthur Sinodinos
Subject: [EXTERNAL] CNAS WeekendReads: Russia stability tracker, one year since the invasion of Ukraine, Paul Scharre launches new book, and more
Date: Friday, 17 February 2023 2:18:23 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

No images? [Click here](#)

WeekendReads

Commentary from the CNAS expert community.

New This Week

[Visit cnas.org](https://cnas.org)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope



Visit cnas.org

Op-Ed: [China's Balloon-Size Blunder Is a Huge Opportunity](#)

"In the pre-balloon era, China was busily engaged in a charm offensive," [writes](#) Richard Fontaine in *The Atlantic*. "Following October's Communist Party congress, at which Xi Jinping won an unprecedented third term in office, Beijing made moves to stifle the combative and confrontational group of diplomats known as wolf warriors. Xi hosted German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in the capital, and condemned Russia's threats to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine. The tone of China's leading diplomats noticeably softened. Vice Premier Liu He, meeting with corporate executives in Davos, Switzerland, emphasized that China was back and open for business. And for the first time in almost six years, Xi planned to host a U.S. secretary of state in China. Then a Chinese spy balloon drifted across the U.S., and into America's consciousness."

[READ](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Jacob Stokes in *The Washington Post*:

"Before They Floated Abroad, China's
Spy Balloons Were Already Used at
[Home](#)"

"Even if meteorological data was part of the types of information it would be gathering, I'm not sure we really believe that explanation, given the integration between civilian and military bureaucracies and agencies in China," said Jacob Stokes, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security in Washington.

[READ](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au
To: Arthur Sinodinos
Subject: GWO Daily Brief for Saturday 18 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, 17 February 2023 1:57:44 PM
Attachments: image002.png

[REDACTED]



0600 HRS SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2023

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

US/China: US President Joe Biden [said](#) on Thursday (local time) he planned to speak with China's President Xi Jinping about the high altitude Chinese surveillance balloon shot down recently. Biden also noted the three other objects shot down by the US Air Force were 'likely tied to private companies or research institutions' ([Reuters](#), [DW](#), [NBC](#), s 47E(d)).

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Media](#)
To: [Media](#)
Cc: [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
Subject: MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary - Friday, 17 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 16 February 2023 4:41:29 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)



MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary

Friday, 17 February 2023

TV and Radio reporting	
ABC Radio	<p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>US President Joe Biden has said the latest three objects shot down over North America do not appear to be linked to the Chinese spy balloon shot down earlier this month. He said while its uncertain what the three latest objects are, he makes no apologies over shooting down the spy balloon and has urged Beijing to be more open. s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p>
Sky News	<p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>US President Joe Biden has announced the latest three flying objects shot down over North America were not spy vehicles. The President has said the objects were likely linked to 'private companies'. Ukraine has shot down Russian reconnaissance balloons over Kyiv. s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p>
ABC TV	<p>US President Joe Biden has said that nothing suggests China's spy balloon program has anything to do with three unidentified objects recently shot down over North America. s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p>
Ministerial and other appearances	
ABC TV	<p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p>

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

[on Biden's statement that the three unidentified objects weren't Chinese spy balloons]

- There has been a fascination about balloons given the original spy balloon.
- What is important for Australia is that we have had no advice of any balloon of this kind over Australia.
- We do have the capability to track such an object if there was one.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Prepared by s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: noreply@strem.com.au on behalf of DFAT Daily Media Roundup
To: [Arthur Sinodinos](#)
Subject: DFAT Early AM Press Brief - Friday 17 February 2023
Date: Thursday, 16 February 2023 1:40:50 PM

[View this email online](#)

Friday 17 February 2023

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mentions

14 items

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Balloon must not blow relations with China off course

The Sydney Morning Herald

Friday 17 February 2023, 12:09am AEDT - Page 28

The Chinese balloon that drifted across US airspace and was shot down 10 days ago has provoked an odd mixture of chuckles and high stakes geopolitics. The strange apparition in the midwest sky has been a gift to humorists and...

Foreign Minister Penny Wong followed up with a visit to Beijing, and China has started to wind back the trade sanctions it petulantly imposed on Australia in 2020.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Media US](#)
Subject: Update from Washington -- 16 Feb [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 16 February 2023 1:23:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Map Description automatically generated

This update is compiled by the Strategic Communications and Political Branches at the Embassy of Australia, Washington DC

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Key media summary

Asia Pacific

Senior American officials increasingly believe the Chinese spy balloon that was shot down off the coast of South Carolina in early February was originally supposed to conduct surveillance over U.S. military bases in Guam and Hawaii, but winds carried it off course to Alaska, Canada and finally the United States mainland. The evolution of Washington's understanding of the Chinese military's original goals and new details that reveal misreadings of the U.S. reaction by Chinese

officials in private meetings reflect how difficult it is for the United States and China to discern each other's intentions — a gap that American officials fear could lead to greater mistrust in an already fraught relationship or even to armed conflict. In another example of the fog created by superpower rivalry and political imperatives, U.S. officials said in interviews on Wednesday that they now increasingly believe three unidentified flying objects shot down over North America were unlikely to be surveillance devices.

[How a Fog of Questions Over a Spy Balloon and U.F.O.s Fed a Diplomatic Crisis](#) (NYT – Edward Wong, Julian E. Barnes and Adam Entous)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

US-China

China has imposed fresh sanctions on the U.S.'s two largest defense contractors, a largely symbolic gesture that nevertheless signaled escalating tensions between the world's two largest economies following the shooting down of a Chinese balloon by an Air Force fighter jet. On Thursday, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said it blacklisted Lockheed Martin Corp. and an arm of Raytheon Technologies Corp. over the companies' arms sales to Taiwan. Putting the companies on its "unreliable entities list" prohibits them from export and import activities related to China. The sanctions have little real effect since American defense companies are broadly barred from making military sales to China. Raytheon is also one of the largest sellers of commercial jet engines and aircraft parts to Chinese airlines.

[China Sanctions Lockheed Martin and Raytheon as Tensions Over Balloon Increase](#) (WSJ – Dave Sebastian)

Tensions over the U.S. military's downing of a suspected Chinese spy balloon are set to culminate this weekend in Munich, where Secretary of State Antony Blinken and top Chinese diplomat Wang Yi are scheduled to attend a security conference... The Biden administration has sought to lay what officials call a [floor beneath relations with Beijing](#) to prevent them from deteriorating further... State Department spokesman Ned Price declined to answer questions about Mr. Blinken's schedule but said that Mr. Blinken "will participate in a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings" in Munich on issues including Ukraine, assistance to Turkish and Syrian earthquake victims and the U.S. commitment to security and international rules.

[U.S., China Diplomats See Chance to Clear the Air Over Balloon](#) (WSJ – William Mauldin and Keith Zhai)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

A key adviser on China to President Joe Biden is set to depart the White House National Security Council at a tumultuous time in the US relationship with Beijing. Laura Rosenberger, special assistant to the president and the NSC's senior director for China and Taiwan, will depart next month, according to White House officials. Her exit plans have long been in the works and are not related to the ongoing feud over the alleged Chinese spy balloon that traversed the continental US before being shot down earlier this month. She will be replaced by Sarah Beran, who will join the White House from the State Department. Rush Doshi, who currently serves on the NSC as China director, will be elevated to serve as Beran's deputy.

[Key Biden Adviser on China Policy to Leave Administration](#) (Bloomberg – Jenny Leonard and Peter Martin)

From: s 22(1)(a)
Subject: Articles of interest -- 16 Feb [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 16 February 2023 11:14:27 AM

China has imposed fresh sanctions on the U.S.'s two largest defense contractors, a largely symbolic gesture that nevertheless signaled escalating tensions between the world's two largest economies following the shooting down of a Chinese balloon by an Air Force fighter jet. On Thursday, the Chinese Commerce Ministry said it blacklisted Lockheed Martin Corp. and an arm of Raytheon Technologies Corp. over the companies' arms sales to Taiwan. Putting the companies on its "unreliable entities list" prohibits them from export and import activities related to China. The sanctions have little real effect since American defense companies are broadly barred from making military sales to China. Raytheon is also one of the largest sellers of commercial jet engines and aircraft parts to Chinese airlines.

[China Sanctions Lockheed Martin and Raytheon as Tensions Over Balloon Increase](#) (WSJ – Dave Sebastian)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

A key adviser on China to President Joe Biden is set to depart the White House National Security Council at a tumultuous time in the US relationship with Beijing. Laura Rosenberger, special assistant to the president and the NSC's senior director for China and Taiwan, will depart next month, according to White House officials. Her exit plans have long been in the works and are not related to the ongoing feud over the alleged Chinese spy balloon that traversed the continental US before being shot down earlier this month. She will be replaced by Sarah Beran, who will join the White House from the State Department. Rush Doshi, who currently serves on the NSC as China director, will be elevated to serve as Beran's deputy.

[Key Biden Adviser on China Policy to Leave Administration](#) (Bloomberg – Jenny Leonard and Peter Martin)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: s 22(1)(a)
Subject: Articles of interest -- 15 Feb [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, 15 February 2023 11:40:59 AM

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

... Hainan, China's southernmost province, is also a strategically important island. And just like Hawaii, it is also home to key military bases... According to CNN reporting, US intelligence officials believe the Chinese balloon is part of an extensive surveillance program run in part out of Hainan by the Chinese military. US officials told the New York Times they had been tracking the balloon since it lifted off from Hainan in late January. CNN previously reported that the US began tracking the balloon long before it entered the airspace of Alaska. American officials have not provided the detailed location of the alleged balloon launch site on Hainan, and it's not known if the balloon was launched from a military installation. But the island, located on the northern edge of the South China Sea, has great strategic importance in the eyes of the Chinese military.

[Hainan island: 'It's known as 'China's Hawaii,' but the vacation hotspot is also a strategic military base](#) (CNN)

[The Pentagon Isn't Ready for Spy Balloons of the Future](#): The US military showed it's good at shooting down one flying object at a time. But what if it detects a vast Chinese fleet? (Bloomberg Opinion – James Stavridis)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

The balloon goes up: The United States says they will continue to intercept High-Altitude Low Speed Craft identified as a safety or national security risk. The White House has established an interagency team to consider Unidentified Aerial Phenomena, which the Biden Administration views as a global challenge s 47E(d) , 14 February).



On 9 February, the US House of Representatives passed a resolution - by a vote of 419 to 0 - condemning China's 'brazen violation of US sovereignty.'



Drum Tower: Up in the Air: Sino-American relations have been blown off course after the downing of the Chinese balloon. The Economist's Beijing bureau chief David Rennie and Alice Su discuss whether the cover up is worse than the crime.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

For additional distribution, feedback or suggestions for this product, please email DFAT's China Strategic Section at s 47E(d)

This edition compiled by s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: Senate Estimates Committee Monitoring
To: DM SES Domestic; DM SES Overseas; DM HOM HOP; DM Estimates Divisional Coordinators; Senate Estimates; [Secretary Office](#); COO Office; [DLO FM](#); [DLO TTM](#); [DLO MIDD](#); [DLO AFM](#); [DLO ATM](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii) [Media](#);
s 47E(d) Paul Griffiths; Catherine Reid; s 22(1)(a)(ii); Catherine Reid; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cc: s 47E(d); s 47F(1) [Media](#)
Subject: Budget Estimates: 15 February (DINNER): Monitoring Summary [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, 15 February 2023 3:27:50 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Budget Estimates

Monitoring of Committee Hearings

Please find a summary of matters of DFAT interest raised at Estimates hearings this afternoon.

Topic areas focussed on: s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

surveillance balloons, s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Surveillance balloons	<p>Senator Peter Whish-Wilson, AG, TAS 4:10 You will notice there have been two very bizarre and frankly confusing events over the skies of our two closest allies, the US and Canada, in recent weeks. I wanted to follow up my earlier line of questioning at previous estimates around unidentified aerial phenomena. What we've seen since then is a taskforce established in the US, and I suppose you could say heightened level of surveillance following that, the detection of increased anomalous and unidentified or mysterious phenomena. In recent weeks, we've seen the Canadian PM and US President authorise these two objects to be shot out of the sky. I just wanted to ask whether you have had a chance to look at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence Report that's been released.</p>	<p>Air Marshal Robert Chipman, Chief of Air Force I have Senator, I am aware of the report. I'm also aware that the report noted that there are unidentified air phenomena but also noted they are not extra-terrestrial, there is no evidence to them being extra-terrestrial. They just noted the fact that they need to continue looking at the safety and security implications of the unidentified objects that are in their sovereign airspace.</p>	
	<p>4:11 On that question, and by the way, I never said they were extra-terrestrial, and I don't think anyone involved in the taskforce has said that either. But many of them can't be identified, out of the 500 new reportings, and many of those people are air force pilots like yourself. A number of them have been identified as balloons and some can't be identified at this point in time, so this is an evidence-based process to try and get to the</p>	<p>No, Senator.</p>	

	bottom of this issue. I was interested that the US Congress had a briefing today from your equivalent in the US and other high-ranking Military officials. Whether they're saying this is a matter of international significance, let's say they're balloons or they're potentially surveillance aircraft, they are an international issue. Have you had any briefings from the UAP taskforce or the Pentagon in relation to this issue in recent months?	
4:12	Has any defence attaches had any briefing?	Senator, we were briefed on recent incidents that related to the shutdown of what has been attributed to China's balloon over the USA. We don't know if we were one of the 40 nations referred to in their announcement, but we have been briefed by the US and we have sought additional information through the Air Attaché in Washington.
4:13	So specifically in relation to the Chinese surveillance balloon, or spy balloon, or whatever you want to call it. What about the three other objects?	We have sought information in relation to those 4 incidents, yes Senator.
4:13	Why have you sought information in relation to those?	We would like to know what the source of the unidentified object is, we would like to know what the identity of it is, would like to know how the US has responded to it so that if we had something similar in our airspace, we could take advantage of the learning from this information.
4:13	Can we just for a second assume that they're balloons, because that's the most likely scenario on the face of the evidence that's available at the moment or I should say the comments being made? I asked CASA this week a number of questions around commercial airlines and safety and I also asked the Bureau of Meteorology that launch balloons. Is it fair to say that radars can easily detect signatures of the balloon?	It depends on the characteristics of the radar.
4:14	But the Bureau of Meteorology assured me they have very good radars systems for the release of their balloons.	We assess that it is possible using our radars to detect balloons.
4:14	And CASA said they have an air force/defence personnel they work with very closely in case there are any potential safety issues around commercial flights.	That's correct, Senator.
4:14	Is it also correct that our weather balloons have gone into other sovereign territory before? Is this something which has happened in Australian skies which we've detected before?	I'm not familiar with any circumstances. I can take that question on notice.
4:15	Would one of the reasons you requested information be that it seems to be a bit odd that you would shoot a balloon out of the sky?	That's a decision for the US government.
4:15	In terms of the UAP taskforce, has any defence attaches in Washington had any briefings regarding the establishment of this taskforce, separate to any issues we have seen?	No, Senator.

	<p>4:15 The UK Government has recently said they are going to look at their ability to detect slower moving objects for example balloons or surveillance balloons/drones or other objects. Is that something the Australian Government might consider based on your responses?</p>	<p>I haven't been directed to do that by the Australian Government. But I have asked our air commander to understand what capability we have to detect these objects in our air space.</p>	
	<p>4:16 Considering what I learnt from the Bureau of Meteorology and CASA, they have a program for this and they work with you. They were very confident that they have very good technology for at least our balloons. They also said that if any commercial interest were to release these into our airspace here, they would need a license to do so. Are you aware of any other interests, not releasing these illegally?</p>	<p>I'm not familiar with any circumstances like that.</p>	
	<p>4:16 Would the Jindalee over-horizon-radar be able to detect these?</p>	<p>I do not wish to talk about the operational performance of our radars.</p>	
	<p>4:16 It is a significant matter of public interest around the world at the moment.</p>	<p>Senator we are confident that we can detect balloons, but I do not wish to disclose how and with what systems we can detect them.</p>	

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

<p>Surveillance balloons</p>	<p>Senator Simon Birmingham, LP, SA 6:33 Does Defence have any knowledge of foreign surveillance or spy balloons operating over Australia?</p>	<p>General Angus Campbell AO, DSC, Chief of Defence Force No Senator, the Chief of Air Force indicated that we were not aware of balloons operating over Australia. I'll just caveat that comment by saying, if in the future we were, there might be circumstances where we would not speak to it.</p>	
	<p>6.33 I understand the caveat there, I was asking granted not just the United States but also Canada and others engaged in</p>	<p>Air Marshal Robert Chipman, AM, CSC, Chief of Airforce We have no reporting of spy balloons operating in Australian airspace.</p>	

public disclosure and responses to some of these matters recently. Apologies of this was spoken to earlier by the Chief of Airforce, but I invite further comment from them if they would like. If not, that's all well and good.

Committee ongoing

With thanks to our graduate monitors,

Parliamentary Engagement and Support (PLE)

Cabinet, Ministerial and Parliamentary Branch (CXB) | Executive Division (EXD)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ps 47E(d) | **Es 47E(d)** @dfat.gov.au

dfat.gov.au | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Indigenous artwork for signature block

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

From: [Media](#)
To: [Media](#)
Cc: [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
Subject: MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary - Wednesday 15 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 14 February 2023 4:45:01 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)



MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary

Wednesday, 15 February 2023

TV and Radio reporting	
ABC Radio	<p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope The US said it had recovered debris from the suspected Chinese spy balloon shot down earlier this month. s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p>
	s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au
To: Arthur.Sinodinos
Subject: GWO Daily Brief for Wednesday 15 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 14 February 2023 1:59:39 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



0600 HRS WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2023

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

US/China: Electronic components have been recovered from the suspected Chinese spy balloon downed by the US off South Carolina's coast on 4 February (local time). The US military's Northern Command said 'crews have been able to recover significant debris from the site, including all the priority sensor and electronics pieces identified as well as large sections of the structure' ([Reuters](#)).

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Apple News](#)
To: [Arthur Sinodinos](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Spy-balloon debris recovered, the truth about nonstick pans, and more
Date: Tuesday, 14 February 2023 8:08:31 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.



Good Morning From Apple News

It's Tuesday, February 14.
Here's what you need to know.

TOP STORIES

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

The U.S. military recovered “significant debris” from the Chinese spy balloon shot down off the coast of South Carolina, including sensors and other electronics.

REUTERS

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Media](#)
To: [Media](#)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: DFAT Media Enquiries Table - Tuesday 14 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 14 February 2023 12:46:27 AM



DFAT Media Enquiries Table

Tuesday 14 February 2023

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

SMH

//

Attributable to a spokesperson at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

Australia has remained in close contact with US counterparts since the detection of the high-altitude Chinese balloon over the continental United States.

We are unaware of a similar Chinese balloon over Australia, however we monitor such issues closely and would respond to protect our sovereign interests in such an event.

On background (for use in reporting, not for attribution):

Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong spoke with ABC Adelaide on this topic on Friday. Please see the transcript below.

[Radio interview, ABC Adelaide](#) | [Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs \(foreignminister.gov.au\)](#)

//

Question:

Is the government/DFAT aware of whether Australia is one of the five continents/ 40 countries being referred to as being in the scope of China's balloon surveillance program? Is the government seeking clarification/ information from the US about whether spy balloons or similar surveillance devices have flown over Australia?

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: Media
To: Media
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: s 22(1)(a)(ii) [redacted]
Date: Monday, 13 February 2023 4:43:39 PM

MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary

Tuesday, 14 February 2023

TV and Radio reporting	
ABC Radio	The White House is endeavouring to recover debris from unidentified objects shot down over the United States and Canada in recent days. China has claimed to have detected several US spying balloons over China and chosen to not shoot them down - a claim US officials have denied. Head of the Office of National Intelligence Andrew Shearer has warned Australia's intelligence agencies are working in the most dangerous strategic environment since the Second World War. With more than 35 000 people confirmed dead in the Türkiye and Syria earthquakes, the UN has said rescue operations are coming to a close as focus shifts to an urgent humanitarian response. Emergency supplies for earthquake survivors will leave Melbourne today. A child reported to have died of electrocution at a holiday resort in Fiji was an Australian resident and New Zealand citizen. New Zealand has declared a national emergency for as ex-Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle hits its North Island.
Sky News	The US has confirmed China was using high altitude balloons for intelligence collection. Security cameras with links to China have been stripped from further defence sites. New Zealand has declared a national state of emergency as ex-Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle makes landfall. The government has warned the Opposition that Australia's national security is at risk if they do not support the National Reconstruction Fund.
ABC TV	China claims more than 10 US high-altitude balloons have flown in its airspace over the past year. The combined death toll from earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria has risen to more than 35,000. New Zealand has declared a national state of emergency due to impact of ex-Tropical Cyclone Gabrielle. Investigations continue after the death of an 8-year-old boy, who usually resides in Sydney, at a Fiji resort last week. A new Japanese green hydrogen plant is to be built in Adelaide's north with the energy product to be exported to Indonesia .
Ministerial and other appearances	
Sky News	<p>Simon Birmingham, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs</p> <p><i>[on China balloon intelligence gathering program]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The lack of engagement or transparency with China on this is troubling. ● [China has] declined to engage in official-level conversations on this. ● We want to see an environment with as much peace and stability as possible. ● It is hard to see that advancing when we are now dealing with four incidences [of unidentified objects being shot down] in the space of just a couple of weeks. <p><i>[on the potential for the spy balloon saga to derail warming relationships between China and the West]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Secretary of State Blinken was scheduled to be visiting Beijing. I hope that can be rescheduled; I know that was the intent of the US. ● But incident after incident won't help in terms of that rescheduling. ● From an Australian perspective it just puts increased tension across China's engagement with much of the world. ● We wish the Australian government well in trying to get the trade sanctions China unfairly placed on Australia removed, and we are hoping for breakthroughs. <p><i>[on whether it is possible Chinese spy balloons have been in Australian airspace]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I'm not aware of it occurring. ● We can't say these things are impossible in terms of the scope and reach of the intelligence gathering capabilities. ● We will be asking questions in Senate Estimates this week to ensure we have confidence in Australian airspace and security.
ABC Radio	<p>Malcolm Turnbull, former Prime Minister</p> <p><i>[on White House reports that 40 countries have had Chinese intelligence gathering balloons flown over them]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● I don't recall any balloon discussions in national security briefings.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Media US](#)
Subject: Update from Washington -- 13 Feb [REDACTED]
Date: Monday, 13 February 2023 1:53:23 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Map Description automatically generated

Key media summary

Asia Pacific

China alleged that the U.S. had flown high-altitude balloons through its airspace more than 10 times since the start of 2022, adding fuel to an escalating diplomatic standoff between the countries that has derailed efforts to reset relations. Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said at a daily press briefing Monday that U.S. balloons regularly flew through other countries' airspace without permission. It is the first time that China has made such an accusation.. Mr. Wang didn't provide details on how China responded to the alleged U.S. balloon flights at the time beyond saying that China had dealt with the matter responsibly and professionally. He said the U.S. had acted illegally, without elaborating on whose laws the balloons may have flouted and in what way. "Any claim that the U.S. government operates surveillance balloons over the PRC is false," Adrienne Watson, a spokeswoman for the U.S. National Security Council, said Monday, referring to the People's Republic of China. "This is the latest example of China scrambling to do damage control."

[China Says U.S. Flew Balloons Through Its Airspace More Than 10 Times](#) (WSJ – Brian Spegele)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

US-China

Secretary of State Antony Blinken is considering a meeting with Wang Yi, China's top diplomat, at a security conference later this week, people familiar with the matter said, in what would be their first face-to-face talks since an uproar over a Chinese balloon led to a new spike in tensions... A senior administration official, asked about the possibility of a Blinken-Wang meeting, said the US is constantly assessing its options for diplomacy but has nothing to announce. The National Security Council and State Department declined to comment, as did the Chinese Embassy.

[US, China Diplomats Weigh First Meeting After Balloon Drama](#) (Bloomberg)

John Kirby, a White House spokesman, said that the three objects shot down between Friday and Sunday over North America did not pose a danger to people on the ground, were not sending out communications signals, did not have people inside and did not have maneuvering or propulsion capabilities. He said they flew lower than the Chinese spy balloon shot that traversed the United States early this month, and they posed a risk to civilian air traffic, so the military and leaders in the United States and Canada decided to shoot them down.

[Officials Answer Questions on Objects Spotted in the Sky](#) (NYT – live updates)

The Commerce Department [added six Chinese aerospace companies to a trade blacklist](#) due to their support of Beijing's surveillance programs, a move that comes after the Biden administration shot down a balloon allegedly being used by China to spy on the U.S. "The PRC's use of high-altitude balloons violates our sovereignty and threatens U.S. national security," Bureau of Industry and Security chief Alan Estevez said in a statement. "Today's action makes clear that entities that seek to harm U.S. national security and sovereignty will be cut off from accessing U.S. technologies.".. Balloon-gate is the latest incident to upend efforts to reset the U.S.-China relationship, and the new export controls are yet another sign that trade relations will remain tense. The Biden administration has made frequent use of trade restrictions to target Chinese companies tied to Beijing military and technological ambitions, drawing the ire of the Xi Jinping's government in the process.

[Balloon drama pumps up trade tensions](#) (Politico – Steven Overly)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mentions

7 items

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Too many balloon questions up in the air

The Age

Tuesday 14 February 2023, 12:07am AEDT - Page 20

The Chinese spy balloon affair, in parts both comical and sinister, continues to throw up unanswered questions. We know the craft shot down over the Atlantic by US fighters on February 4 was almost certainly a surveillance platform, equipped to...

Australia has walked a tightrope between our major export partner and our strategic ally, with Foreign Minister Penny Wong both praising the US for its "measured" response, and encouraging China to "respond positively".

AUSTRALIA IN THE US – HEADLINE MESSAGES
Monday 13 February 2023

PART A – CURRENT MESSAGES

PART B – PRIORITY MESSAGES

A. CURRENT MESSAGES

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

CHINA

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

- Australia appreciates US efforts to manage the Chinese balloon issue in a careful and measured way, as noted by FM Penny Wong [6 Feb]
- We share the US' concerns about the infringement of US airspace and the effect on US sovereignty
 - we note US Secretary of State Blinken's comments that the US remains open to diplomatic engagement
 - Australia encourages the Chinese Government to do the same.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Apple News](#)
To: [Arthur Sinodinos](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] The U.S. shoots down a fourth flying object, a thrilling Super Bowl, and more
Date: Monday, 13 February 2023 7:57:50 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.



Good Morning From Apple News

It's Monday, February 13.
Here's what you need to know.

TOP STORIES

The U.S. shot down a fourth flying object on Sunday, a week after the Chinese spy balloon put the military on high alert. Here's what to know.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL 

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: Senate Estimates Committee Monitoring
To: DM SES Domestic; DM SES Overseas; DM HOM HOP; DM Estimates Divisional Coordinators; Senate Estimates; [Secretary Office](#); COO Office; [DLO FM](#); [DLO TTM](#); [DLO MIDP](#); [DLO AFM](#); [DLO ATM](#) s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; [Media](#);
s 47E(d) ; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Catherine Reid; s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; Catherine Reid; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
[Media](#)
Cc: [DM PLE](#); s 47F(1)
Subject: Budget Estimates: 13 February (LUNCH): Monitoring Summary [REDACTED]
Date: Sunday, 12 February 2023 8:28:03 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[REDACTED]

Budget Estimates

Monitoring of Committee Hearings

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Committee adjourned at 11:50

Committee: *Legal & Constitutional Affairs*

Department/s being questioned: Australian Security Intelligence Agency

Topic	Question	Response	Div
-------	----------	----------	-----

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Foreign espionage, 'spy balloons'	11:08 Is the agency aware of any foreign balloons/unidentified objects that have made/threatened/attempted incursions into Australian airspace for the purposes of espionage?	Don't comment on operational matters, am aware of reporting around balloons used for espionage. In my experience that is not the primary method used for espionage in this country.	
-----------------------------------	---	---	--

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

With thanks to our graduate monitors,

Parliamentary Engagement and Support (PLE)

Cabinet, Ministerial and Parliamentary Branch (CXB) | Executive Division (EXD)

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Ps 47E(d) | **ES 47E(d)** @dfat.gov.au

dfat.gov.au | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Indigenous artwork for signature block

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Articles of interest -- 9 Feb [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 9 February 2023 11:51:30 AM

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

The Biden administration has determined that the suspected [Chinese surveillance balloon](#) that traversed the United States last week was operating with electronic surveillance technology capable of monitoring US communications, according to a senior State Department official. The balloon “was capable of conducting signals intelligence collection operations” and was part of a fleet that had flown over “more than 40 countries across five continents.” “We know the PRC used these balloons for surveillance,” the official said. “High resolution imagery from U-2 flybys revealed that the high-altitude balloon was capable of conducting signals intelligence collection operations.” Signals intelligence refers to information that is gathered by electronic means – things like communications and radars. Despite the latest revelations about the capabilities of the spy balloon, the Pentagon has insisted since the vessel was first acknowledged publicly that it does not give China capabilities above and beyond what they already have from spy satellites or other means.

[Chinese spy balloon contained technology to monitor communication signals, US says](#) (CNN)

[House Votes 419-0 to Pass Resolution Condemning China for Spy Balloon](#): Lawmakers also seek more information about balloon’s entry into U.S. airspace, how decision was made to shoot it

down (WSJ)

[U.S.-China Trade Grows as Spy Balloon Raises Tensions](#): Expansion in commerce comes despite Washington's efforts to reduce reliance on Chinese goods (WSJ – Yuka Hayashi and Anthony DeBarros)

From: s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au
To: Arthur.Sinodinos
Subject: GWO Daily Brief for Sunday 12 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, 11 February 2023 1:58:54 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

[REDACTED]



0600 HRS SUNDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2023

US/China: The US Bureau of Industry and Security [blacklisted](#) six Chinese entities linked to Beijing's aerospace programs as retaliation for a Chinese balloon violating US airspace. The Deputy Secretary of Commerce [said](#) his department would not hesitate to use 'regulatory and enforcement tools to protect US national security and sovereignty' ([Al Jazeera](#), [Nikkei Asia](#)).

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au
To: Arthur.Sinodinos
Subject: ALERT : GREY : US : High Altitude Object Shot Down : 10 February 2023 (local time) [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, 10 February 2023 4:26:51 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

[REDACTED]
Reissued to correct a technical issue which prevented some recipients from receiving original alert. Apologies to those receiving this twice.



Media is reporting that on Friday 10 February at 11am local time (Saturday 11 February 7am AEDT), the US shot down a high altitude object 'roughly the size of a small car' over Alaska. The origin of the object is not yet known. A Whitehouse spokesperson told media the object was flying at 12000m over Alaska posing a threat to civil aviation and it was brought down on the orders of US President Joe Biden. The object is reported to be 'not similar in size or shape' to the Chinese balloon that was brought down recently off the US east coast.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Media:

- [Aljazeera](#): US says it shoots down 'high-altitude object' over Alaska
- [The NY Times](#): Pentagon Shot Down Object Over Alaska, U.S. Officials Say
- [ABC NEWS](#): US shoots down 'high-altitude object' over Alaska, White House says

Australian Government Global Watch Office
Crisis Preparedness and Management Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division
s 47E(d) (Signal & WhatsApp)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au
To: Arthur.Sinodinos
Subject: ALERT : GREY : US : High Altitude Object Shot Down : 10 February 2023 (local time)
Date: Friday, 10 February 2023 4:14:14 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)



Media is reporting that on Friday 10 February at 11am local time (Saturday 11 February 7am AEDT), the US shot down a high altitude object 'roughly the size of a small car' over Alaska. The origin of the object is not yet known. A Whitehouse spokesperson told media the object was flying at 12000m over Alaska posing a threat to civil aviation and it was brought down on the orders of US President Joe Biden. The object is reported to be 'not similar in size or shape' to the Chinese balloon that was brought down recently off the US east coast.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Media:

- [Aljazeera](#): US says it shoots down 'high-altitude object' over Alaska
- [The NY Times](#): Pentagon Shot Down Object Over Alaska, U.S. Officials Say
- [ABC NEWS](#): US shoots down 'high-altitude object' over Alaska, White House says

Australian Government Global Watch Office

Crisis Preparedness and Management Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division

s 47E(d) (Signal & WhatsApp)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
To: [Arthur Sinodinos](#); [Paul Myler](#); [Dougal McInnes](#)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: s 22(1)(a)(ii) on object shot down over Alaska [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, 10 February 2023 3:21:46 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

[REDACTED]

s 22(1)(a)(ii), NSC Coordinator for Strategic Communications at press conference today (10 February):

- Confirmed the Department of Defense was tracking a high-altitude object over US airspace in last 24 hours flying at 40,000 feet and posing a reasonable threat to the safety of civilian flight
- Out of an abundance of caution and at the recommendation of the Pentagon, Biden ordered the military to down the object and they did, inside US territorial waters/airspace
- Fighter aircraft assigned to US Northern Command took down the object within the last hour
- Calling this an “object” as it’s the best description we have – do not know who owns it or if it is state-owned, or its purpose
- Expect to be able to recover the debris, as it fell within territorial waters (frozen) and a recovery effort will be made
- Object was much smaller than the Chinese balloon, “roughly the size of a small car” with no significant payload.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) said Pentagon to brief later today.

[Military shoots down 'high altitude object' over Alaska - POLITICO](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

A/g Counsellor | Political (Indo-Pacific)
Embassy of Australia

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

1145 17th St NW, Suite GP410, Washington, DC 20036-4707
[usa.embassy.gov.au](#)

□□□□□

From: s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au
To: Arthur.Sinodinos
Subject: GWO Daily Brief for Saturday 11 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, 10 February 2023 1:56:44 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

[REDACTED]



0600 HRS SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2023

US/China: The Biden administration declared on Thursday (local time) the Chinese balloon shot down by the US could detect and collect intelligence. The House of Representatives condemned China's balloon surveillance program as a 'brazen violation' of US sovereignty, which has been dismissed by China ([CNN](#), [AP](#), [AP](#)).

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Apple News](#)
To: [Arthur Sinodinos](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New details on Chinese spy balloon, the truth about imposter syndrome, and more
Date: Friday, 10 February 2023 7:43:55 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.



Good Morning From Apple News

It's Friday, February 10.
Here's what you need to know.

TOP STORIES

The Chinese spy balloon shot down by the Pentagon had the capacity to monitor U.S. communications and was part of a fleet of surveillance aircraft, White House officials said.

CNN POLITICS

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [American Security Project](#)
To: [Arthur Sinodinos](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Latest News from ASP: Arizona's water crisis, Zelensky's efforts to fight corruption, and military EV technology
Date: Thursday, 9 February 2023 4:30:02 PM

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

affecting Turkey and Syria has claimed over 20,000 lives, Ukrainian President Zelensky made an unannounced visit to the UK and France, and of course the ongoing debate over the Chinese spy balloon. But at least the F-22 Raptor can claim its first air-to-air victory!

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Media US](#)
Subject: Update from Washington -- 9 Feb [REDACTED]
Date: Thursday, 9 February 2023 1:57:15 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Map Description automatically generated

This update is compiled by the Strategic Communications and Political Branches at the Embassy of Australia, Washington DC

Update:

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

- The State Department released details on China's high-altitude balloon surveillance program, including revealing that the balloon shot down of the US east coast on Saturday was capable of signals intelligence operations far beyond the abilities of a weather balloon, with multiple antennas including an array likely capable of collecting and geolocating communications.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

US-China

The alleged Chinese spy balloon that flew over the US was capable of collecting communications signals and was part of a broader People's Liberation Army intelligence-gathering effort that spanned more than 40 countries, a State Department official said Thursday. High-resolution imagery provided by U-2 spy planes that flew past the balloon revealed an array of surveillance equipment that was inconsistent with Beijing's claim that it was a weather device blown off course, the official said in a statement provided on condition of anonymity. The statement, released before State and Defense Department officials appeared before Congress in open hearings and closed briefings on Thursday, marks the fullest accounting yet for the Biden administration's insistence over the course of a week-long drama that the balloon was meant to spy on the US. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in an interview with CBS News that the Pentagon acted to limit what the balloon could learn about US nuclear capabilities.

[China's Balloon Was Capable of Spying on Communications, US Says](#) (Bloomberg – Iain Marlow)

[U.S. declassifies balloon intelligence, calls out China for spying](#) (WP – John Hudson, Ellen Nakashima and Dan Lamothe)

[House Votes Unanimously to Condemn China Over Balloon](#): The resounding bipartisan vote came after Republican leaders rebuffed a right-wing effort to formally rebuke President Biden for the episode, part of an effort to keep partisanship out of China policy. (NYT – Karoun Demirjian)

[Chinese Spy Balloon Fracas Shouldn't Blow Blinken Off Course](#): Resuming diplomacy isn't a sign of weakness. It's critical to ensure future spats between the US and China don't escalate dangerously. (Bloomberg Editors Opinion)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope



CHINA WRAP-UP

ISSUE 92 | 2 – 9 February 2023

DOCUMENT CONTAINS SENSITIVE INFORMATION – PLEASE DO NOT DISTRIBUTE FURTHER WITHOUT COORDINATING WITH CSS, DFAT.



s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

‘civilian airship’ had drifted off course due to adverse weather, Beijing insisted both publicly and privately that the entry of the balloon into US airspace was unintended and that China had “never violated the territory or airspace of any sovereign country”. Separately, China expressed its regret to Costa Rica’s MFA following reports that another Chinese balloon had blown off course, passing through the national airspace of several Latin American countries (s 47E(d) , 5 February; s 47E(d) , 6 February; s 47E(d), 7 February).

MINISTERIAL CORNER

“We will continue to advocate for the great powers to engage and to ensure there’s guardrails around their relationship... we don’t want competition escalating.”

Foreign Minister Penny Wong, discussing the balloon incident, [Interview on ABC News Breakfast](#), 6 February.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Balloon on the loose: In a briefing to the diplomatic corps after the downing of the Chinese high-altitude balloon on 4 February, US officials said the balloon had intelligence collection capabilities, could be manoeuvred by China and was part of an extensive global program. The officials noted that the timing of the balloon’s presence in the US so close to Secretary of State Blinken’s proposed visit to China was ‘baffling’. The US hoped to reschedule Blinken’s visit to Beijing when conditions allowed (s 47E(d) , 6 February).

Fool me once... Responding to US accusations, China laid out its position on the balloon incident in a series of briefings across the week. Expressing ‘regrets’ that the

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 33(a)(iii)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

- Despite recent protests to the contrary, China is no slouch when it comes to dealing with rogue balloons. According to [this translation](#), the PLA Air Force shot down a US spy balloon in 1974. Meanwhile a video doing the rounds on Twitter shows the PLA [shooting down](#) a 'manoeuvre surveillance balloon' in 2019.

For additional distribution, feedback or suggestions for this product, please email DFAT's China Strategic Section at [s 47E\(d\)](#)

This edition compiled by [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#).

Radio Interview, RN Breakfast

9 FEBRUARY 2023

Errors and omissions excepted

SUBJECTS: AUKUS; Australia's sovereignty; Invasion of Ukraine; Australia-China relationship; Security systems at government sites; Voice to Parliament.

PATRICIA KARVELAS, HOST: One of the clearest foreign policy lines from President Biden's State of the Union Address was that the US would defend itself against China if its sovereignty was threatened. Today, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence, Richard Marles, will address Parliament highlighting the importance of sovereignty in Australia's defence agreements. It comes amid reports that Australia and its AUKUS partners – the US and the UK – are considering an entirely new nuclear submarine design that could be shared by all three countries.

Richard Marles is the Deputy Prime Minister, and he joined me in the Parliament House studio a short time ago. Richard Marles, welcome to the program.

RICHARD MARLES, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thanks, PK.

KARVELAS: You're very close to announcing what Australia's nuclear submarine will look like. Britain's Defence Secretary says he expects Australia's fleet will be a tri-nation project. What does that mean?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, I think when this started there was some speculation that what we would see was some kind of competition between America and the UK for who would provide us with the submarine capability. In fact, that's not how it's played out at all, and that's really what Secretary Wallace is alluding to.

I mean, people will have to wait until the announcement, but when they do see it, what you will really see is a collaboration between America and the United Kingdom in helping provide Australia with this capability. And so in that sense it's really – it is genuinely a three-way solution to what we – to providing the capability for our country.

KARVELAS: This morning you'll be making a statement to the Parliament. This issue of sovereignty has been a big one. Paul Keating, Malcolm Turnbull have raised very strong concerns around this. Doesn't it mean Australia's national security depends, though - through this agreement - on other nations, that we're not self-sufficient?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, firstly, it's completely reasonable to ask the question about the terms on which we are acquiring a capability such as this. And they're important questions. And the statement that I'm making today does go to that. I might say, it should be seen in the light of, really, statements that have been made by defence

ministers over a long period of time about the terms on which we work with other countries, and particularly as that occurs within Australia.

The important point to make is this: that once an Australian flag is placed on these submarines in the future, they will be completely under Australian control and they will act in Australia's national interest. And our interest has a large alignment with the United States obviously. We are an ally partner and there are obligations that apply to both countries in respect of that alliance. But our interests are not coincident with the United States. And it's really important that we retain sovereignty over the – full sovereignty, over the use of all of our assets, including our future nuclear submarines, and we will.

KARVELAS: And how explicit will you make that in the ultimate announcement you'll make in, I understand, several weeks this announcement will ultimately be made? How ironclad will that be? Because clearly you've got very, very senior people who have been in government raising very serious concerns.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, that's completely clear – it will be completely clear. And the clarity of that is embodied in the statement that I'm making in the Parliament today, which is certainly part of why I'm making it now. I mean, it is a statement which goes beyond submarines, but the timing of doing this today is very much about the fact that we're on the eve of this announcement.

And this is completely understood by the UK and the US. It's absolutely as they would imagine it and as they would expect it. But it is very important that the Australian people have a sense of confidence that when we are acquiring a capability such as this we do so with complete sovereignty.

And I might also say, it is very significant technology. It is a massive step change in our capability. It is not unique that we are acquiring technology and capabilities from countries abroad that we wouldn't be able to develop on our own. I mean, the joint strike fighter is an example of a collaboration across a number of nations that we wouldn't have been able to do on our own, but we have complete sovereignty over the joint strike fighters that we operate.

KARVELAS: You talked about the capability gap a lot when you first took this portfolio. I've since observed some change in your language. Do you feel like that's not the case now?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, you're right to observe the change in my language. I think that comes from a sense of confidence about what we – that what we will be announcing with the optimal pathway will deal with the question. So the capability gap, if you like, that we were – and the problem around that that we inherited from the former government was very serious. I mean, we had a lost decade as the former government dillied and dallied over the question of submarines. You know, they were on and off again with the Japanese and then the French.

And we really did lose a decade, and that obviously at a very critical moment in history, has created a significant problem. But I'm confident that what we're about to announce will address that problem. And so, yeah, there is a sense of confidence about that, and that's probably reflected in the way I'm speaking.

KARVELAS: Russia is believed to be planning a fresh assault on Ukraine to mark the first anniversary of the invasion. Were you briefed on that in Washington, and how significant is that assault expected to be?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, I'm not in a position to go into the details of briefings that I've received about that. I think what needs to be said about Ukraine is we have said for a while now, a few months now, that this is developing into a protracted conflict and we need – all of us, all countries – need to be standing with Ukraine but providing the kind of support which will enable Ukraine to remain in the contest so that they can determine this conflict on their own terms. And that's what we're seeking to do.

And the most – well, the latest iteration of that is obviously the trainers that we've provided and with the Foreign Minister Penny Wong I was able to have the incredible privilege of watching that training actually happen in Britain last week, and it was really one of the most poignant things I've experienced to be honest, to see people who, you know, woke up on the 1st of January this year as builders or clerks or drivers – you know, I spoke to these Ukrainian soldiers and that's what they were - who put their hands up with very little military experience, in some cases none, and are now facing, you know, a brutal conflict which looks a lot more like World War I than World War II. And our trainers are doing an incredible job.

KARVELAS: Overnight Ukraine's President made the case for more money and equipment from the west. He said supplies were running out and that could stall Ukraine's efforts. Is Australia considering sending more support to Ukraine?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, I mean, this is going to be an open question going on. I

think the answer to it is we will continue a discussion with Ukraine for as long as it takes to make sure that they can stay in the contest. And the very fact that I'm talking about this as being a protracted conflict and we need to be there, you know, apprehends what you're saying.

Yeah, we need to balance this, obviously, as all countries do, with our own capability and making sure that we maintain our own ability to operate in our own sphere here in the Indo-Pacific. But we need to be doing what we can to support Ukraine, and we'll continue to think that through, as we have. And right now, you know, we stand as one of the largest non-NATO contributors to Ukraine.

There is an incredible gratitude that Ukraine has towards what Australia is doing. It is noticed across Europe that, you know, Australia – a long way from Ukraine – is doing so

much. So Australians should feel proud of the support that we're providing, but we'll continue that dialogue with Ukraine to see how that can continue.

KARVELAS: Defence Minister Richard Marles is my guest. Let's turn to China now. Earlier this week the US shot down a Chinese spy balloon off its coast. Are you concerned that could raise further tensions between our major security partner and our biggest trading partner?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, the balloon was a very curious and significant incident. It was obviously flying through American airspace, and that right there raises questions of the contravention of the rules of the road, if I can put it that way. America was completely within its rights to do what it did, and we totally understand that. I think America actually acted in a pretty measured way here around how they dealt with this. We obviously want dialogue between America and China, but I know America want that as well. But it's really important that countries respect the global rules-based order. And sending a balloon over the United States in the way that this occurred raises questions about that.

KARVELAS: You've just returned from Washington. Does the White House share the view of the Commander of the Air Force that the US and China could be at war over Taiwan as soon as 2025?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I don't think it helps to speculate in those terms. I mean what we –

KARVELAS: Do you worry about that?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: We take – I mean, I think we live in a world which is fragile and is not as safe and stable as it's been in the past. And obviously, all of that is worrying, of course. That said, you know, our efforts have at their frontline diplomacy. And what we seek to do is to do our best to create pathways towards peaceful resolution of dispute. And you've seen that in the way in which we've sought to stabilise our own relationships with China. And, you know, we value a productive relationship with China. That said, we need to be prudent about our own security, and that's why we've taken a range of steps in terms of our own defence, but you can understand that's what America is doing as well.

KARVELAS: There's a story in today's newspaper, *The Australian* newspaper, about hundreds of surveillance cameras in government buildings here that are made by Chinese state government-owned corporations. The UK and the US are banning or restricting these devices. Are you considering that, too?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Look, I think this is an issue and we – in respect of what's in the newspapers today, we're doing an assessment of all the technology for surveillance within the Defence estate. And where those particular cameras are found

they're going to be removed. So, you know, there is an issue here and we're going to deal with it.

KARVELAS: How significant is the issue?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I don't think we should overstate it, but I think it is right to be doing the assessment and making sure that we deal with it. And that's what we're going to do. I mean, it's a significant thing that's been brought to our attention, and we're going to fix it. It's obviously been there, I might say, for some time and predates us coming into office. But that said, it's important that we go through this exercise and make sure that our facilities are completely secure.

KARVELAS: I just want to ask you finally on a domestic issue – the referendum that's planned. The government's made a decision to get this pamphlet out for the yes and the no case. What efforts are you going to go to to make sure that that's absolutely accurate?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, accurate in the sense of what is in the yes and the no case? Is that what –

KARVELAS: Well, there are concerns – Professor Megan Davis, who is in the Referendum Working Group, has raised concerns about the kind of content that's been allowed to pass before in these kinds of pamphlets. What safeguards are you putting in?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Look, yes and no cases are a well understood feature of referendums past. And right now our minister, the Special Minister of State, is handling the negotiations with a range of parties, including the opposition, to put in place the appropriate safeguards in respect of that.

But I think the point to make here is we want to be constructive and cooperative in the way in which we deal with all parties to make sure that the process that we put in place for this referendum is as fair as possible. Because ultimately we want to have a completely fair expression of the Australian people which we very much hope will be in support of the establishment of recognition of our Indigenous people through the establishment of the Voice.

KARVELAS: Peter Dutton called this a backflip. Are you also considering a backflip on funding a yes and a no case?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, I mean, what we're trying to be is constructive and –

KARVELAS: Well, he wants money for a yes and a no case. Will you consider it?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: What we're being is constructive and cooperative in the processes that we're putting in place. And let's just focus on that. What we'll do is talk

with everyone about how best to put in place this referendum. And, as I said, our Special Minister of State will look at that and continue the discussions about how the machinery will apply to the referendum. But it's going to be a referendum which is going to be as fair as it's possible to have a referendum so that we get the expression we need to support the Voice.

KARVELAS: One last question. Yes and no funding then could potentially be on the table?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, these are all matters that are going to be worked through as we negotiate how this – the referendum takes place.

KARVELAS: Thank you for your time.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thanks, PK.

ENDS

Television Interview, Sky News First Edition

9 FEBRUARY 2023

Errors and omissions excepted

SUBJECTS: *Australia-China relationship; Taiwan; AUKUS; Defence Strategic Review; Australia's sovereignty; AUKUS.*

PETER STEFANOVIC, HOST: Joining me here live now in Canberra is the Defence Minister Richard Marles. Minister, plenty to catch up on over the last few weeks and months. Now, as you know, China has cooled its rhetoric over that time, over those previous weeks and months. Then it sends a suspected spy balloon over the United States over-sensitive military sites. Can you trust them?

RICHARD MARLES, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, firstly, I think it's a very curious incident with the balloon. I think America reacted to this in a very measured way. The important point I think we need to take from this is that the rules of the road globally matter; I mean the global rules-based order matters. And this was clearly in breach of America's air space. And that's the fundamental thing, whatever it was doing, it was in American air space, and it didn't have permission to be there. And I think the way in which America went about this was very measured.

STEFANOVIC: Yep. There is heated conversations now taking place, particularly from higher-ranking members of the American establishment. The US Air Force General recently spoke of conflict over Taiwan by 2025. The CIA Director recently warned of an invasion by 2027. Is that likely?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I think it doesn't help to speculate. I mean I would say the frontline of what we seek to do as a country is to deploy our diplomacy and to try and create peaceful pathways, and we have a sense of confidence that we can contribute to that. At the same time we definitely live in a world which is much more fragile, less secure than it's been in the past. We talk about the fact that we face the most complex set of strategic circumstances that we have since the end of the Second World War. And there's a truth in that. And it's on the basis of that that while we deploy our diplomacy, we want to create pathways for peace, in fact we want to have the most productive relationship with China that we can, and we've sought to stabilise that. We also need to be very prudent about our own posture and about our own defence, and that's why we're going through a lot of steps in respect of that as well.

STEFANOVIC: Sure. I know you don't want to speculate, but that doesn't mean it's not potentially a reality. It's not very far away.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, I mean we talk about the idea, as I said, that we face very complex strategic circumstances, and the world is much more fragile now than it

has been for a long time. That is the reality of the world in which we are living. And we are seeing a great power contest.

Now, we want that to play out in a way which is peaceful, clearly. We need to be prudent about our own security, and you can look at what we are doing in terms of building our own defence. We are seeing an increase in our defence spend, that makes sense, because, you know, in a rational world, defence spending is a function of strategic threat and strategic complexity, and we're rational people.

STEFANOVIC: So with that said, and pardon the bluntness of this question, are we ready for war in this region?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: So there's a few answers to that question. Again, I don't want to speculate about war, but I think we do have a really capable Defence Force. Australians should have a sense of confidence about that. It's not a large military, but it's a highly capable military, and it can do very significant things, and we should feel very proud of that, and we've seen that as our military has been deployed over the last couple of decades.

We do need to be thinking about whether or not the Defence Force we have now is fit in terms of the strategic landscape that we face, and it is very different. There is much greater threat. And that's why we're doing the Defence Strategic Review. And we'll let the Review do its work, and I don't want to pre-empt it, but I think what you will see coming out of that is much more of a sense that we must have the ability to project, to project power. We need to be able to hold any potential adversary at risk at a greater distance from our shores, and so impactful projection is what will be at the heart, I think, of what the --

STEFANOVIC: So when you say that, you know, holding someone at bay essentially, what sort of a timeframe are you working towards here? I mean, is it back to that question, 2025, 2027? Do we have that much time?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, I think what's important is that we are acting as quickly as we can to get the posture that we need for our Defence Force, and yeah, we need to be thinking about that over the course of the next few years, that's important, but when you think about strategic thought, it's not just that. You know, there are long lead times in respect of a lot of what we do. So we are thinking about the next few years. We're thinking about the 2030s and the 2040s. We're thinking about what the world might look like over that period of time, and in a sense the right analysis is to look at the worst case scenario and make sure that we have a Defence Force that can maintain our way of life over that period of time, no matter what we --

STEFANOVIC: Sure. Okay. But you know, China's certainly getting ready for war, it seems to be on a war footing at the moment. You've got the US and Japan, they've got rotations of troops that are off Okinawa, getting closer to Taiwan now as a form of

deterrence, perhaps a form of protection, if it comes to that, over Taiwan. So in that sense, do we need to be ready for combat or conflict by 2030?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: What we need to do is to make sure that we maximise our Defence Force posture so as to protect our interests; that's really what we need to be focussed on, and that's what we're doing. Australians should have a sense of confidence that the Defence Force they've got right now is a highly capable one. But we do need to be thinking about what kind of assets do we need going forward which are going to maintain our national interest, no matter what circumstances we face. And that is why we're thinking about ensuring that we have long-range capable submarines, which in the future is going to require them to be nuclear-powered. That's a huge leap in terms of our capability.

STEFANOVIC: We've got a hell of a capability gap until they come on board though?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, we do face the fact that over, you know, the last decade there was dithering around what we do with the successor to the Collins-class submarines, and we really had a lost decade there, which has created an issue in terms of how we deal with the capability after the Collins comes to its end of life. I mean Collins, when it was originally built, was expected to come out of service in the middle of this decade. With a lost decade under the former government, we couldn't have had that at a more difficult time in terms of the strategic circumstances we face, and that really goes to the point that you're making.

That said, I'm actually confident that what we will announce with the United States, with the United Kingdom in the coming weeks is going to address the questions of capability.

STEFANOVIC: Okay. So on that point then, the submarines, are they going to be British-made submarines with American weapons?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: You'll have to wait and see, what we announce –

STEFANOVIC: Right I knew you were going to say that.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: But I will say this: I think at the outset of this process, there was- you know, some were speculating that maybe what this would be is some kind of contest between the US and the UK for who would provide us with a nuclear-powered submarine. In fact the way it has evolved it has genuinely been a collaborative effort between the UK and the US. When this is announced you are going to see a three-way joint solution for Australia, and it is a massive step change in terms of our capability. It's really probably the biggest leap forward in terms of what we can do as a nation that we've ever had, and that's really important.

STEFANOVIC: Do you feel like the Defence Strategic Review needs to shock the Australian public into knowing how serious the threat is and what urgent things need to be done in that time?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: I think it is important that we are having a conversation with the Australian people, which makes it clear that we live in a world which is more fragile than we have for a very long period of time, and that what that is going to require is a defence posture, a Defence Force which is in truth going to cost more than it has in the past. We're going to need to increase our defence spending.

PETER STEFANOVIC: How much?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, again, I'm not going to put a number on it.

PETER STEFANOVIC: Okay, it's at 2 per cent now GDP. How much further has it got to go?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, it is at 2 per cent, and there's been a rise to get it to that point, but I think we are going to see that defence spend increase.

STEFANOVIC: 3 per cent?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Again I'm not going to speculate on that.

STEFANOVIC: The late Senator Jim Molan had suggested it should be up near 4 per cent. That's how serious the threat is on our doorstep.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: And you know, we take what Jim Molan says seriously, and obviously, I think understand it was his last interview –

STEFANOVIC: He did with us, yeah.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: And it's perhaps, you know, we miss Jim a lot is what I'd say. But look, we're going to see an increase in our defence spend, and to go to your original question, that does require a conversation with the Australian people. Not for a moment do we take any of this for granted. I mean there's a lot of money being spent on capability which needs to be explained to the Australian people, so it is important that we're having that conversation.

PETER STEFANOVIC: So do you think there will be surprises in store when the Defence Strategic Review comes out? I mean there's been leaks recently about sea mines, there's been announcements as welcoming up to this point.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Well, I do hope that what the Defence Strategic Review does do is get that conversation going, or, I mean it is happening, but to increase the tempo of that conversation. Yeah, I think people will see surprises inevitably, because this is a wholesale review of the posture that we need to take given the circumstances that we face, and when we announced the review we talked about the fact that this is really the biggest review of our defence posture since Paul Dibb his review back in 1985-86. So this is kind of a once-in-a-generation assessment, and inevitably you're

going to see big questions looked at, and there will be, you know, very important reading for people to have there. And I do hope that it begins the kind of conversation you're describing, because the Australian public need to be aware of what we need to do.

PETER STEFANOVIC: You've got a speech today on sovereignty. Does, do we – or do you forecast us losing any of that with our attachment to the UK, or our attachment to the United States going forward?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: No, I don't, but I think it is an important question to address. I understand the legitimate question that people would raise. It is like a huge piece of technology which is being provided to us by the United Kingdom and the US, and so I understand that people would ask the question, what are the terms on which that technology is being provided?

The important point to make is this: the moment that there is an Australian flag on the future submarine, it will be completely under Australian control, completely. So we have total sovereignty over that asset. And in fact because the asset is much more capable than anything we've had before, I'd argue that that builds our sovereignty, because it increases what we can do, and the capacity of the Australian people, therefore, to be able to determine our own future. But it matters to give that assurance to the Australian people, and in part that's why I'm making this speech today on the eve of the submarine announcement.

It's not just about submarines. We talk about all the activities we do with the United States, and indeed all of our partners, particularly where that activity occurs in Australia. But maintaining our sovereignty in all of this is fundamentally important.

STEFANOVIC: Okay. Let me close with this question. You've been in the job for nearly a year now. You've travelled the world, you've spoken to a lot of world leaders, you've had access to a lot of intelligence. What worries you the most?

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: It's a good question. And I've been asked this question a lot since I've become the Minister for Defence. Look, I think that the shape of the world, as it's been revealed to me in the kinds of briefings that you've described, is not particularly different to what I imagined before I took the chair. But perhaps what has been the most impactful on me is, whereas I thought maybe the volume was at three or four, it's really kind of at nine or 10.

We – the world is fragile, and we really do face a pretty significant moment in our history. And it really matters that at this moment we are doing everything we can to, firstly make the right decisions, secondly to deploy our diplomacy to try and create pathways for peace, but also to make sure that we are ready. Ready to be able to make sure that whatever scenario we face as a nation in the future, we're able to protect Australians and protect Australian interests.

STEFANOVIC: Okay. Defence Minister, Richard Marles. As always, appreciate your time. Thanks for sharing your thoughts with us this morning.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER: Thanks, Peter.

STEFANOVIC: We'll see you again.

ENDS

From: [MsB](#)
 To: [MsB](#)
 Cc: [s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
 Subject: [s.22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) 3 y u 2023 9 February 2023
 Date: [Wednesday 8 February 2023 4:46:01 PM](#)
 Attachments: [image.png](#)

OFFICIAL



MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary

Thursday, 9 February 2023

TV and Radio reporting

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Ministerial and other appearances

ABC Radio National, Sky News

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

- [On concerns of tensions between China and the US after the shooting down of a suspected Chinese spy balloon on US territory]*
- The balloon was a very curious and significant incident.
 - It was obviously flying through US airspace, which raises questions of the contravention of the "rules of the road".
 - The US was completely within its rights to do what it did. The US acted in a premeasured way.
 - We want a dialogue between the US and China and the US wants this as well.
 - It is important that countries respect the global rules based order. Sending a balloon over the US raises questions about this.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Prepared by s.22(1)(a)(ii).

From: [Media US](#)
Subject: Update from Washington -- 8 Feb [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, 8 February 2023 1:45:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Map Description automatically generated

This update is compiled by the Strategic Communications and Political Branches at the Embassy of Australia, Washington DC

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Asia Pacific

The U.S. intelligence community has linked the Chinese spy balloon shot down on Saturday to a vast surveillance program run by the People's Liberation Army, and U.S. officials have begun to brief allies and partners who have been similarly targeted. The surveillance balloon effort, which has operated for several years partly out of Hainan province off China's south coast, has collected information on military assets in countries and areas of emerging strategic interest to China including Japan, India, Vietnam, Taiwan and the Philippines, according to several U.S. officials, who, like others interviewed for this story, spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity. Officials have said these surveillance airships, operated in part by the PLA air force, have been spotted over five continents.

[Chinese balloon part of vast aerial surveillance program, U.S. says](#) (WP)

[China Sends Spy Balloons Over Military Sites Worldwide, U.S. Officials Say](#) (NYT)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Articles of interest -- 8 Feb [REDACTED]
Date: Wednesday, 8 February 2023 11:53:27 AM

The U.S. intelligence community has linked the Chinese spy balloon shot down on Saturday to a vast surveillance program run by the People's Liberation Army, and U.S. officials have begun to brief allies and partners who have been similarly targeted. The surveillance balloon effort, which has operated for several years partly out of Hainan province off China's south coast, has collected information on military assets in countries and areas of emerging strategic interest to China including Japan, India, Vietnam, Taiwan and the Philippines, according to several U.S. officials, who, like others interviewed for this story, spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the matter's sensitivity. Officials have said these surveillance airships, operated in part by the PLA air force, have been spotted over five continents.

[Chinese balloon part of vast aerial surveillance program, U.S. says](#) (WP)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Media](#)
To: [Media](#)
Cc: [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
Subject: MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary - Wednesday, 8 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 7 February 2023 4:44:27 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL



MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary

Wednesday, 8 February 2023

TV and Radio reporting	
ABC Radio	<p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>The US Navy has released photos showing large debris of a suspected Chinese spy balloon being collected by US boats after it was shot down over US skies. s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p> <p>s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p>

From: [Media US](#)
Subject: Update from Washington -- 7 Feb [REDACTED]
Date: Tuesday, 7 February 2023 1:54:35 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Map   Description automatically generated

This update is compiled by the Strategic Communications and Political Branches at the Embassy of Australia, Washington DC

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

US-China

The U.S. military has notified Congress that China now has more land-based intercontinental-range missile launchers than the U.S., fueling the debate about how Washington should respond to Beijing's nuclear buildup. "The number of land-based fixed and mobile ICBM launchers in China exceeds the number of ICBM launchers in the United States," the commander of the U.S. Strategic Command, which oversees nuclear forces, wrote the Senate's and House's Armed Services Committees on Jan. 26. The notification comes as the U.S. is facing the challenge of deterring [Russia's substantial nuclear forces](#) as well as China's growing nuclear arsenal. U.S. lawmakers are involved in an increasingly heated debate about how best to counter Beijing, including the Pentagon's response to the Chinese surveillance balloon that recently traversed the U.S. and hovered over Montana, where a portion of the American military's ICBM arsenal is deployed... The command's notifications also don't include submarine-launched missiles and long-range bombers, where the U.S. has a decided advantage, U.S. officials say. Republican lawmakers, however, have cited the launchers as a portent of the scale of China's ambitions and are urging the U.S. to expand its own nuclear forces.

[China Has More ICBM Launchers Than U.S., American Military Reports](#): While the U.S. leads in intercontinental missiles and warheads, China's gains are fueling debate in Congress (WSJ – Michael R. Gordon)

...In that highly charged environment, Chinese experts are not hopeful that U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's trip to Beijing, postponed due to the balloon saga, will be revived soon. "This matter is very destructive and will have a long-term negative impact. It will make it more difficult to improve and thaw China-U.S. relations. This I fear is an indisputable fact," said Xin Qiang, deputy director of the Center for American Studies at Fudan University in Shanghai...Overall, the incident demonstrates that the China-U.S. relationship cannot be improved by "dialogue alone" and needs renewed "guiding principles" for any improvement to be possible, said Shi Yinhong, professor of international relations at Renmin University of China.

[After the balloon, China works on fixing U.S. ties while still looking tough](#) (WP – Christian Shepherd and Lyric Li)

[Esper: Balloon incident weakens relationship between US, China](#) (The Hill)

Even as Washington takes a hard line on keeping U.S. technology and data beyond China's reach, the federal government has thus far been slow to close another channel of technology assistance: potentially billions of dollars in U.S. investment in Chinese tech startup companies. Lawmakers stepped into the issue last year, using the fiscal 2023 omnibus spending bill to direct the Treasury and Commerce departments to find a mechanism to track U.S. capital flows into tech sectors in China and other countries. Lawmakers and administration officials say the move is essential to curbing China's tech ambitions. "There is a fundamental contradiction in our China policy today: the U.S. government is placing increasing scrutiny on technology transfer and tightening export controls in concert with our allies to counter malign CCP-directed companies," said Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., the chairman of the House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the U.S. and the Chinese Communist Party.

[Little-noticed US funding for China tech sector now draws scrutiny](#): 'A fundamental contradiction in our China policy' (Roll Call – Gopal Ratnam)

The [suite of anti-China legislation](#) will be the focus Tuesday at the House Financial Services Committee's first hearing of the year — underlining the issue's importance for the GOP conference. It's also the panel's first hearing under new Chair Patrick McHenry. Among the proposals: Imposing sanctions on companies tied to China's military, admitting Taiwan to the IMF, banning use of the digital yuan by U.S. money services businesses and requiring Treasury to report on risks from the Chinese financial sector. The experts McHenry lined up for the hearing include former White House, Treasury and Commerce officials. They will outline ways to counter China and make the case for balancing policies so they don't backfire on the U.S. economy.

[GOP preps anti-China economic salvo](#) (Politico – Zachary Warmbrodt)

U.S.-China relations have reached a low point after a Chinese spy balloon was discovered — and shot down — over U.S. territory last week, but trade between the world's two leading economies just hit an all-time high. While some of the increase in last year's trade figures may be a result of historic levels of inflation, the figures remain eye opening, particularly considering the years-long U.S. tariff campaign on Chinese imports and new efforts to stop the flow of U.S. tech to Beijing. And they demonstrate just how intertwined the U.S. and China remain, commercially at least, despite efforts to effectively "decouple" their economies. "The decisions of consumers and businesses so far have been more powerful than governments," said Ed Gresser, a former chief economist at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. "Tariffs are basically a form of taxation. They have an influence on trade flows, but they don't have the overwhelmingly powerful influence, or at least they haven't so far."

[What cold war? U.S. trade with China hits new high](#) (Trade – Doug Palmer)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: Bondi Partners
To: Arthur Sinodinos
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bondi Perspectives | February 7, 2022
Date: Tuesday, 7 February 2023 7:00:49 AM

February 7, 2022

www.bondipartners.com

This week we look at the annual 2+2 AUKMIN Dialogue, China's take on quiet quitting, the State of the Union address and 2024 Presidential landscape, solar export bans from China, and more.

Quote of the Week

Republican Senator Mitt Romney made a salient point when he reminded us that most spying is far less apparent than a balloon the size of three buses floating in plain sight.

"A big Chinese balloon in the sky and millions of Chinese TikTok balloons on our phones. Let's shut them all down," the former presidential candidate [tweeted](#).

The whole episode was really a 'how not to' manual on spying. The massive balloon floated across the U.S. last week before being "popped" over the coast of South Carolina by an air-to-air missile fired

from an F-22 Raptor after President Joe Biden gave the OK to shoot it down.

Source: FT montage; Dreamstime

But rather than winning praise, the lengthy delay in ordering the kill shot has outraged Republicans who have accused the Administration as being slow to act, which plays into their broader narrative that Democrats are soft on China. However, the White House and Department of Defense justified their actions explaining that shooting the balloon down over land would unnecessarily endanger American lives from falling shrapnel. They also said the delay bought time to gather valuable intelligence on it. In terms of what it means for diplomatic relations, it's interesting to note that Secretary of State [Antony Blinken canceled his highly anticipated visit to Beijing](#) (the first by a top U.S. diplomat in more than five years) where he was slated to meet directly with President Xi.

From: [Media](#)
 To: [Media](#)
 Cc: [s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
 Subject: [MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary - Tuesday 7 February 2023](#) [REDACTED]
 Date: Monday, 6 February 2023 4:44:14 PM
 Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL



MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary

Tuesday, 7 February 2023

TV and Radio reporting

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) - out of scope

Sky News	s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope
----------	---

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) - out of scope

The **United States Navy** has recovered parts of a **Chinese** spy balloon after dramatic a shootdown by an F-22

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) - out of scope

ABC TV	s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope
--------	---

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) - out of scope

Beijing has confirmed a Chinese balloon accidentally entered **Latin American and Caribbean airspace**.

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) - out of scope

Ministerial and other appearances

Sky News	Simon Birmingham, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs
----------	---

[s 22\(1\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) - out of scope

	<p><i>[On the suspected Chinese spy balloon over the United States]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We urge China to engage openly and transparently with the United States regarding this incident, in ways that can seek to try to restore trust that clearly will have been damaged.
<p>ABC Radio National</p>	<p>Dr Geoffrey Raby, former Australian Ambassador to China s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope</p>
	<p><i>[On whether it was appropriate for the United States to shoot down a Chinese balloon]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was over US air space; the US has the right to shoot it down.• We mustn't assume that Beijing is a homogenous environment where one view prevails. There may be various political currents in Beijing that are behind this.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: noreply@strem.com.au on behalf of [DFAT Daily Media Roundup](#)
To: [Arthur Sinodinos](#)
Subject: DFAT Early AM Press Brief - Tuesday 7 February 2023
Date: Monday, 6 February 2023 1:40:45 PM

[View this email online](#)

Tuesday 7 February 2023

[Download Media Items in Plain Text](#)

[Jump to: Minister for Foreign Affairs Mentions \(13\) |](#)

[Minister for Trade and Tourism Mentions \(6\) |](#)

[Minister for International Development and the Pacific Mentions \(3\) |](#)

[Assistant Minister for Trade Mentions \(4\) |](#) [DFAT Mentions and Hot Issues \(4\)](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mentions

13 items

Australia floats spy balloon fear with China

Australian Financial Review by Andrew Tillett

Tuesday 7 February 2023, 12:05am AEDT - Page 9

Diplomats have raised the Albanese government's concerns with Chinese counterparts over the spy balloon that flew over the US, as former military chiefs said they expected Australia would also shoot down a Chinese spy balloon if Beijing tried the same...

Foreign Minister Penny Wong indicated the government would "protect our sovereignty", as the presence of the balloon over the continental US and its downing by an American fighter jet sparked fresh tensions between Beijing and Washington.

Although Senator Wong said the balloon's mission breached international law, it was important that competition between the US and China did not escalate, and the incident would not derail Australian efforts to stabilise the bilateral relationship with...

Senator Wong would not be drawn on hypotheticals about whether Australia would shoot down a Chinese balloon, but said the government "will always act to protect our sovereignty and we'll always encourage other countries to act in accordance with..."

[VIEW PDF](#) [VIEW TEXT](#)

Trump attacks Pentagon over spy balloon

The Australian by Adam Creighton

Tuesday 7 February 2023, 12:02am AEDT - Page 9

Donald Trump has slammed the Pentagon after it said "at least three" Chinese surveillance balloons had crossed the mainland US during his administration, as Republican criticism of President Joe Biden's supposed tardiness in shooting down the dirigible intensified. The former...

Foreign Minister Penny Wong said the US had "managed this as carefully as possible ... they brought the balloon down over their own territorial waters".

[VIEW PDF](#) [VIEW TEXT](#)

Foreign Minister Penny Wong backs US for shooting down Chinese surveillance balloon

The Sydney Morning Herald

Monday 6 February 2023, 8:10am AEDT

Foreign Minister Penny Wong has backed the US over its shooting down of a suspected Chinese surveillance balloon.

Foreign Minister Penny Wong backs US for shooting down Chinese surveillance balloon.
Foreign Minister Penny Wong has backed the US over its shooting down of a suspected Chinese surveillance balloon.

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

<!--[endif]--> **SYNDICATION**

Brisbane Times, The Age, The Sydney Morning Herald, WA Today

Penny Wong urges calm after US shoots down China ‘weather’ balloon

Herald Sun by Ellen Ransley

Monday 6 February 2023, 7:50am AEDT

Australians are being urged not to panic after a suspected Chinese spy balloon was shot down in the US over the weekend.

Penny Wong urges calm after US shoots down China ‘weather’ balloon. Australians are being urged not to panic after a suspected Chinese spy balloon was shot down in the US over the weekend. Foreign Minister Penny Wong said while it was concerning the...

The incident threatens to damage the tenuous relationship between Beijing and Washington, but Senator Wong said Australia would continue to seek to stabilise the relationship.

Senator Wong said the most important consideration was that “we don’t allow competition to escalate into conflict”. A US fighter jet shot down the suspected Chinese spy balloon. Picture: Angela Mosley China maintains it was a harmless weather balloon.

...in competition engage, making sure that there are guard rails around that competition to ensure that there isn’t escalation.” Senator Wong said Australia was still focusing on stabilising its own relationship with China, aiming to persuade Beijing to...

“And we will always encourage other countries to act in accordance with international law,” she told ABC News. Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong says Australia will continue to engage with China and seek to de-escalate the risk of conflict.

VIEW ONLINE

<!--[endif]--> **SYNDICATION**

Cairns Post, Geelong Advertiser, Gold Coast Bulletin, Herald Sun, Mercury, NT News, News.com.au, The Advertiser, The Australian, The Chronicle (Toowoomba), The Courier Mail, The Daily Telegraph, The Weekly Times, Townsville Bulletin

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Bursting bubbles on Sino ‘mania’

The Sydney Morning Herald by Peter Hartcher

Tuesday 7 February 2023, 12:05am AEDT - Page 20

Washington's line on Beijing is hardening and poses difficulties for its China-focused ally Australia. We'll learn more about the China-US balloon incident in the days to come, but one key lesson is clear already: the relationship between the two great...

Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong said yesterday: "In times gone past, we could separate the economic and the strategic so we could have our strategic relationship with the US [and] we could have our economic relationship with China.

[VIEW PDF](#) [VIEW TEXT](#)

Trade talks with China 'productive'

Australian Financial Review by Georgie Moore, Tess Bennett

Monday 6 February 2023, 7:26am AEDT

Trade Minister meets with Chinese counterpart; NT to reinstate alcohol bans in Central Australia to curb violence; federal government tipping in \$250m in funding. Follow updates here.

"Their willingness to come back to the table is welcome, but we have now had numerous meetings by the Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and the trade Minister, and Australian exporters will be looking to see progress," Birmingham told the ABC.

And that means to both the parliament and the executive." Spy balloon incident can't be allowed to escalate: Wong Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong has urged the US and China to continue to engage in the wash-up of America shooting down what officials...

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Australian and Chinese trade ministers prepare to meet

The Canberra Times by Andrew Brown and Maeve Bannister

Monday 6 February 2023, 1:33pm AEDT

Australia and China's trade ministers will meet to discuss ongoing trade sanctions and investment embargoes. Senator Don Farrell...

Australia has called for calm after a suspected Chinese spy balloon was shot down in the United States. Foreign Minister Penny Wong said it would benefit both countries if the trade sanctions were lifted.

We will continue to do that." The foreign minister added while it was concerning the balloon entered US airspace, allies including Australia must be measured in their response. Senator Wong said it was important for countries including Australia to...

Senator Wong urged for talks between the two world powers to continue. "It's very important in the specific or more generally that we don't allow competition to escalate into conflict.

Senator Wong said Australia was focused on stabilising its own relationship with China and abolish a raft of trade sanctions. The foreign minister said Australia would always ensure its sovereignty was protected.

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

<!--[endif]--> **SYNDICATION**

Australian Community Media [92 Syndications]

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Australian and Chinese trade ministers meet for first time in three years

The Guardian by Daniel Hurst

Monday 6 February 2023, 4:18pm AEDT

Don Farrell will fly to Beijing in the 'near future' amid a thawing of diplomatic relations with Australia's largest trading partner

It will be the first visit to China by an Australian trade minister since Simon Birmingham's trip to Shanghai in November 2019. Farrell's visit follows the trip by the foreign affairs minister, Penny Wong, in December 2022.

Earlier on Monday, the Australian foreign affairs minister, Wong, called on the US and China to remain in dialogue despite the flare up in tensions after the US shot down what it labelled a Chinese spy balloon that flew over American territory.

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

[VIEW ONLINE](#)

[Back to Top](#)

DFAT Mentions and Hot Issues

4 items

Canberra's China reset may be up in the air

Australian Financial Review by Michael Smith

Tuesday 7 February 2023, 12:05am AEDT - Page 11

Tokyo High hopes for an Australia-China reset have been tempered just weeks after Xi Jinping extended an olive branch to both Canberra and Washington. The Pentagon's decision to shoot down an alleged Chinese spy balloon highlights just how fragile the...

China's Defence Ministry called it an "obvious overreaction". So far, it has not directly affected Australia-China relations. **Trade Minister Don Farrell** met online with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Wentao, as scheduled yesterday.

[VIEW PDF](#) [VIEW TEXT](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

AUSTRALIA IN THE US – HEADLINE MESSAGES
Monday 6 February 2023

PART A – CURRENT MESSAGES

PART B – PRIORITY MESSAGES

A. CURRENT MESSAGES

US MILITARY ACTION AGAINST CHINESE BALLOON

- Australia appreciates US efforts to manage the Chinese balloon issue in a careful and measured way, as noted by FM Penny Wong [6 Feb]
 - Australia remained in close contact with US counterparts as the high-altitude balloon tracked across the continental United States.
- We share the US' concerns about the infringement of US airspace and the effect on US sovereignty
 - we note US Secretary of State Blinken's comments that the US remains open to diplomatic engagement
 - Australia encourages the Chinese Government to do the same.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Apple News](#)
To: [Arthur Sinodinos](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Devastating earthquakes hit Turkey and Syria, highs and lows from the Grammys, and more
Date: Monday, 6 February 2023 7:48:59 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.



Good Morning From Apple News

It's Monday, February 6.
Here's what you need to know.

TOP STORIES

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

U.S. fighter jets shot down the suspected Chinese surveillance balloon off South Carolina on Saturday. Military divers are working to recover the debris.

BLOOMBERG

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Media](#)
To: s 47E(d)
Cc: s 22(1)(a)(ii) ; [Media](#); s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: **FYI Media Alert** FOREIGN MINISTER PENNY WONG - TRANSCRIPT - INTERVIEW - ABC NEWS BREAKFAST AND MIX 102.3 - MONDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Sunday, 5 February 2023 8:49:48 PM
Attachments: FOREIGN MINISTER PENNY WONG - TRANSCRIPT - INTERVIEW - MIX 102.3 - MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2023 SECOFFICIAL.msg

[REDACTED]

Note: This is an ad-hoc media alert distributed by MLS for your information and for further distribution as you see relevant, including to your contacts at Posts, particularly when the issue is attracting high media interest

Dear colleagues,

Please see attached and below two further transcripts from the Foreign Minister's interviews this morning.

With thanks,

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

Media Liaison Section
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
p s 22(1)(a)(ii)
dfat.gov.au | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

© Kim Hill, *Among Women* (2011)

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to all First Nations peoples, their cultures and to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

From: Foreign Minister Media <noreply@dfat.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 6 February 2023 12:12 PM
To: Media <media@dfat.gov.au>
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER PENNY WONG - TRANSCRIPT - INTERVIEW - ABC NEWS BREAKFAST - MONDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2023 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



SENATOR THE HON PENNY WONG
LEADER OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SENATE
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TRANSCRIPT

E&OE TRANSCRIPT
TV INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL ROWLAND, ABC NEWS BREAKFAST
MONDAY, 6 FEBRUARY 2023

Subjects: US-China balloon incident; Australia-China relations; Voice to Parliament Referendum.

LISA MILLAR, HOST: In the US military officials are working to recover the debris from a suspected Chinese spy balloon shot down off the country's east coast. There have been protests from Beijing which claims the balloon was a stray weather device and the US over reacted.

MICHAEL ROWLAND, HOST: Staying with that story, that suspected Chinese spy balloon has certainly ramped up tensions between the US and Beijing so what does that mean for Australia?

Joining me now is the Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong. Minister, good morning to you.

PENNY WONG, FOREIGN MINISTER: Good morning, Michael, good to be with you.

ROWLAND: Do you believe it was a, as China says, a stray weather device?

FOREIGN MINISTER: We share the US concerns about the infringement of US airspace and the, you know, effect on US sovereignty, and I think that the US has acted in a manner that is careful and measured and safe and made sure that this was brought down over its own territorial waters safely.

ROWLAND: If it was a spy device, what do you think that says about China?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Look, I'm not going to get into speculation, I'm just going to look at what the United States has said, and they regarded it as an infringement of their sovereignty and certainly its presence was not consistent with international law. I think that has been acknowledged.

But I think the key point is the one that you made in your introduction, which is where does this now go. We welcome the US indicating in Secretary Blinken's comments that they're open to continued engagement with China, continued diplomatic engagement. We would encourage that to continue. We would encourage China to respond positively. Because it's very important, particularly at a time like this, that we ensure that competition doesn't continue to escalate. We all want a region that's peaceful, stable and prosperous, and that means, amongst other things, the great powers talking to one another.

ROWLAND: Okay, but that's harder, isn't it, if China does what it did with this balloon, right?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Look, obviously this has caused Secretary Blinken to cancel his trip to China. We will continue to advocate for the great powers to engage and to ensure there's guardrails around their relationship. I mean this is, you know, we don't want competition escalating. We want to ensure the region, the world remains peaceful and part of ensuring that is to have guardrails around competition, have lines of communication, have engagement.

I was pleased to see that Antony Blinken, Secretary of State, continued to offer that diplomatic engagement even at this time. And as I said, Australia would encourage China to respond positively.

ROWLAND: Antony Blinken as you said has pulled out of his diplomatic visit to China. The Australian Trade Minister Don Farrell has a virtual meeting set up this week with his counterparts. Should Australia reconsider that meeting in light of what's happened?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Look, we've always said in terms of the relationship with China we want to stabilise the relationship. We've said we will cooperate where we can, we will disagree where we must, and we will engage in our national interest. That's the approach we've taken from day one. When I first met with State Councilor Wang Yi in Bali at the G20 I said it was the first steps of many.

I regard the Trade Minister's virtual meeting that you referenced as the next step. We hope that the trade impediments will be removed. We believe it's in both countries' interests for that to occur. We are however realistic that this will take many steps in order to stabilise the relationship and both countries will have to take those steps.

ROWLAND: If a similar balloon happened to float across Australia how would the Australian Government respond?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Well, you wouldn't expect the Minister for Foreign Affairs to respond to hypotheticals, Michael, and I'm sure you knew that when you asked the question. I would answer in this way and say the Australian Government, Labor Government, will always ensure Australia's sovereignty is protected. We will always act to protect our sovereignty and we'll always encourage other countries to act in accordance with international law.

ROWLAND: Okay. You talk about, and it's welcomed by anybody watching, efforts to de-escalate tensions, avoiding conflict, but at the same time we've got this leaked memo from a senior US Air Force general telling his subordinates that his gut tells him, his gut tells him America and China will fight, his words, in 2025. Is that sort of language helpful?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Look, I gave a speech when I was in Washington at the Carnegie Institute where I talked about guardrails and I talked about agency, and what I meant by that was this: we can decide what we do, we can decide which path we choose, we can decide to work to manage competition and we can decide to avert conflict. Now sometimes that is hard. Sometimes you have to work hard to develop that architecture, to develop that relationship, to develop the guardrails, to develop the means of communication between powers, particularly at times of tension. But it is very important that we do that.

It's very important that the great powers, US and China do that, and it is very important that the rest of the region and the rest of the world continue to encourage that. That is why we would, we welcome the US being clear, even at this time, that they wish to continue to diplomatically engage and we would urge

China to respond positively.

ROWLAND: Just before we go, to a domestic issue. Parliament's back this week. The big issue, one of the big issues of course is going to be the proposed Voice to Parliament Referendum. Your colleague Senator Pat Dodson, Labor's Envoy for Reconciliation, reckons The Voice, should it happen, should have a role in advising National Cabinet as well as Parliament. Is that part of the plan?

FOREIGN MINISTER: Let's go back to first principles. What is The Voice? The Voice is constitutional recognition of our First Nations people to ensure they have a say, and I think it's a pretty good thing for people to have a say in matters that affect them. It's one of the ways we can ensure we improve not only our nation but also the aspirations and opportunities for our First Nations peoples. I was really pleased to see while I was away that First Ministers, all First Ministers, Liberal and Labor, have backed in The Voice. It shows what you can do when you take the politics out of it.

ROWLAND: Okay. I'll ask you the question again. Is The Voice going to advise National Cabinet as well as Parliament?

FOREIGN MINISTER: I think the voice will have a say in matters that affect First Nations people. But I think the point here is, why are some people so concerned about that? I don't quite understand --

ROWLAND: The reason, excuse the interruption, I'm asking the question because it's not part of the language so far. It's always been The Voice would advise Parliament. National Cabinet is a different body.

FOREIGN MINISTER: Well do you think people having a say is a problem, Michael?

ROWLAND: It's not for me to answer that question, I'm asking you, Minister.

FOREIGN MINISTER: That's the implication in your question. I think we have years of disadvantage, years of, you know, so many broken hopes and we can be so much stronger as a nation. We can become much more unified and the First Ministers, the Premiers and Chief Ministers have demonstrated that. We want to walk down this path together. It's not about gotcha moments, it's not about, you know, tricky questions and answers. It's about the nation coming together and saying, "Yes, we will take the outstretched hand", which is the Uluru Statement from the Heart. We will recognise our First Nations people. We will give them a say and we will work through the detail of that together, and that's a good thing.

ROWLAND: Okay, Penny Wong, really appreciate your time this morning. Thank you.

FOREIGN MINISTER: Good to be with you.

ENDS.

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: [Media](#)
 To: [Media](#)
 Cc: **s 22(1)(a)(ii)**
 Subject: **MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary - Monday 6 February 2023** [REDACTED]
 Date: Sunday, 5 February 2023 4:43:39 PM
 Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

OFFICIAL



MLS Morning TV and Radio News Summary

Monday, 6 February 2023

TV and Radio reporting	
ABC Radio	An operation is underway in the US to recover the remains of a suspected Chinese spy balloon. s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope
Sky News	The US has brought down a suspected Chinese spy balloon. In response, US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, has cancelled a US diplomatic trip to China. s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope
ABC TV	China has expressed 'strong dissatisfaction' after the US shot down a suspected spy balloon. s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope
Ministerial and other appearances	
ABC News Breakfast, Today	<p>Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs</p> <p><i>[On whether the Minister believes China's claims the balloon shot down by the US was a stray weather device]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We share the US' concerns about the infringement of US airspace and the effect on US sovereignty. I think the US has acted in a manner that is careful, measured and safe. It made sure that the balloon was brought down over its own territorial waters safely. <p><i>[On if the balloon was a spy device, what this says about China]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm not going to get into speculation. The US has said they consider the balloon an infringement of their sovereignty. Certainly, its presence was not consistent with international law, which I think has been acknowledged. <p><i>[On what happens next]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The question to ask is what happens now. It is very important, in the specific or more generally, that we do not allow competition to escalate into conflict. It is really very important that China and the US continue to engage. I note that Secretary Blinken, in his public statements, has made clear that the US remains open to diplomatic engagement and we would encourage the Chinese Government to do the same. <p><i>[On whether the US responded correctly in cancelling Secretary Blinken's visit to China]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We share the US' concerns they expressed about violations of international law and the infringement of US sovereignty. But the most important thing is what happens now. We would add our voice to, I am sure, many in the region that what we want is

a stable, peaceful and prosperous region and world.

- That means great powers, which are in competition, engage and make sure there are guard rails around the competition to make sure there is not escalation.

[On the risk this incident poses to Australia]

- Australia is seeking to stabilise its relationship with China.
- We recognise that in times gone past, we could separate the economic and strategic.
- We could have our strategic relationship with the US and our economic relationship with China.
- These days, the strategy and the economics have come together.
- The Australian Government recognises this. Australian business recognise this and its one of the reasons why they have diversified.
- We welcome reengagement with China and hope we can get to a point where both countries see that it is in their interests to resolve the trade impediments.

[On whether the situation is bad for Australia]

- I believe the US has managed this as carefully as possible. They brought the balloon down over their own territorial waters.
- They have expressed a desire to continue to engage and we would encourage this to be responded to positively by the Chinese Government.
- It is important to engage – you cooperate where you can, you disagree where you must but you must keep engaging because it is one of the ways in which we can resolve issues.

[On how Australia would respond if a similar balloon floated across Australia]

- You wouldn't expect the Minister for Foreign Affairs to respond to hypotheticals.
- The Australian Government will always ensure Australia's sovereignty is protected.
- We will always encourage other countries to act in accordance with international law.

[On whether it is appropriate for Australian diplomats and Trade Minister Don Farrell to meet with counterparts virtually]

- We have always said we want to stabilise the relationship with China.
- We have said we will cooperate where we can, disagree where we must and engage in our national interest.
- When I first met with State Councillor Wang Yi in Bali at the G20, I said it was the first step of many.
- I regard the Trade Minister's virtual meeting as the next step.
- We hope that the trade impediments will be removed and believe it is in both countries' interests for that to occur.
- We are, however, realistic that it will take many steps to stabilise the relationship.

ABC Radio
National

Daniel Russel, Asia Society Policy Institute

[On whether the Chinese balloon shot down by the US was likely a spy device]

- It was one of several devices in a fleet of airborne surveillance collection platforms that the Chinese military has deployed.
- The fact China is claiming the right to retaliate is an inadvertent admission. They would not have that right if it was actually just a weather balloon.

[On whether the US acted too slowly in shooting the balloon down]

- This was a considered decision by the US Department of Defence and intelligence agencies.
- They had to be confident that no serious or vital information would be transmitted as the balloon passed sensitive US locations.
- However, the US was not prepared to take any chances in shooting it down over land or allowing the balloon to return to China.

[On the consequences of the incident for the Chinese Government]

- This was a colossal blunder by the Chinese Government.
- It is a major setback to President Xi Jinping's efforts to calm the waters around China and pursue what people are describing as a "charm offensive".

From: s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au
To: Arthur.Sinodinos
Subject: GWO Daily Brief for Monday 6 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Sunday, 5 February 2023 1:57:08 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

[REDACTED]



0600 HRS MONDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2023

US/China: A US military jet shot down a suspected Chinese spy balloon off the US east coast, a week after it first entered US airspace. China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the US' downing of the balloon was a 'clear overreaction' and that China 'reserves the right to make further responses if necessary' ([Reuters](#), [SCMP](#), [CNN](#), s 47E(d)).

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Talking Points *Issued or updated by DFAT in the past 24 hours*

US military action against Chinese balloon v1, v2

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: noreply@strem.com.au on behalf of [DFAT Daily Media Roundup](#)
To: [Arthur Sinodinos](#)
Subject: DFAT Early AM Press Brief - Monday 6 February 2023
Date: Sunday, 5 February 2023 1:40:25 PM

[View this email online](#)

Monday 6 February 2023

[Download Media Items in Plain Text](#)

[Jump to: Minister for Foreign Affairs Mentions \(2\) |](#)

[Minister for Trade and Tourism Mentions \(2\) |](#)

[Minister for International Development and the Pacific Mentions \(1\) |](#)

[DFAT Mentions and Hot Issues \(1\)](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mentions

2 items

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

World braces as China reacts to US shooting down alleged spy balloon

The Courier Mail by Chantelle Francis

Sunday 5 February 2023, 12:01pm AEST

Beijing is “strongly dissatisfied” with Washington’s decision to shoot down what the Pentagon believes was a Chinese spy balloon attempting to monitor sensitive US military sites.

Picture: Alex Wong / Getty Images via AFP While the balloon was still in the air, China had hit out at accusations it was doing anything unlawful and slammed the “hype” and “speculation”.

between US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Wang Yi, director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China.

VIEW ONLINE

<!--[endif]--> **SYNDICATION**

Cairns Post, Geelong Advertiser, Gold Coast Bulletin, Herald Sun, Mercury, NT News, News.com.au, The Advertiser, The Chronicle (Toowoomba), The Courier Mail, The Daily Telegraph, The Weekly Times, Townsville Bulletin

[Back to Top](#)

Minister for Trade and Tourism Mentions

2 items

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

Australia prepares to reset China trade relationship

The Canberra Times by Maeve Bannister

Monday 6 February 2023, 3:31am AEDT

Top trade officials from Australia and China are set to meet for the first time in three years,...

But Chinese officials insisted the balloon was a civilian aircraft and had entered US airspace accidentally. Trade Minister Don Farrell is expected to go ahead with a virtual meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Wentao.

VIEW ONLINE

<!--[endif]--> **SYNDICATION**

Australian Community Media [99 Syndications]

[Back to Top](#)

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: DFAT Talking Points
To: s 47E(d)
Subject: DFAT Talking Points - US military action against Chinese balloon - v2 [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, 4 February 2023 11:51:02 PM

DFAT logo

[REDACTED]

MEDIA TALKING POINTS DISTRIBUTION: STANDARD

Topic: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Subject: US military action against Chinese balloon

Originating Division:
IPD

Version Date: 5/2/2023

Version: 2

Reason for Update:
Additional TPs
Expiry: 5/05/2023

Talking Points

- Australia has remained in close contact with US counterparts as the high-altitude Chinese balloon has tracked across the continental United States.
- The United States brought down the balloon in a safe manner in US territorial waters.
- We share US concerns that the presence of this Chinese aircraft in US sovereign airspace is not in keeping with China's stated commitment to international law.
- Appreciate US efforts to manage this issue in a careful and measured way.

If raised: is this a spy balloon?

- This is not a matter for Australia to comment on.
- Aware the United States has called this a sophisticated surveillance tool, and that the balloon has tracked over a number of sensitive defence sites.

If raised: has a similar balloon ever travelled over Australia?

- Unaware of a similar Chinese balloon over Australia, however we monitor such issues closely and would respond to protect our sovereign interests in such an event.

If raised: the legality of US actions in bringing down the balloon:

- We share US concerns that the presence of this Chinese aircraft was not in keeping

with China's states commitment to international law.

Appreciate US efforts to manage this issue in a careful and measured way, bringing down the balloon safely in its own territorial waters.

If pressed: the basis for US actions is a matter for the United States.

Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

Background

At 0641 Sunday 5 February AEDT, the US military downed a high-altitude balloon originating from China off the coast of South Carolina within US territorial waters. The balloon had been tracking across the United States for several days, including above sensitive US military facilities. The United States has asked for supportive statements from partners and allies.

During a visit to the United States, but before the downing of the balloon, the Australian Financial Review reported remarks from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles:

“Mr Marles, who met with US national security adviser Jake Sullivan and US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin on Friday (Saturday AEDT) for AUKUS talks in Washington said the Chinese violation of sovereignty was a serious matter for which China needed to provide further explanation, especially at a time when relations had started to mend. “There are a lot of questions associated with it, which I think everyone has,” Mr Marles said. “We all want the answers to those questions from China.” Mr Marles said he did not know “much more about the balloon than what was in the public domain” and that he was unaware of any such Chinese surveillance across Australian skies. He said he would monitor the situation carefully but that it was, “obviously, an issue being managed between the US and China”, Mr Marles told reporters.”

Following the action, US Defense Secretary Austin issued a statement:

This afternoon, at the direction of President Biden, U.S. fighter aircraft assigned to U.S. Northern Command successfully brought down the high altitude surveillance balloon launched by and belonging to the People's Republic of China (PRC) over the water off the coast of South Carolina in U.S. airspace. The balloon, which was being used by the PRC in an attempt to surveil strategic sites in the continental United States, was brought down above U.S. territorial waters. On Wednesday, President Biden gave his authorization to take down the surveillance balloon as soon as the mission could be accomplished without undue risk to American lives under the balloon's path. After careful analysis, U.S. military commanders had determined downing the balloon while over land posed an undue risk to people across a wide area due to the size and altitude of the balloon and its surveillance payload. In accordance with the President's direction, the Department of Defense developed options to take down the balloon safely over our territorial waters, while closely monitoring its path and intelligence collection activities. This action was taken in coordination, and with the full support, of the Canadian government. And we thank Canada for its contribution to tracking and analysis of the balloon through NORAD as it transited North America. Today's deliberate and lawful action demonstrates that President Biden and his national security team will always put the safety and security of the American people first while responding effectively to the PRC's unacceptable violation of our sovereignty.

China's MFA issued a statement on 5 February saying "for the United States to insist on using armed force is clearly an excessive reaction that seriously violates international convention," and that "China will resolutely defend the legitimate rights and interests of the enterprise involved, and retains the right to respond further."

Prime Minister Trudeau said Canada strongly supported acting to bring down "China's high-altitude surveillance balloon that violated American and Canadian airspace and international law."

The Pentagon said it had reports of a second balloon transiting Latin America which the United States assessed as a Chinese surveillance balloon.

Handling Notes

Media Interest

Approval

Consultation	EAD, LGD, Defence
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii), IPD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Martin Walker, A/g FAS IPD

Distribution

s 47E(d)

s 22(1)(a)(ii)

From: DFAT Talking Points
To: s 47E(d)
Subject: DFAT Talking Points - US military action against Chinese balloon - v1 [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, 4 February 2023 7:20:09 PM

DFAT logo

[REDACTED]

MEDIA TALKING POINTS DISTRIBUTION: STANDARD

Topic: INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Subject: US military action against Chinese balloon

**Originating Division:
IPD**

Version Date: 5/2/2023

Version: 1

Reason for Update:

Expiry: 5/05/2023

Talking Points

- Australia has remained in close contact with US counterparts as the high-altitude Chinese balloon has tracked across the continental United States.
- The United States brought down the balloon in a safe manner in US territorial waters.
- We share US concerns that the presence of this Chinese aircraft in US sovereign airspace is not in keeping with China's stated commitment to international law.
- Appreciate US efforts to manage this issue in a careful and measured way.

If raised: is this a spy balloon?

- This is not a matter for Australia to comment on.
- Aware the United States has called this a sophisticated surveillance tool, and that the balloon has tracked over a number of sensitive defence sites.

If raised: has a similar balloon ever travelled over Australia?

- That is a matter for the Department of Defence.

Any use or disclosure of personal information about individuals and the incidents

contained in this background should not be made public. To do so may constitute a breach of the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

Background

At 0641 Sunday 5 February AEDT, the US military downed a high-altitude balloon originating from China off the coast of South Carolina within US territorial waters. The balloon had been tracking across the United States for several days, including above sensitive US military facilities. The United States has asked for supportive statements from partners and allies.

During a visit to the United States, but before the downing of the balloon, the Australian Financial Review reported remarks from Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles:

“Mr Marles, who met with US national security adviser Jake Sullivan and US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin on Friday (Saturday AEDT) for AUKUS talks in Washington said the Chinese violation of sovereignty was a serious matter for which China needed to provide further explanation, especially at a time when relations had started to mend. “There are a lot of questions associated with it, which I think everyone has,” Mr Marles said. “We all want the answers to those questions from China.” Mr Marles said he did not know “much more about the balloon than what was in the public domain” and that he was unaware of any such Chinese surveillance across Australian skies. He said he would monitor the situation carefully but that it was, “obviously, an issue being managed between the US and China”, Mr Marles told reporters.”

Following the action, US Defense Secretary Austin issued a statement:

This afternoon, at the direction of President Biden, U.S. fighter aircraft assigned to U.S. Northern Command successfully brought down the high altitude surveillance balloon launched by and belonging to the People’s Republic of China (PRC) over the water off the coast of South Carolina in U.S. airspace. The balloon, which was being used by the PRC in an attempt to surveil strategic sites in the continental United States, was brought down above U.S. territorial waters. On Wednesday, President Biden gave his authorization to take down the surveillance balloon as soon as the mission could be accomplished without undue risk to American lives under the balloon’s path. After careful analysis, U.S. military commanders had determined downing the balloon while over land posed an undue risk to people across a wide area due to the size and altitude of the balloon and its surveillance payload. In accordance with the President’s direction, the Department of Defense developed options to take down the balloon safely over our territorial waters, while closely monitoring its path and intelligence collection activities. This action was taken in coordination, and with the full support, of the Canadian government. And we thank Canada for its contribution to tracking and analysis of the balloon through NORAD as it transited North America. Today’s deliberate and lawful action demonstrates that President Biden and his national security team will always put the safety and security of the American people first while responding effectively to the PRC’s unacceptable violation of our sovereignty.

Prime Minister Trudeau said Canada strongly supported acting to bring down “China’s

high-altitude surveillance balloon that violated American and Canadian airspace and international law.”

The Pentagon said it had reports of a second balloon transiting Latin America which the United States assessed as a Chinese surveillance balloon.

Handling Notes

Media Interest

Approval

Consultation	EAD, LGD, Defence
Author	s 22(1)(a)(ii), IPD; s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Cleared by	Martin Walker, A/g FAS IPD

Distribution

s 47E(d)

From: s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au
To: Arthur.Sinodinos
Subject: ALERT : GREY : US : Chinese Surveillance Balloon Shot Down -Sunday 5 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, 4 February 2023 2:58:04 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image001.png](#)



Media is reporting the US military has downed the Chinese balloon off the Carolina coast and an operation is underway to recover the debris. The action took place at 1421, Saturday 4 February 2023 (local time) (0641, Sunday 5 February 2023 AEDT). The balloon was first sighted above Montana and had drifted east over the US for several days.

Media

- [AP](#): US downs Chinese balloon over ocean, moves to recover debris
- [Washington Examiner](#): US shoots down Chinese spy balloon: Video
- [CNBC](#): U.S. military shoots down suspected Chinese surveillance balloon, media reports say

Source: [Google maps](#).

Australian Government Global Watch Office
Crisis Preparedness and Management Branch | Consular and Crisis Management Division

From: s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au
To: Arthur.Sinodinos
Subject: FW: GWO Daily Brief for Sunday 5 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Saturday, 4 February 2023 2:00:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

[REDACTED]



0600 HRS SUNDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2023

US/China: A high altitude Chinese balloon suspected of conducting surveillance remains in US airspace, while a second balloon was reported over Latin America. Some US lawmakers demanded China be held to account for violating US sovereignty. A spokesperson for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said 'the unintended entry into US airspace was due to *force majeure*' (AP, Guardian, Reuters, s 47E(d)).
s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: s 47E(d) @dfat.gov.au
To: Arthur.Sinodinos
Subject: GWO Daily Brief for Saturday 4 February 2023 [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, 3 February 2023 2:01:01 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)



0600 HRS SATURDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2023

US/China: Secretary of State Antony Blinken postponed his imminent trip to Beijing in response to the discovery of an [alleged](#) Chinese spy balloon drifting at high altitude over the northern US state of Montana. China's Foreign Ministry [said](#) the unintended entry into US airspace of the 'civilian airship', which was used mainly for 'meteorological' research purposes, was regrettable ([Washington Post](#), [AP](#), [Global Times](#), s 47E(d)).

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

From: s 47F(1)
To: Media US; Arthur Sinodinos
Cc: s 47F(1)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ## TODAY SHOW AUSTRALIA - LIVE INTERVIEW REQUEST ##
Date: Saturday, 4 February 2023 6:49:33 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.

Hi there

s 47F(1) here from the s 47F(1). Just reaching out to see if Australia's Ambassador to the U.S, Arthur Sinodinos would be available to come on the show tomorrow morning Monday 6th Feb, between 0710 - 0750 AEDT on the Chinese Balloon that was shot down in the U.S?

Please let me know if this is a possibility at all,

Thank you!

--

s 47F(1)
Segment Producer
s 47F(1)

T s 47F(1) M s 47F(1)
A 1 Denison St, North Sydney, NSW, 2060
E s 47F(1)



The information contained in this e-mail message and any accompanying files is or may be confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, dissemination, reliance, forwarding, printing or copying of this e-mail or any attached files is unauthorised. This e-mail is subject to copyright. No part of it should be reproduced, adapted or communicated without the written consent of the copyright owner. If you have received this e-mail in error please advise the sender immediately by return e-mail or telephone and delete all copies. Nine Group does not guarantee the accuracy or completeness of any information contained in this e-mail or attached files. Internet communications are not secure, therefore Nine Group does not accept legal responsibility for the contents of this message or attached files.

From: s 22(1)(a)(ii)
Subject: Articles of interest -- 3 Feb [REDACTED]
Date: Friday, 3 February 2023 10:58:03 AM

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

President Biden postponed his top diplomat's first official trip to China on Friday in response to the Pentagon's discovery of an alleged Chinese spy balloon flying over the continental United States, said a U.S. official familiar with the matter. The decision came just hours before Secretary of State Antony Blinken was scheduled to depart for Beijing in a dramatic indication of how seriously the Biden administration takes the incident and wants to avoid appearing soft on China. [Blinken postpones China trip as suspected spy balloon detected over U.S.](#) (WP)

From: [Apple News](#)
To: [Arthur Sinodinos](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Chinese spy balloon spotted over U.S., an alleged Ponzi scheme that preyed on Mormons, and more
Date: Friday, 3 February 2023 7:40:59 AM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender.



Good Morning From Apple News

It's Friday, February 3.
Here's what you need to know.

TOP STORIES

The Pentagon is closely monitoring a Chinese spy balloon that has been hovering over the U.S. for the past several days. Here's what to know.

THE WASHINGTON POST

s 22(1)(a)(ii) - out of scope

