

Chinese Balloon over North America

February 15, 2023

Wednesday, February 16, 2023: China threatened countermeasures against US entities, which took part in downing of their balloon on February 4, 2023 according to a report in 'The Hill'.

(Readers can refer to the Reuter's report at <https://tinyurl.com/ywj9kvtm>)

Whether the counter-measures would include actions against President Joe Biden, who ordered shooting down of the balloon, or against USAF or against manufacturers of the jet fighters or missiles is not known!

The date on which the balloon was launched from China is not known, probably because the entire air space over China and the Pacific is not as thoroughly scanned by US air force as the air space over North America. But the balloon entered US airspace on January 28 at Aleutian Islands of Alaska, according to the North American Aerospace Defense Command. After traversing through Alaska and Canada, it entered Montana, where it was spotted and publicized by civilian photographers. It was after the publicity by the civilians that the US Govt. confirmed its presence. The balloon was shot down off Surfside Beach, South Carolina. The balloon had equipment, which could occupy three school buses. The balloon, an estimated 200 feet (60 meters) tall, was carrying a long sensor package underneath, which VanHerck estimated was the size of a small regional jet. It was part of a large surveillance program that China has been conducting for "several years," the Pentagon has said.

On Friday, 10th February, an object of the size of a car was brought down near the coast of Alaska. On Saturday, 11th February, a similar object was shot down over Yukon, Canada.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, " An unidentified object had been taken down in Yukon. Canadian Forces will now recover and analyze the wreckage of the object." He added that he had discussed with the US President and they would jointly defend the sovereignty of their air space.

The 3rd flying object in three days was an Octagonal flying object, with strings attached to it. It was seen near military sites in the Great Lakes region Michigan. Earlier it had been spotted in Montana. It was flying at a height of 20,000 ft and it could have endangered

civilian aircraft. So, it was brought down by an air-to-air missile launched by a US F-16 jet on Monday, 13th February.

Gen Glan VanHerck, responsible for guarding the US airspace, said that radars had been adjusted so that they could track slow-moving objects like balloons.

Earlier on Tuesday, Ella Cao and Liz Lee of Reuters report that China criticized USA for blacklisting six Chinese companies, associated with Balloons.

(Readers can refer to the Reuter's report at <https://tinyurl.com/mvfnxmaf>)

Till today, China has not expressed regrets over violating the sovereign airspace of Canada and USA.

USA has been speaking in two different voices. On the one hand is the blacklisting of Chinese companies and the announcement that the balloon was moving over US Intercontinental Missile sites in Montana State. The people have been informed that President Biden himself ordered the use of a USAF missile to bring down the balloon, once it had moved out of the US civilian areas, so that the balloon might not damage the civilians. Thus, the US Government not only suspected that the balloon was harvesting information about the Missile sites of USA, it was also afraid that it might be carrying some explosives, which might damage US civilians.

On the other hand, is the delay in admitting the presence of the Chinese balloon, even after the civilians had identified the large flying balloon. When an official said that the balloon showed 'no hostile act or intent', Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine) disagreed.

APPENDIX: The **six companies, blacklisted by USA**, after four balloons were detected over North America, are:

1. Beijing Nanjiang Aerospace Technology, a unit of Shanghai-listed developer Deluxe Family;
2. Government-owned China Electronics Technology Group Corporation 48th Research Institute;
3. Dongguan Lingkong Remote Sensing Technology;
4. Eagles Men Aviation Science and Technology Group;
5. Guangzhou Tian-Hai-Xiang Aviation Technology and
6. Shanxi Eagles Men Aviation Science and Technology Group.