

Spy Agencies Say China Is Expanding Its Military Forces and Ambitions

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China is upgrading and expanding its conventional military forces as well as its anti-satellite missiles and its nuclear forces, the new Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair told Congress. The hearing, before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, was an annual briefing about the current and future threats to the nation.

"We judge that China over the past several years has begun a substantially new phase in its military development by beginning to articulate roles and missions for the [the Chinese military] that go well beyond China's immediate territorial interests," Blair said in a written statement.

"China's national security interests are broadening."





Image: A woman watches the inauguration of President Barack Obama
Frederic J. Brown / AFP - Getty Images

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/27721638/vp/28657278#28657278>

A woman reacts while watching the inauguration of President Barack Obama televised live and shown on big screens at a bar in Beijing, China. The official Chinese translation of President Barack Obama's inauguration speech is **missing his references to communism and dissent**. Msnbc.com's Becca Field reports.

A live broadcast on state television Wednesday quickly cut away to the anchor when sensitive topics were mentioned.

The comments by the newly installed U.S. president veered into politically sensitive territory for **China's ruling Communist Party**, which maintains a **tight grip** over the **Internet** and the entirely **state-run media**. Beijing **tolerates**

little dissent (disagreement with the government) and frequently decries (publically declare as wrong) foreign interference in its internal affairs.

At one point, Obama said earlier generations "faced down communism and fascism not just with missiles and tanks, but with sturdy alliances and enduring convictions." He later addressed "those who cling to power through corruption and deceit and the silencing of dissent (silencing those who disagree with the Chinese government) — know that you are on the wrong side of history."