

supremacy combining defence and offensive capabilities,¹⁹ and he warned that the application of new space technology would coopt new systems of detection, surveillance and communication in the deployment of new weapons technologies. Indeed, this reflected China's formal position at the UN Conference on Disarmament. China's disarmament ambassador, Hu Xiaodi, expressed his deep concern that missile defence and American RMA would engender the weaponization of space. He noted at Geneva:

"Control of Space" is, in essence, the attempt to establish domination of outer space by means of advanced technology, so as to serve one's strategic objectives. This will deprive other countries of their right to benefit from outer space through peaceful means as well as their legitimate right of self-defense."²⁰

The new "negative developments" were not sufficiently serious as to call for basic revision to the "new security concept". General Xiong Guangkai, Director of the China Institute of International and Strategic Studies, has been one of the leading proponents of the latter in contemporary Chinese military diplomacy.

General Xiong took issue with US "blue team" assumptions that the China threat would be enhanced as a result of rapid economic modernization, which would fillip China's defense capabilities. In rebuttal, his analysis suggests that the rational modernization of Chinese capabilities is a natural and proportionately balanced aspect of modernization, which distinguishes present-day China from Mao's China when the overwhelming numerical superiority of the Chinese people was enlisted in any projected battle on China's own soil. While contemplating high-tech war, General Xiong reiterated certain continuities: "China does not join any military groups, nor does it seek military expansion or station any troops or set up any military bases in any foreign country, and refrains from forming alliances with any country or groups of countries."²¹

¹⁹ Luo Renshi, "The Impact of High-Tech Weapons Development over [the] Global Strategic Environment", *International Strategic Studies*, (*Guoji zhanlue yanjiu*), Beijing, no. 3, 2000, p. 42.

²⁰ Hu Xiaodi, "Statement at the Plenary of the Conference on Disarmament", 24 February 2000 in NTI Research Library, China Profiles, Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute, www.nti.org/db/china/spacepos.html.

²¹ Hsiung Guangkai, "International Strategic Situation and China's Security Environment", *International Strategic Studies*, no. 1, 2000, p. 6