

alliance systems in favour of “the new security concept with mutual trust, mutual benefit equality and cooperation as its core”, Jiang sought to consolidate a Sino-Russian political alignment at the UN on arms control cooperation:

“Both history and reality show us that peace cannot be achieved through force, much less can it be maintained by relying on a military alliance. Any attempt to break the existing international strategic balance by developing sophisticated weapons systems by developing sophisticated weapons systems cannot but spark new rounds of an arms race and jeopardize world peace.”³⁵

On 10 October 2001, the PRC co-sponsored a UN resolution together with Russia and Belarus supporting the integrity of the ABM. The Chinese subsequently condemned US resistance to PAROS (Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space) at the Conference on Disarmament. On 13 December 2001, the US gave Russia formal notice of its intention to withdraw from the 1972 ABM Treaty in six months time. On 28 May 2002 the Chinese and Russian delegations co-sponsored draft language for a treaty on the prevention of weapons in outer space that included treaty based obligations with respect to confidence building and dispute resolution. Within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Russia and China together with Central Asian partners issued on 6 June 2002 a joint communiqué insisting that the ABM was a key condition for the development of arms control in the Asia Pacific region.

Actual US withdrawal from the ABM, was accomplished on 13 June 2002. In that it threatened to undermine China’s minimal nuclear deterrent, this withdrawal possibly constituted an much greater “negative development” than those originally cited in the 2000 white paper, but what is interesting is how the Chinese tended to “roll with the punch”. On 23 July 2002 the *Washington Times* reported that China’s Second Artillery successfully launched from a mobile launcher in Jiangxi a DF-21 (CCS-5) medium range missile with multiple dummy warheads, designed to defeat missile defence.

³⁵ Full Text of Jiang Zemin Speech at Moscow University, op. cit., p. 3.