# Partial Participation: China and the International Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime (1978-1992)

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- 1. Fundamental rejection (1949-1977)
- 2. Partial participation (1978-1992)
- 3, Full participation (1992-)

#### Partial participation (1978-1992)

- Three Cases:
- (1) China joined the IAEA (1983)
- (2) Nuclear Cooperation Negotiations between China and the United States (1984)
- (3) China Announces Cessation of Atmospheric Nuclear Testing (1986)

#### Case 1: China joined the IAEA (1983)

- At the time of the IAEA's founding, PRC was not a member state, instead, Taiwan representing the Republic of China was a founding member state.
- In 1971, the United Nations restored PRC's legitimate seat, providing China with an opportunity to join the IAEA.
- China still had reservations regarding the IAEA membership: (1) Possible negative consequences of China's nuclear policies of joining the Agency;
  (2) The issue of safeguarding; and (3) Problems with Taiwan.
- In March 1982, the newly appointed IAEA Director General Hans Blix, told China that he was interested in visiting China.
- In 1983, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Nuclear Industry and State Science and Technology Commission drafted jointly a report and submitted it to the State Council for a formal application to join the IAEA.
- On January1, 1984, China became an official member state.

### Case 2: Nuclear Cooperation Negotiations between China and the United States (1984)

- On October 17, 1982, China and the U.S. signed a protocol on Cooperation in Nuclear Safety Matters in Washington. This marked the beginning of China-U.S. peaceful nuclear cooperation.
- On January 18,1983, President Reagan decided to cooperate with China in nuclear technology. However he listed three conditions:(1) Convincing assurances from the highest levels that China will not assist any country to obtain nuclear weapons; (2) Chinese commitment to adhere to international norms in its nuclear exports practices (3) Chinese agreement to adequate bilateral procedures, to assure that U.S. exports would not be used for any military.
- January 10, 1984. Zhao said that China "will not advocate nuclear proliferation, not engage nuclear proliferation and not help other countries develop nuclear weapons"

### Case 2: Nuclear Cooperation Negotiations between China and the United States (1984)

- From April 26 to May 1,1984, President Reagan visited China to sign a pact on the peaceful use of nuclear energy. But the Reagan administration did not hand it over to the Congress immediately.
- 1985, Premier Minister Li Peng said that "Beijing has never intended to, is not going to, and will not in the future help other countries to develop nuclear weapons in order to keep its promise to and fulfil its obligations to the IAEA."
- China and the United States officially signed a China-U.S. peaceful nuclear cooperation agreement in 1985.

## Case 3: China Announces Cessation of Atmospheric Nuclear Testing (1986)

- China was known to be critical of the 1963 PTBT and the international nuclear nonproliferation regime dominated by the United States and the Soviet Union.
- During Deng Xiaoping's visit to the United States in early 1979, President Carter used this opportunity to urge China to give up on atmospheric testing, but Deng refused.
- On October 24, 1985, Zhao pen a letter to Deng Xiaoping, proposing to stop the scheduled nuclear test.
- On March 21 1986, Zhao Ziyang officially announced that China would no longer carry out atmospheric nuclear tests.

#### Conclusion

- China's participation in the international nuclear non-proliferation regime has been a gradual process. In the Maoist era, China's nuclear strategy was strongly influenced by idealism.
- With the deepening of "reform and opening," China's revolutionary diplomacy based on the idea of class struggle gradually gave way to placing national interests at the core of diplomacy.
- China's attitude towards the NPT did not change fundamentally, because it believed that only the United States and the Soviet Union could stop vertical proliferation, while other countries could only stop horizontal proliferation.
- On 9 March 1992, China formally acceded to the NPT and began to comprehensively participate in the international nuclear non-proliferation regime thereafter.

#### Thank you

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