



Chinese Space Program a Threat to US

By CK Wong 2006.04.04

<http://www.ck-wong.ca/China/chinese%20space%20program%20threat%20us%2020060404.pdf>

Introduction

Before China Prime Minister Hu Jintao's visit to US on April 20, a series of activities to path for the success of the PM's visit. Most of them are litmus paper to identify opportunities; political, business and intellectual. All the activities shape the tune of discussion. With the success of Chinese 2nd manned space mission, a delegate is sent to explore the cooperation on space program but turned down by the US which believes the Chinese space program is a threat to the US military satellite system.

Political Success – Points to Chinese

The probability to have a Sino-American space program is low. The semi-annual Congress report on China always sees the space vehicle as the refinement of the inter-continental ballistic missile platform. The business satellite launching service is regarded as a threat to the American satellite as well as business. With the space shuttle fleet shrinking and getting to the end of life and no replacement vehicle in sight, the success of the Chinese space program is a big threat to US in political, intellectual, business and military.

For the space program, Chinese runs on a shoe string budget, \$500M. The American is running a *lean* program of \$16.6B which still relies on cooperation with Europeans. The Chinese business space program is the most reliable in the world and the cheapest. Soon its volume will catch up. The Chinese also extends the venture to Europe to participate the International Space Program. In the near future, American will run out of money which means losing the leadership. Perhaps, it should save the ammunition for the future.

Negative Points for American

In Sun Tzu's Art of War, the best way to win a war is to fight without the army. China is using all these peace cooperation opportunities to demonstrate to the world that China wants to share the world stage but not interested in confrontation. The more incidence of refusal by the American, the more points it score. Because it shows everything American preaches but it acts other way. Talk is cheap. As the result, it hurts the American's credential. Once the credential is crippled, China can win on the quota and embargo negotiation by mending these damage through joint venture programs either on peace mission or business ventures.

However, protectionism and Chineseophobia cloud the American's judgment. Until the American government treats China at a equal level, American will be continued underhand. This may be changing. Media are changing. Congressmen are changing. It seems the critical mass is not formed yet. I am interested to find out what is the catalyst

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for all these change. The knowledge to refuse and excluding China will harm American was well known. Why the denial is still there? Does American playing hard to get? Another tactic from Art of War?

[1] China regrets US refusal to cooperate, China Daily 2006.04.04,
http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/2006-04/05/content_560146_2.htm