



# US Nuclear Weapons Policy Towards China: 1985-1995

DNA 5895F

**U. S. NUCLEAR WEAPONS POLICY TOWARD  
CHINA: 1985-1995**

Booz, Allen & Hamilton, Inc.  
4330 East West Highway  
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Approved for public release:  
DNA (FOIA) 93-1071

10 February 1981

Final Report for Period 9 January 1980–10 February 1981

CONTRACT No. DNA 001-80-C-0094

THIS WORK WAS SPONSORED BY THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY  
UNDER RDT&E RMSS CODE B364080464 W99QAXDA10102 H2590D.

Prepared for  
Director  
DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY  
Washington, DC 20305

Arch 1

## Recommended Citation

"US Nuclear Weapons Policy Towards China: 1985-1995", September 17, 2012,  
<https://nautilus.org/foia-document/us-nuclear-weapons-policy-towards-china-1985-1995/>

The Chinese government saw the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty of 1968 as an unequal treaty in which the great powers were trying to prevent other countries from building a nuclear arsenal while protecting their own existing supplies. In the late 1970s the U.S. began experiencing a shift in its nuclear policy from mutually assured destruction to an emphasis on counterforce options as seen in the Schlesinger Doctrine. Although U.S.-Sino relations had improved, China's growing commitment to the development of nuclear weapons and its influence over other potential nuclear nations increased the need for the U.S. to closely examine its nuclear policy towards China.

This 1981 report examines the need to assess the role of China in the international arena with regards to the country's growing nuclear weapons capabilities. Focusing on the issues of targeting while incorporating lesser issues of weapons acquisition and modernization of programs, the report explores the bilateral relationship between China and the U.S. in regards to nuclear weapons policy.

"Current trends suggest a degree of stability in U.S.-Sino relations unprecedented in the post-1949 period. However, power alignments can change in international politics and one cannot ignore the possibility of China becoming once again antagonistic toward the United States. China's continuing commitment to the development of nuclear weapons makes it even more necessary for the United States to consider the prospects for nuclear weapons." [page 4]

*This report was released to the Nautilus Institute under the US Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).*

---

View this online at: <https://nautilus.org/foia-document/us-nuclear-weapons-policy-towards-china-1985-1995/>

Nautilus Institute

608 San Miguel Ave., Berkeley, CA 94707-1535 | Phone: (510) 423-0372 | Email:

[nautilus@nautilus.org](mailto:nautilus@nautilus.org)