

**A 'Beijing-Washington' hotline is crucial for preventing tensions among the superpowers
- opinion**

In other words, reducing tensions and cooperating on issues of shared interest, like climate and de-escalation channels, while competing in all other areas.

By Jesse Weinberg, Ofir Dayan / Sep. 16, 2024

As early as 2021, at the beginning of his term, US President Joe Biden declared in his administration's National Security Strategy that the world is currently engaged in a "strategic competition to shape the global order."

Due to the rising tension between the two superpowers, the US and China, there was deemed to be a need to establish a de-escalation mechanism that would primarily focus on military channels, similar to the Moscow-Washington hotline that was established after the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 by US president John F. Kennedy and Soviet general secretary Nikita Khrushchev. Although US-Chinese tensions have already existed, and even peaked after then-speaker of the US House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in 2022, they had not reached the necessary levels necessitating sophisticated crisis management until the 2023 spy balloon affair.

The detection and interception of a Chinese spy balloon over US sovereign territory, where it roamed for several days, brought the relations between the two superpowers to their lowest point in decades. The two superpowers, from opposite sides of the globe, viewed this low point as a real danger despite similar official statements from the leaders of both nations who tried to downplay the crisis, claiming it was not a spy balloon and that the Chinese government did not know it had entered the sovereign territory of another country.

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