
CHINA SAYS DEFENCE SPENDING 'ENTIRELY NECESSARY' AFTER PUTIN BACKS MUTUAL CUTS

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Beijing said on Tuesday (Feb 25) that its defence spending was "entirely necessary" after Russian President Vladimir Putin backed a suggestion by United States counterpart Donald Trump that Russia, the US and China cut their defence budgets in half.

Russia has massively ramped up military spending since launching its invasion of Ukraine in 2022 but spending has also increased in China in recent years as tensions persist in the Asia-Pacific region.

"China has always adhered faithfully to the path of peaceful development," foreign ministry spokesman Lin Jian told a regular press briefing.

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