

People's Daily, 1 April 2005

China, India can be "friends, competitors and cooperative partners", Indian ambassador

China and India can be friends, competitors and cooperative partners, according to ambassador of India to China Nalin Surie in an interview recently. "Of course we are competitors, but we have cooperation. Indian companies want to find markets in China, and Chinese companies also want to find markets in India. But it's a huge market. We both have markets in both countries," Surie said, adding that competition is no harm to cooperation.

People's Daily, 1 April 2005

China, Pakistan expect another "milestone" in relationship: Pakistani ambassador

The visit by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to Pakistan will be another milestone in the history of the two countries' bilateral relations, according to Salman Bashir, Pakistan's ambassador to China. Wen will pay an official visit to Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and India from April 5 to 12, with Pakistan as the first stop of his tour. Wen will be present at the 4th foreign ministers' meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) to be held on April 6 in Islamabad.

People's Daily, 1 April 2005

Reception held to mark 55th anniversary of China-India diplomatic ties

The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) and the China-India Friendship Association hosted a reception Thursday to mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and India. Addressing the reception, Chen Haosu, president of CPAFFC, said that the relationship between China and India has experienced its ups and downs, but the friendship between the two peoples has never changed.

People's Daily, 2 April 2005

Premier Wen's India trip to discuss border disputes

China and India may agree on guiding principles to help them resolve their border disputes during Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to New Delhi, Vice-Foreign Minister Wu Dawei said on Friday. The current border dispute does not stand in the way of developing friendly and co-operative relations between the neighbours, Wu told a press conference four days before Wen will embark on his four-nation South Asian tour. The visit aims to enhance mutual trust, deepen friendship, expand co-operation and plan the future in the spirit of "being a good neighbour and a good partner," Wu said.

People's Daily, 2 April 2005

Border issue not to hinder China-India relations, says Vice-Foreign Minister

Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Wu Dawei said here Friday that Sino-Indian border issue does not hinder the overall development of Sino-Indian friendship and cooperation. Wu said both sides have a special representative consultation mechanism to work out a political guiding principle, and four meetings were already held. Currently, a joint working group and an experts panel are in operation and the mechanisms are "sound." He said the development of bilateral friendship, strategic cooperation, the strengthening of bilateral coordination and cooperation in international affairs will be discussed in the strategic dialogue.

People's Daily, 2 April 2005

China doesn't want to see divided UN: official

Chinese vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei said Friday, while speaking about Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao 's upcoming visit to South Asia, that China doesn't want to see a divided United Nations. Wu said China supports the reform of the United Nations and the enlargement of the Security Council. However, China says that the United Nations should be "more united through the reform and play a bigger role in international affairs." Reforms should help the United Nations to carry out work in all fields effectively, he said.

People's Daily, 4 April 2005

China to expand trade with Pakistan: Premier Wen

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told Pakistani media Monday that China values its trade with Pakistan and regards it as pivotal area that should be expanded. Wen said China and Pakistan have established an "all-weather, all-around cooperative partnership" despite volatile international changes. Wen said he hopes the two sides take measures to expand trade and make use of the strong compatibility of the two countries' industry and trade structure to discuss the establishment of free trade area.

China Daily, 4 April 2005

Protesters oppose Japan's bid for UN seat

Protesters smashed a local Japanese supermarket's windows after a demonstration in China against Japan's bid

for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council turned violent, Kyodo news agency reported Sunday. Many Chinese harbor deep resentment of Japan's war-time past and what they see as Tokyo's failure to own up to atrocities. That resentment has fed into opposition to Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council, hopes of which were raised in Tokyo after U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan seemed to back Japan on March 21 as part of the most wide-ranging reforms to the world body since its creation in 1945.

People's Daily, 5 April 2005

Japan is the principal cause for the Sino-Japanese tension: scholar

Japan is the principal cause for the current Sino-Japanese tension, said Pang Zhongying, president of the Institute of International Relations of the Nankai University, the Hong Kong based Takungpao reported. Japan has adopted an intransigent attitude towards China and been provocative in the territorial issue and the Taiwan issue, Pang pointed out. The comfort women, victims of the biochemical weapons haven't received reparation from Japan yet. To gain China's support Japan must change its stand at the historical issue.

People's Daily, 5 April 2005

Construction of large-scale coastal defense infrastructure gears up

National Frontier Defense Commission recently proved the establishment of a "national coastal defense infrastructure construction expert warehouse", and now the first construction of a large-scale coastal defense infrastructure since the founding of the People's Republic of China is in full swing. It is reported that since Apr. 1, 2005, the final confirmation of all the plans and projects of the key coastal defense infrastructure construction as well as technical indexes have to be consulted and proved by experts. Meanwhile, National Frontier Defense Commission will further strengthen the "expert warehouse" so as to meet the requirement of the construction of coastal defense development.

China Daily, 6 April 2005

Wen arrives in Pakistan for official visit

ISLAMABAD: Premier Wen Jiabao arrived in the Pakistani capital yesterday evening to start a three-day official visit. After touching down at Islamabad's Chaklala Airbase at around 5.15 pm local time, Wen heralded relations between the two Asian countries. Maintenance of the "all-weather" friendship and across the board co-operation is in the fundamental interests of both countries and peoples, and the China-Pakistan relationship also plays a major part in ensuring the peace, stability and development of the region, Wen said in a written speech delivered to the media.

People's Daily, 6 April 2005

China summons Japanese ambassador over history textbook issue

The Chinese government on Tuesday voiced indignation over Japanese government's approval of history textbooks that distort history. Qiao Zonghuai, a high-ranking official at the Chinese foreign ministry, summoned Japanese ambassador Koreshige Anami and lodged a solemn objection to the Japanese government's approval of history textbooks that deny historical facts and beautify Japanese aggression.

People's Daily, 6 April 2005

Chinese state councilor emphasizes strategic partnership with Europe

Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan said in Beijing Tuesday that further development of the overall strategic partnership between China and the European Union (EU) conforms with the fundamental interests of both sides. During a meeting with visiting European Parliament Vice President Miroslav Ouzky, Tang said that facts have proved that it is in the fundamental interest of both sides to continuously add substance to and expand the overall strategic partnership between China and EU.

People's Daily, 6 April 2005

Senior Chinese military leader vows further cooperation with Italy

A senior Chinese military leader said in Beijing Tuesday that the Chinese armed forces will enhance multi-sector and multi-level cooperation with the Italian armed forces. Xu Caihou, vice-chairman of China's top military commission, made the remark when he met with Sergio Biraghi, chief of the Naval Staff of Italy. Biraghi, who arrived on Monday for a week-long visit, said that Italian and Chinese armed forces share many similarities and the Italian armed forces is ready to enhance exchange and cooperation with the Chinese armed forces in all sectors.

China Daily, 6 April 2005

China, Pakistan sign cooperation treaty

ISLAMABAD -- China and Pakistan signed on Tuesday night a treaty for friendly and neighbourly co-operation,

pledging to upgrade their strategic partnership to an even higher level. The pact, which came after Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's talks with his counterpart Shaukat Aziz Tuesday night, encapsulated the successful experience of bilateral relations in more than half a century, and charted the course for future development. In addition to the treaty, the two countries also inked a dozen of other accords, including those on fighting terrorism, extremism and separatism, and on early harvest programme of a Free Trade Agreement between the two countries.

China Daily, 7 April 2005

China 'strongly objects' to EU textile moves

China said it "strongly objected" to new measures taken by the European Union against imports of Chinese textiles, calling the move a potential blow to global trade in textiles. "This departs from the spirit of free trade proposed by Europe and seriously violates the basic principles of the World Trade Organization," commerce ministry spokesman Chong Quan said in a statement on the ministry's website. The European Union Wednesday unveiled "alert levels" to consider limiting Chinese clothing imports but did not bow to pressure from the European textile industry to take more drastic action to hold back Chinese textile imports.

People's Daily, 7 April 2005

Deadline for UN reform not proper before members iron out disagreement: Chinese official

Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan said Wednesday that a deadline should not be set for the United Nations Security Council reform and push for a vote when council members "obviously disagree" on the proposals. Tang made the remarks when meeting with Colombian Foreign Minister Maria Carolina Barco Isackson. Tang said China supports the UN to strengthen its role and authority through reform and expand the representation of developing countries in the Security Council. He suggested council members should exercise democracy and strive for a broad consensus of council members on the basis of full consultation.

China Daily, 7 April 2005

US Congress harsher on China than public

The U.S. public and business community increasingly view China in a positive light, but Congressional staff hold strongly critical views of Beijing, according to a new survey on Wednesday. The poll by Zogby International showed the America public and Congressional staff united in citing human rights as their top concern about China and in voicing fears about job losses. Business leaders listed counterfeiting as their top concern. A majority of respondents from the general public, business leaders and Congressional staff agreed that low-cost Chinese goods benefited U.S. consumers and that bilateral trade was good for both countries.

China Daily, 8 April 2005

EU guide on textiles 'violates WTO rule'

The European Union's new measure against Chinese textile exports violates fundamental World Trade Organization rules and is a potential blow to the global textile trade, said the Chinese Government and local industry insiders yesterday. The European Commission on Wednesday unveiled "alert levels" on how far Chinese textile imports can increase before the commission considers emergency barriers to protect its domestic industry. Its guidelines say that if Chinese exports rise 10 per cent above 2004 levels then an EU investigation would be triggered as well as informal talks with China on possible protection measures. "This departs from the spirit of free trade proposed by the European Union," said Chong Quan, spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce. He said the guidelines could make bilateral textile trade less stable.

China Daily, 8 April 2005

FM rebuts US threat of economic sanctions

China delivered a sharp rebuke yesterday to the US Senate's threat to impose economic sanctions if Beijing fails to change its current currency policy. Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in Beijing the latest analysis by the International Monetary Fund showed that China's currency does not appear undervalued. "China has trade surpluses with the United States yet the country is experiencing a big trade deficit with many of its Asian trading partners," he said, adding that the United States should adjust its economic imbalance by looking at its own reasons.

China Daily, 8 April 2005

Wen in Bangladesh for in-depth talks

DHAKA: Premier Wen Jiabao arrived in Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, yesterday afternoon for an official visit at the invitation of his Bangladeshi counterpart Khaleda Zia. In a written statement, Wen said China and Bangladesh are neighbours basking in close friendship. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 30 years ago, and thanks to the concerted efforts of the two governments and peoples, the friendly relations and co-operation have continued

to grow. During his one-day visit, he is expected to have in-depth exchanges of views on bilateral relations and issues of common interest with Prime Minister Zia and other Bangladeshi leaders.

People's Daily, 8 April 2005

"History textbook issue is not Japan's internal affairs": FM Spokesman

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in Beijing Thursday, "Japan's newly-approved middle school history textbooks try to exculpate Japan's militarism and severely hurts the feeling of its victims. It is not Japan's internal affairs." He said the textbooks compiled by right-wing groups obscure Japan's militarism, justify and glorify Japan's militarist past and beautify its invasions. "It is defiant of human justice and conscientiousness, and causes severe harm to people from Asian countries including China," Qin said.

People's Daily, 8 April 2005

Japan urged to be prudent on East China Sea issue

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang urged Japan to be prudent on the East China Sea issue at a regular press conference Thursday. He noted that China and Japan have not reached any agreement on boundary demarcations in the East China Sea or on exploration and exploitation of oil and gas resources there. He called for Japan to pay due attention to the fact, and not to take any action to complicate the situation. Qin said China always holds that the issue be addressed through dialogue and friendly consultation.

People's Daily, 8 April 2005

Pushing UN reform plans to vote would jeopardize UN solidarity, FM spokesman

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in Beijing Thursday that "forcing immature UN reform proposals" to vote would jeopardize the solidarity of the United Nations and the authority of the UN Security Council. While expressing China's support to UN reform, Qin said China believes that the priority of the Security Council reforms should be given to increasing the representation of developing countries. "As the reform is of vital importance, it should be conducted to promote the solidarity among the member states of the United Nations," he said, adding that consensus should be made among the member states through broad and patient discussions.

People's Daily, 8 April 2005

China to continue to make efforts to reopen six-party talks, FM spokesman

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang vowed in Beijing Thursday that China would continue to make efforts to restore six-party talks as soon as possible, calling for the concerned parties to show flexibility, sincerity and good will. Qin said in a reply to a reporter's question that China had a long and deep exchange of views with the first vice-minister of foreign affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kang Sok Ju during his visit to China this week, in order to promote peace and dialogue and push forward the involved parties to take substantial measures to reopen the talks.

People's Daily, 9 April 2005

Premier Wen Jiabao confident of China-India ties

The Sino-Indian relations are "at prime time now", said Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in a recent interview with Press Trust of India. "There is no fundamental conflicts between China and India and both sides need to learn from each other," Wen told the Indian media in Beijing. Both nations, viewing each other as important cooperative partner, continue to enhance political trust and pledge to uphold the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and fairly and reasonably settle the "issue left over by history" through equal consultations, said Wen.

People's Daily, 9 April 2005

US, China to hold regular senior-level talks

The United States and China have agreed for the first time ever to hold regular, senior-level talks on a whole range of political and economic issues, the US State Department said. The talks were a recognition of the "role that China is playing in Asia, in global affairs, as a member of the UN Security Council," and based on a need to have more regular bilateral discussions on world issues, department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters.

People's Daily, 9 April 2005

People stage anti-Japanese demonstration in Beijing

More than 1,000 people gathered in Beijing Saturday morning to protest Japan's distortion of its wartime past and Tokyo's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. People, echoing the call from a website, came to the Hailong shopping center in northern Beijing's Haidian district, carrying anti-Japanese banners. The gathering participants called out slogans as "boycott Japanese-made products," "safeguard Diaoyu Islands," and "smash the Japan's daydream of seeking permanent seat on the UN Security Council."

China Daily, 10 April 2005

India visit to promote ties: Chinese Premier

Visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao says his India tour is aimed at promoting mutual understanding and cooperation, as well as outlining the future development of bilateral ties. Wen Jiabao held talks with the government officials of South India's Karnataka state after arriving at its capital city of Bangalore late Saturday. He expressed the hope that Bangalore would take its own advantage to enhance cooperation with more Chinese cities.

People's Daily, 10 April 2005

Lien Chan expected to visit mainland in May

Lien Chan, leader of Taiwan's main opposition Kuomintang (KMT) party, is expected to make an historic visit to the mainland in May, KMT spokeswoman Cheng Li-wen said. The Communist Party of China (CPC) last week extended an invitation to Lien while a KMT delegation, led by vice chairman P.K. Chiang, was on the first "bridge-building" trip to the mainland in more than 55 years. Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) has accused the KMT of being a "communist propaganda tool" for visiting the mainland after Beijing passed an anti-secession law.

People's Daily, 11 April 2005

Premier Wen puts three-point expectation from India visit

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao Sunday put forward his three-point expectation to his India visit one day before talks with his counterpart Manmohan Singh. First, to confirm the bilateral relationship from the long-term perspective and strategic height; second, to issue a guiding principle to solve the border issue so that the two sides could lay a foundation for an equal and reasonable settlement that respecting history while considering the current situation; third, to outline the economic and trade cooperation in the next five years.

People's Daily, 11 April 2005

China not to blame for current situation of Sino-Japanese ties: FM spokesman

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said in Beijing Sunday that the responsibility for the current situation of Sino-Japanese relations does not lie with China. In response to a journalist's question, Qin said "Japan must adopt an earnest attitude and appropriate ways to deal with major principled issues concerning the feelings of the Chinese people. The Japanese have to do more things conducive to enhancing mutual trust and maintaining the relations between the two countries, rather than doing the reverse."

China Daily, 11 April 2005

A new chapter for Sino-Indian relations

It is possible for a dragon and an elephant to be on good terms with each other. And that is the current case with China and India. Premier Wen Jiabao, on his first visit to India, reached a consensus with his host on keeping the issue of border disputes on the backburner. They have decided to reinforce the pragmatic co-operation path that the two countries have embarked on. The border disputes remain unsettled. But they will not become a drag on the progress of their relations. While working out a mechanism for a peaceful settlement of the issue, the two countries realize there is much to be gained by co-operation, and by expanding commerce and trade relations.

China Daily, 11 April 2005

Wen in New Delhi for landmark visit

NEW DELHI: Visiting Premier Wen Jiabao arrived in the Indian capital yesterday evening, and is expected to meet with senior Indian leaders today in a landmark visit aimed at pushing bilateral relations to a new high. Analysts anticipated the tour will lead to a major step forward towards the resolution of the long-standing border dispute between the two sides. "China and India, both developing countries, could have a positive influence on peace and development in Asia and even the whole world, through a harmonious relationship, enhancing mutual trust and expanding co-operation," Wen said.

China Daily, 12 April 2005

China, India forging strategic partnership

China and India began forging a strategic co-operative partnership, yesterday, and stepped closer to making a final settlement of their border disputes. The results, together with a consensus on expanding "friendly and mutually-beneficial co-operations," came after nearly 3 hours of talks between Premier Wen Jiabao and his Indian counterpart Manmohan Singh yesterday afternoon, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said last night.

People's Daily, 12 April 2005

China, India vow to enhance cooperation in regional, int'l affairs

China and India, the two large Asian neighbors, have expressed in a joint statement their desire to develop "closer and more extensive" understanding and cooperation in regional and international affairs. As two large developing countries, China and India were both aware of each other's important role in the process of promoting the establishment of a new international political and economic order, it said. According to the document, the Indian side reiterated its aspirations for permanent membership of the UN Security Council, and the Chinese side also reiterated that India is an important developing country and is having an increasingly important influence in the international arena.

People's Daily, 13 April 2005

China, India issue joint statement on establishing "strategic and cooperative partnership"

China and India have agreed to establish a "strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity" between them, according to a joint statement signed by premiers of the two countries in New Delhi Monday. "Such a partnership is based on the principles of Panchsheel, mutual respect and sensitivity for each other's concerns and aspirations, and equality; provides a sound framework for an all around and comprehensive development of bilateral relations based on mutual and equal security, development and prosperity of the two peoples; and contributes to jointly addressing global challenges and threats," the statement said.

People's Daily, 13 April 2005

Chinese navy commander hails relations with Indian navy

Zhang Dingfa, commander of the Navy of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), said in Beijing Tuesday that the Chinese and Indian navies will strengthen cooperation. Zhang made the remarks when meeting Yashwant Prasad, deputy Chief of General Staff of Indian Navy, who is paying a eight-day visit to China. Zhang hailed the relation between the two navies, saying the two sides have enjoyed more frequent exchanges and deeper understanding while Sino-Indian relation develops in recent years.

People's Daily, 13 April 2005

China, India to honor line of actual control before settling border issue

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said Tuesday that China and India should respect and "strictly honor" the line of actual control prior to the final settlement of the border issue. Qin made the remarks at a regular press conference here in reply to a question about Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India, the last leg of his South Asian tour. Qin described the premier's India visit beginning on April 9 as "successful and fruitful."

People's Daily, 13 April 2005

Premier's South Asian tour meets desired targets: Chinese FM

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to South Asia has met the desired targets of "promoting mutual trust, deepening friendship, widening cooperation and making plans for the future," Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said on Tuesday. Earlier in the day, Wen came back to Beijing after a highly successful visit to Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. During his visit to India, Wen exchanged views with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the border issue in a frank and cooperative manner resulting in a formal agreement signed by the two leaders concerning solving the historic issue.

People's Daily, 13 April 2005

Improvement of Sino-Japanese ties needs common efforts: FM spokesman

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday that China's policy of developing a long-term, stable, and good-neighborly relationship with Japan on the basis of the principles of drawing a lesson from history and facing up to the future has not changed, nor will in the future. However, it needs the common efforts, Qin Gang said at a regular press conference.

People's Daily, 14 April 2005

China, India expect further progress on border issue: FM spokesman

China and India have agreed to continue negotiations over their border disputes after guiding principles for the settlement of the issue were signed during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's India tour. "Special Representatives of the two countries will continue consultations to come up with a framework to lay a foundation for an official border survey and demarcation," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan in a news briefing Tuesday.

People's Daily, 14 April 2005

FM Spokesman: Japan's drilling rights grant is provocation to China

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang said Wednesday that Japan has come up with a serious provocation to China's rights by granting Japanese firms the right to drill for gas and oil in East China Sea. In

response to a question from local press, Qin said China has already lodged protest on this issue to the Japanese side and will retain the right to make further reaction. Qin said the move by the Japanese side is a serious provocation to the rights of China and the norm of international relations.

People's Daily, 14 April 2005

China supports Germany to play greater role in UN: FM spokesman

China supports Germany to play a greater role in the United Nations and other multilateral organizations, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang here Thursday. When asked to make comments on Germany's candidacy for a permanent seat at the Security Council, Qin said China is willing to maintain contact and consultations with Germany on the United Nations reforms.

People's Daily, 15 April 2005

Lien Chan may visit mainland April 30

Lien Chan, chairman of Taiwan's main opposition Kuomintang (KMT) party, is expected to lead a delegation to make an historic visit to the Chinese mainland starting from April 30, KMT spokeswoman Cheng Li-wen said on Thursday. Lien is expected to meet Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, in Beijing during his week-long peace trip. A joint press conference after the meeting is also being arranged, chinataiwan.org reported Friday, quoting Taiwan media reports. However, Lin Feng-cheng, KMT secretary general, said on Friday the reports are mere speculations. As for when Lien's mainland trip would be finalized, he said it could happen at the end of April, mid-May or late May.

China Daily, 15 April 2005

EU to apply 'safety clauses' on China textiles

PARIS (AFP) - French President Jacques Chirac said the EU would within a fortnight take measures to stem the flow of Chinese textiles into Europe. "There is every reason to think, and in any case it is the position of France and I am sure we will be followed on this, that (European Union) safety clauses will be applied within 10 to 15 days," he told French television. The European Commission said earlier Thursday it aimed to decide on April 25 whether to launch an investigation into booming Chinese textile imports, the first step towards applying limits allowed under World Trade Organisation rules.

China Daily, 16 April 2005

China strongly opposes Japan's Taiwan policies

China is strongly dissatisfied with "some negative tendencies" in Japan's recent policies concerning the Taiwan issue, and is especially concerned with deepening the Japan-Taiwan ties in security, Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan said in Tuesday's meeting with Japan's Kyodo News Service president Toyohiko Yamanouchi. Tang stressed that opposing "Taiwan independence" and containing the secessionist activities of "Taiwan independence" forces conform to the common interests of China, Japan and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

China Daily, 16 April 2005

EU fails to reach deal on lifting arms ban

The European Union nations on Friday failed to agree on lifting their 15-year-old ban on arms sales to China. German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said foreign ministers at their meeting in Luxembourg failed to generate "a consensus" on the issue. He said the 25-nation EU would keep the issue under study and step up discussions with the United States. The proposal to lift the arms embargo has put trans-Atlantic ties under renewed strain, with the United States voicing strong opposition to the action. Britain, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden want to retain the arms ban, while Germany and France have long urged fellow EU members to lift the embargo.

People's Daily, 16 April 2005

China, Japan relations "at the crossroads": Chinese state councilor

China and Japan are "at the crossroads," facing a historic challenge over what direction their relationship will take, Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan has said. Although the relationship has encountered difficulties in the past few years, the Chinese government has not changed its policy toward Japan, he said. "Both Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao, while meeting Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi last year, said they hoped China and Japan could coexist peacefully, maintain friendship for generation after generation, cooperate for their mutual benefit and seek common development," he said. "Based on these guiding principles, China hopes Japan can maintain prosperity and growth, and understands its wish to further play an important and active role in international communities," he said.

People's Daily, 17 April 2005

Japanese foreign minister arrives in Beijing

Japanese Foreign Minister Machimura Nobutaka arrived in Beijing Sunday for a two-day visit to China. Machimura Nobutaka became foreign minister in September 2004. He visited China in 1999 heading a delegation from the Association of Dietmen League for Japan-China Friendship, an organization aiming at promoting exchanges between politicians of the two countries.

People's Daily, 17 April 2005

Mainland welcomes visit by Kuomintang head

The Chinese mainland has welcomed a planned visit by Kuomintang Chairman Lien Chan from Taiwan. But it also warned against any foreign intervention over the Taiwan question. Deputy director of the State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office Wang Zaixi said that the mainland is willing to discuss "issues of mutual concern" in hopes of improving relations. The trip to the mainland would be the first by a Kuomintang head in 60 years since the Chinese civil war in the 1940s.

People's Daily, 18 April 2005

Experts predict closer ties after Hu Jintao's visit to Southeast Asia

Chinese experts say President Hu Jintao's upcoming visit to Southeast Asian neighboring countries will improve their political and economic ties. "China always attaches importance to cooperation with developing countries, especially neighboring ASEAN countries, in political, economic and security fields," said Li Guofu, a researcher with the China Institute of International Studies. "Such comprehensive cooperation yields a good environment for China's development and for neighboring countries' economic progress as well," he said, noting Hu's visit to Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Philippines next week will further such cooperation.

China Daily, 18 April 2005

Hu invites Taiwan PFP chair to mainland

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and General Secretary Hu Jintao welcomed and invited James Soong, chairman of the People First Party (PFP) in Taiwan, to head a PFP delegation to tour and visit the mainland, a senior official announced in Beijing Monday. Chen Yunlin, director of the Taiwan Work Office of the CPC Central Committee, said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua that he was authorized to make the announcement formally, and hoped that the PFP would send personnel to the mainland as soon as possible for consultations over the arrangements for Soong's visit.

China Daily, 18 April 2005

China: Ties with Japan at lowest point for 30 years

China said ties with Japan were at their worst point since diplomatic relations were established in 1972, and that Tokyo was to blame. "There are serious difficulties between China and Japan at the moment," Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei told reporters. "It is the most difficult time since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1972 ... the reason is that the Japanese government cannot correctly handle the historical question, that is, the history of Japanese militarism's invasion of China."

China Daily, 18 April 2005

Japan urged to take "concrete actions" to face history

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing told visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Machimura Nobutaka on Sunday that China hopes Japan to take "concrete actions" to face up with and self-examine its history of invasion. Li held talks with Nobutaka after the Japanese foreign minister arrived in Beijing. Li stressed that the Chinese government and people attach great importance to the development of the friendly and cooperative relations with Japan. In line with the spirit of "taking history as a mirror and looking forward to the future" and the three key political documents on bilateral ties, China hopes the two countries can co-exist peacefully, maintain friendship for generations to come, conduct cooperation on a mutually beneficial basis and seek common development, Li said.

People's Daily, 19 April 2005

China, Japan agree to view ties from "strategic perspective" amidst tensions

Amid recent tensions, China and Japan agreed to view their relationship from "a long-term, strategic perspective" during Japanese Foreign Minister Machimura Nobutaka's just concluded visit. They also agreed to actively seek and expand common interests and continued to consolidate bilateral exchanges and cooperation in various fields.

China Daily, 19 April 2005

FM: Annan's advice taken on board (Jiang Zhuqing)

China is "studying" a suggestion by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan that Chinese and Japanese leaders meet at the upcoming Asia-Africa summit in Indonesia to resolve their differences, said Foreign Ministry spokesman

Qin Gang yesterday. China is sincere in its wish to develop relations with Japan, and hopes its neighbour shares a similar desire, especially on historical and Taiwan issues, said Qin.

China Daily, 20 April 2005

Tokyo court rejects appeal of war victims

TOKYO: The Tokyo High Court yesterday rejected compensation demands brought by Chinese victims of Japan's World War II atrocities. The rebuffed claimants included victims of germ warfare, the Nanjing Massacre and fire bombing in Yong'an, Fuzhou Province. Turning down the plaintiffs, who were appealing against a previous rejection, the high court claimed under international law cited by itself, individual victims have no right to seek compensation with a foreign country for damages inflicted by a military force.

China Daily, 20 April 2005

President Hu leaves for SE Asian tour

Chinese President Hu Jintao left Beijing Wednesday morning for state visits to Brunei Darussalam, the Republic of Indonesia, and the Republic of the Philippines. President Hu was invited by Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, according to sources with the Chinese Foreign Ministry. In Indonesia, President Hu will also attend the 2005 Asia-Africa summit and activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference at the invitation of Susilo and South African President Thabo Mbeki.

China Daily, 20 April 2005

KMT leader to visit mainland April 26-May 3

Lien Chan, chairman of Taiwan's Kuomintang (KMT) party, will visit the mainland cities of Nanjing, Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai from April 26 to May 3, officials said Wednesday. The schedule was jointly decided by the Taiwan Work Office of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the relevant department of the KMT party. "(The meeting) will produce a large and significant influence on Taiwan and on peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," KMT official Lin Feng-cheng told reporters in Taiwan.

People's Daily, 20 April 2005

Friendly coexistence and win-win cooperation only correct choice for China and Japan

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said Tuesday the friendly coexistence and win-win cooperation between China and Japan is the only correct choice in serving the fundamental interests of the two peoples. Li made the remarks in his report on Sino-Japanese relations to an audience of 3,500 people, including officials from six Chinese ministries and the military. According to Li, Japan is an important neighboring country of China. The interests of the two countries have been intertwined with ever frequent communication and contacts among the peoples. "Such a trend will be further developed in the context of economic globalization," he said.

People's Daily, 21 April 2005

China appreciates India's stress on relations with China: FM spokesman

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said Thursday that China appreciates the stress the Indian government and leadership have put on relations with China, adding China is ready to work with India to boost ties. Qin made the remarks when asked to comment on Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's report to the congress on Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's India visit from April 9 to 12.

People's Daily, 21 April 2005

China to continue mediation for new round of six-party talks

China will continue to mediate the new round of six-party talks, and hopes the relevant sides, especially the major parties, would show flexibility and sincerity to resume the talks at an early date. Qin Gang, a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry made the remarks at a regular press conference Thursday. He said with the purpose of safeguarding peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula, China has advocated the nuclear issue in the area should be resolved through dialogue, and meanwhile, the reasonable security concern of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea should be paid attention to.

People's Daily, 21 April 2005

China hopes Japan to help promote bilateral ties: FM spokesman

China hopes that Japan will take sincere and concrete actions to jointly improve and promote Sino-Japanese ties, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang Thursday. Qin made the remarks at a regular press conference when asked to make comments on recent reports given by senior diplomats on Sino-Japanese relations in several Chinese cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Tianjin. "The friendly coexistence and win-win cooperation between China and Japan are the only correct choice for the fundamental interests of

the two peoples," Qin said.

People's Daily, 21 April 2005

France: China arms ban "anachronistic"

French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin called the EU arms embargo against China "anachronistic" and "discriminatory", indicating it should be lifted by the end of June as planned. In Beijing for a three-day visit, Raffarin told the Xinhua news agency China was becoming a "responsible, great nation" and the arms ban in place was outdated. "This measure is anachronistic, wrongfully discriminatory and in complete contradiction of the current state of the strategic partnership between Europe and China," he said, according to a transcript seen by AFP.

People's Daily, 22 April 2005

China-Japan summit meeting hangs in the balance

China and Japan are "still in the process of consultation" over a proposed meeting between President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi during the Asia-Africa Summit in Jakarta. Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang made the announcement at a press conference yesterday, adding: "We will make the announcement when we have the information." Commenting on the widespread protests over Japan's militaristic past over the past weeks, a spokesman for the Ministry of Public Security said yesterday that the demonstrations had been fired by Japan's bad attitude and poorly judged actions on a number of subjects, including the history issue.

People's Daily, 22 April 2005

France to push for lifting arms embargo: French PM

France will continue to persuade other European Union members to push for the lifting of arms ban on China, said visiting French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin in Beijing Thursday. Raffarin made the remarks at a joint press conference with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. He said he believed the EU council does not have reason to alter its earlier decision to lift the arms embargo.

People's Daily, 22 April 2005

Anti-secession law not against France's principle: French PM

French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin reiterated France's firm stance on the one-China policy in Beijing Thursday, saying that China's Anti-Secession Law doesn't contradict France's principles on the Taiwan issue. France remained committed to the one-China policy and this stance is clear-cut and firm, said Raffarin, adding that he believes the content of the law has no contradictions with France's principle. He said that France agreed with the measures that the Chinese government has taken to ease the tension across the Taiwan Straits, "especially the measures to boost trade ties across the straits."

People's Daily, 22 April 2005

People urged to shun unauthorized marches

A spokesman for China's Ministry of Public Security Thursday asked the public not to attend unauthorized marches and protests or spread messages that instigate such events. "Marches held without approval from public security departments, including those held not in compliance with the approved plans, and acts in marches that disrupt public security or seriously sabotage social order all constitute violations of the law," he said. It is also illegal to sponsor marches and protests through spreading messages from the Internet and short message service (SMS) of mobile phones without approval of the public security departments, the spokesman said, adding that public security departments would mete out tough blows at people who conduct vandalism in marches.

China Daily, 23 April 2005

Koizumi expresses 'heartfelt apology'

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has expressed "deep remorse and heartfelt apology" for his country's wartime acts. The move came yesterday as Koizumi addressed leaders at the Asia-Africa summit. "In the past Japan through its colonial rule and aggression caused tremendous damage and suffering for the people of many countries, particularly those of Asian nations," he said. Responding to Koizumi's apology, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing urged the Japanese Government to take history as a mirror and look forward to the future.

China Daily, 23 April 2005

Hu urges Asia-Africa strategic partnership

President Hu Jintao said here on Friday that Asian and African countries should vigorously carry forward the Bandung Spirit and strengthen solidarity and co-operation to bring about a new type of Asian-African strategic partnership. Hu made the remarks when delivering a speech at the Asian-African Summit that opened at Jakarta

Convention Centre on Friday. Hu said constructing a long-term, stable and substantive new form of Asian-African strategic partnership that is responsive to the changing times was an important issue that demands collective attention.

China Daily, 24 April 2005

US report on Tibet issue slammed

China's foreign ministry spokesman Sunday said China expressed strong opposition to the third United States presidential report on the "Tibet issue" and told the United States to stop "interfering in China's internal affairs." Qin Gang, responding to a question about the report, said that Tibet is a part of China and Tibet affairs is an internal affair of China. Qin said that the report made irresponsible remarks on the Tibet affairs based on the US legislature and "ignored the facts." He said the report violated the basic principles of international relations and the three Sino-US joint communiques and "constituted interference in China's internal affairs."

People's Daily, 24 April 2005

Senior leader vows to further ties with Nepal

Senior Chinese leader Jia Qinglin said in Hainan Sunday that China adheres to the good-neighborly policy and will treat neighboring countries as partners, vowing to further promote the relationship with Nepal, which borders China by the Himalayas. Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), China's top advisory body, made the remarks when meeting with Nepalese King Gyanendra, who is attending the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) annual conference 2005 in this Chinese southernmost island province of Hainan.

China Daily, 25 April 2005

China, Japan mend fences, pitfalls ahead

The leaders of China and Japan pulled their relations back from the brink at a weekend meeting, but analysts said bitter memories of Japan's wartime history and rivalry for influence will keep ties fragile. Chinese President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi appear to have papered over their countries' worst row in three decades during talks in Jakarta Saturday, a day after Koizumi made an unusually public apology for Japan's past atrocities in Asia, Reuters reported.

China Daily, 25 April 2005

Chen 'okays' opposition leader's visit

Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian has given his "blessing" to this week's landmark mainland visit by the island's major opposition leader, reversing earlier criticism of the trip, a senior Taiwan official said. Chen had repeatedly accused Kuomintang (KMT) leader Lien Chan of being the mainland's promotional tool. Another opposition leader James Soong, chairman of the People First Party, has also accepted Beijing's invitation to visit the Chinese mainland. While addressing party members in Taipei on Saturday, Chen said the law does not bar the pair from traveling to the mainland.

People's Daily, 26 April 2005

China willing to create proper condition for high-level exchanges with Japan: FM Spokesman

The Chinese government attaches importance to high-level exchanges and contact with Japan, and is willing to create proper condition for it, said Qin Gang, spokesman of Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing Tuesday, commenting on Japanese government's hope that Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao would visit to Japan during the Aichi Expo 2005. Qin said the recent meeting in Indonesia between Chinese President Hu Jintao and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, held during a difficult time in Sino-Japanese relations, is "significant" and is "valued" by the two countries.

People's Daily, 26 April 2005

FM Spokesman on China-India leaders' meeting in Jakarta

The meeting between Chinese President Hu Jintao and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Jakarta is another important contact between the leaders of the two countries, and will play a positive role in pushing forward bilateral relations, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Beijing Tuesday. President Hu told Singh at the meeting that "China and India should be good neighbors, good friends and good partners," Qin said. Qin said Singh agreed to Hu's viewpoint, and said the Indian government is willing to take the opportunity "to establish a strategic partnership toward peace and prosperity, implement the consensus between the two sides and push forward the development of bilateral ties in an around way."

People's Daily, 26 April 2005

China welcomes US nuclear envoy's visit: FM spokesman

China welcomes US Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill's visit and is ready to exchange views with him on the Korean peninsular nuclear issue and China-US relations, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Beijing Tuesday. The chief US envoy on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue arrived in Beijing Tuesday after talks with officials of the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Seoul to discuss resuming the six-party talks. Spokesman Qin Gang said China's Vice-Foreign Ministers Dai Bingguo, Yang Jiechi and Wu Dawei will meet or hold talks with Hill separately Tuesday afternoon, without giving details.

China Daily, 27 April 2005

Lien Chan starts historic trip to mainland

Lien Chan Tuesday called his mainland visit "a first historic step" as he arrived in Nanjing on the first leg of his eight-day trip. The 69-year-old leader, who became the first KMT chairman to set foot on the mainland since 1949, also vowed to strive for cross-Straits peace and stability. Leading a large-scale delegation with more than 60 members including three vice-chairpersons and a number of high-ranking party officials, Lien earlier defined his mainland trip as "a journey of peace."

China Daily, 27 April 2005

42 held for protest property damage (Cao Li and Bao Xinyan)

Forty-two protesters were arrested for damaging property in anti-Japanese demonstrations in Shanghai on April 16, the Shanghai Municipal Public Security Bureau revealed on Monday. Sixteen will be prosecuted and the other 26 remain in detention. The 42 suspects were said to have attacked Japanese shops and restaurants during the protest, which was attended by up to 20,000 people angry at Japan's passing of a controversial history textbook.

People's Daily, 27 April 2005

FM spokesman on China-Pakistan leaders' meeting in Jakarta

The recent meeting between the heads of state of China and Pakistan is "significant" for the promotion of a strategic and cooperative partnership between the two countries, said Qin Gang, spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing Tuesday. Qin said at a regular press conference that Chinese President Hu Jintao met with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf during the Asia-Africa summit in Jakarta, capital of Indonesia, and the two sides exchanged views on political relations, economic cooperation and trade between the two countries, as well as on the situation in South Asia.

China Daily, 27 April 2005

UN action on N. Korea would 'destroy' talks

China's ambassador to the United Nations said any U.S. effort to get the Security Council to impose sanctions on North Korea over its development of nuclear weapons would "destroy" the six-party talks on the issue. This is China's first direct response to White House spokesman Scott McClellan's statement on April 18 that raising North Korea's nuclear program with the Security Council was "certainly" a possibility.

China Daily, 28 April 2005

China, Japan have "gentlemen's agreement" over war shrine

Japan and China reached "a gentlemen's agreement" 20 years ago that top Japanese leaders would not visit a war shrine that is at the center of a bitter row between them, China's ambassador to Tokyo said. Ambassador Wang Yi said China and Japan agreed after a 1985 visit to the shrine by then prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone that top Japanese leaders would not pay their respects at the shrine. In return China agreed to not condemn pilgrimages there by lesser-ranking figures, Wang said in a speech at the headquarters of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

China Daily, 28 April 2005

China: 90% support needed for any UN reform

China opposes setting an artificial timeframe for the Security Council reform and rejects forcing through a reform proposal still lacking broad consensus by means of a vote, Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations Wang Guangya said Wednesday. Wang made the remarks while addressing the 191-nation General Assembly, which was meeting to discuss the comprehensive report presented by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in late March on reforming the United Nations. After reiterating China's principles on UN reform, Wang said the proposals for the Security Council reform are both a focus of intense interest and a cause of deep divisions, and bridging the differences and setting reform on an even course require careful reflections by all sides.

People's Daily, 28 April 2005

KMT chairman arrives in Beijing

Chairman Lien Chan of the Kuomintang (KMT) Party of China arrived in Beijing at about 11:10 Thursday to continue his eight-day mainland visit. The Hu-Lien summit, which was scheduled for Friday, will be the first of its kind between the CPC and the KMT in nearly six decades. In a speech after paying homage to Dr. Sun Yat-sen (1886-1925), founding father of the KMT Wednesday morning, Lien said the two sides across the Straits should strive to achieve common prosperity in a peaceful and going-all-out mentality against the backdrop of the current "stalemate".

China Daily, 29 April 2005

'Desinification' unacceptable among Taiwan people - Lien

Lien Chan, chairman of the Kuomintang party, said in Beijing Friday that the majority in Taiwan would not accept the policy of "desinification," which is aimed at severing ties between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan. It's "a pity" that some political forces in Taiwan have been advocating such "an extreme idea", said Lien when answering a question at the end of his 40-minute speech at Peking University.

China Daily, 29 April 2005

Pentagon proposes China-US military hotline

The Pentagon has proposed that the United States and China set up a crisis hotline between their military establishments in high-level defense talks being held in Washington, US defense officials said. A senior Pentagon official said on Thursday the Chinese in the past have set aside the idea of a direct, permanently manned telephone link between the defense ministers, but appeared to be giving it close consideration now. "It seemed to us given our experiences with the EP-3, the tensions over Taiwan and a whole variety of other issues that it made common sense to establish a direct link of this nature," said the official, who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

China Daily, 29 April 2005

FMs of China and Japan set to mend fences

Foreign ministers from China and Japan are likely to meet on the sidelines of Asia-Europe foreign ministerial talks in Tokyo early next month, China's foreign ministry said yesterday. The meetings have been planned as relations between the two countries remained difficult. China's Li Zhaoxing and Japan's Nobutaka Machimura are expected to meet during the seventh Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) for foreign ministers in Kyoto on May 6 and 7, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang said at a regular briefing.

China Daily, 30 April 2005

China, US to enhance military exchanges

Senior Chinese and US military officials agreed to strengthen military exchanges and promote mutual trust in the coming year after holding their seventh round of consultation on defense at vice-ministerial level in Washington on Thursday and Friday. The Chinese side is headed by Xiong Guangkai, deputy chief of the general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, and the US side by Douglas Feith, undersecretary of defense for policy. During the consultation, the two sides exchanged views on regional and international security situations, state-to-state relations and bilateral military ties, as well as other issues of common concern. Both sides agreed that China and the United States have common interests on many regional and global issues and therefore should strengthen coordination and bilateral exchanges, broaden common ground in order to maintain regional and global peace and stability.

China Daily, 30 April 2005

EU launches investigation into textile imports

The European Commission (EC) on Friday launched an investigation into nine categories of textile and apparel products imported from China. China's Ministry of Commerce reacted by saying the evidence the EU used could not justify the move. The EC claimed that its textile imports from China rose as much as 500 per cent in some categories in the first quarter over the same period of last year. "However, the import volume for last year was the sum of 15 European countries while that for this year includes imports to 10 new EU members," said Chong Quan, the ministry's spokesman. Besides, the spokesman said, only one item under investigation saw a drop in price in the first three months of the year, indicating that China's textile exporters were not disturbing the EU market with low prices. The EC officially announced it would start the investigation into products ranging from men's trousers and socks to stockings on Thursday.

People's Daily, 30 April 2005

China, ASEAN to further strategic partnership

The 11th China-ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Senior Officials Consultation held Friday

reached a consensus deciding to further the strategic partnership between the two sides. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, ASEAN Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong, and senior officials or representatives with foreign ministries from ten ASEAN member countries attended the consultations. They exchanged views on furthering cooperation, on current cooperation situation in the East Asia and on other international and regional issues of common concern. Both sides also agreed in principle to focus on enhancing cooperation in transport, energy, culture, tourism and public health, which will be five new and major cooperation fields for China and the ASEAN.

People's Daily, 30 April 2005

Hu, Lien hold formal talks

General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee Hu Jintao and visiting Kuomintang (KMT) party chairman Lien Chan held a formal meeting Friday afternoon in Beijing. Hu said the meeting is a "historic meeting" as it is the first meeting between top leaders of the two parties in 60 years. He praised Lien and the KMT Central Committee for their bravery and determination in making this mainland visit, saying it is an important visit in cross-Strait relations. Hu said the two parties have the political basis and share common principles to conduct exchanges in the new period, namely acceptance of the "1992 consensus," opposing "Taiwan independence", jointly working to safeguard peace and stability in the Taiwan Straits, promoting development of cross-Strait relations and working for the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.