

China Daily, 12 February 2005

### **Japan action severe violation of Chinese sovereignty**

Officials with the Department of Asian Affairs under the Chinese Foreign Ministry has solemnly raised the issue of Diaoyu Islands with the Japanese side, the website of the ministry said. On February 9, Japan said it had placed under "state control" a lighthouse built by its nationalists on the Diaoyu Islands. The Japanese action is a severe violation of Chinese sovereignty and the Chinese will never accept this, the FM officials said, adding that any unilateral action by the Japanese side is illegal and invalid. Diaoyu Islands has long been Chinese territory and China has undisputable sovereignty over the islands, the officials said.

China Daily, 12 February 2005

### **China finds more oil reserves**

Thanks to intensified exploration efforts, China's three major oil companies found more oil and natural gas reserves in 2004, People's Daily reported. China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) found 520 million tons of new oil reserves and 243.6 billion cubic meters of natural gas reserves in six regions in 2004. Sinopec found 328 million tons of new oil reserves and 177.9 billion cubic meters of natural gas reserves last year. China National Offshore Oil Corporation also found two new oilfields. In addition, the three companies also stepped up oil exploration overseas last year. Among them, CNPC signed new contracts to jointly explore and tap oil and natural gas resources in some foreign countries.

People's Daily, 12 February 2005

### **One third of China's private businessmen are CPC members**

One out of every three owners of private businesses in the country is a member of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC), according to an official survey. The survey was jointly conducted by the Organization Department of the CPC Central Committee, the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, and the China society for the study of non-government (private) enterprises. The survey shows that the number of CPC members among private business people has risen dramatically. The percentage of CPC members among large private companies is even larger. Many of these "red capitalists" were CPC members before they opened their own businesses. A large number of officials and CPC members have quit their jobs in government or state-owned firms, experts participating in the survey said.

The China Daily, 15 February 2005

### **At least 203 killed, 22 injured in Liaoning coal mine blast**

At least 203 miners were killed, 22 injured and 13 trapped in a coal mine gas explosion Monday afternoon in Fuxin, a city in northeast China's Liaoning Province. The coal mine quake took place at 2:50 p.m. at the No.3316 working face of Sunjiawan colliery of the Fuxin coal industry group. The gas blast occurred at about 3:00 p.m. about 242 meters underground. Rescue operation began immediately and further investigation is underway.

The China Daily, 15 February 2005

### **Missile defense system fails another test**

WASHINGTON: A test of the national ballistic missile defense system failed Monday when an interceptor missile didn't get out of its silo, the second failure in as many months. An initial test evaluation blamed equipment at a Pacific island site rather than the interceptor itself. If that assessment bears out, it would come as a relief to defense officials because it would mean no new problems had been discovered with the missile. Still, the failure drew new fire from critics who say the technology is too expensive and unproven. It was unclear how the latest failure would affect the experimental interceptor bases in Alaska and California, which are located to defend against missiles launched from North Korea across the Pacific Ocean.

The People's Daily, 15 February 2005

### **China strongly condemns murder of Lebanese ex-PM**

China on Tuesday strongly condemned the murder of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan. Kong made the remarks when asked to comment on the explosion on Monday in Lebanon's capital Beirut which has killed 15 including Hariri and injured more than 100. Kong said China expressed its condolences to the death of Hariri and its sincere sympathy to the families of Hariri and the other dead, and he hoped the explosion will not influence the security and stability in Lebanon. No Chinese citizens were killed or injured in the explosion, Kong added.

The People's Daily, 15 February 2005

### **Chinese, Russian FM's exchange views on six-party talks**

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov exchanged views on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue during their telephone conversation Monday afternoon, according to sources with the Foreign Ministry. Lavrov was quoted as saying that Russia showed great concern over the latest development of issue and held the issue should be resolved within the framework of the six-party talks. Russia was willing to keep in touch and coordinate with China in this regard, he said. Li told Lavrov that China firmly stood for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the maintenance of peace and stability on the Peninsula. China was ready to make joint efforts with all relevant parties including Russia to push forward the process of the six-party talks, Li was quoted as saying. The six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula issue involves the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the United States, China, the Republic of Korea, Russia and Japan.

The People's Daily, 16 February 2005

### **Chinese protest against Tokyo's move on islands**

Dozens of Chinese demonstrated outside Japan's embassy in Beijing on Tuesday, protesting against Tokyo's moves to take over a lighthouse on a disputed group of islands in the East China Sea. The lighthouse was built by Japanese right-wing

activists years ago on the islands, which are small and uninhabited but provide access to rich fishing ground and possible oil deposits. "I am here because I am Chinese," said 22-year-old Jiao Wei, one of the approximately 50 protesters who turned out in the heavy snow. "We are here to tell Japan that the Diaoyu Islands belong to China forever. Japan's behaviour has no justification under international law," he said. The group, which called itself the China Federation of Defending Diaoyutai Islands, wore T-shirts with "Defend Diaoyutai" written on them and shouted "Down with the Japanese imperialists." They carried banners with the single character, "Shame!". The Chinese know the islands as Diaoyu while Japan calls them the Senkakus

The People's Daily, 16 February 2005

#### **China-ASEAN integration to offer more business opportunities: Goh Chok Tong**

The economic growth and integration of China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will help make Asia the most dynamic region in the next 20 years, said Singapore's Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong on February 16. "China-ASEAN-China trade has more than quadrupled since 1997 and could increase by more than 11 times by 2010 when both sides establish their Free Trade Area," Goh said at a business event held here on Wednesday. Citing China's target of quadrupling its gross domestic product (GDP) by 2020, Goh said that there is still much room for China to grow as reforms in the state-owned enterprises, agriculture and the banking sector help improve productivity and the allocation of resources. On the other side, according to Goh, ASEAN members have already agreed to become an economic community by 2020 with free flow of goods, services and investment, which will boost the region's GDP by 10 percent and cut operational costs by one fifth.

The People's Daily, 17 February 2005

#### **Chinese, ROK FMs appeal for resumption of 6-party talks**

The foreign ministers of China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) said Wednesday that both nations hoped that all parties involved in the six-party talks could step up their diplomatic efforts, avoid complicating the situation on the Korean Peninsula and push for the earliest resumption of the talks. Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his ROK counterpart Ban Ki-moon made the remark during a telephone conversation while they exchanged views on the peninsula's nuclear issue. Both stood for a peaceful solution through dialogue and a nuclear-weapon free peninsula. The two also said they were pleased at the progress of bilateral relationships in the past year. They said both foreign ministries would cooperate more closely to implement the consensus of Chinese President Hu Jintao and ROK President Roh Moo-hyun on developing ties, going on advancing for progress of the all-round cooperation partnership of the two nations.

The China Daily, 17 February 2005

#### **Seizing on Kyoto Protocol momentum**

With the Kyoto Protocol taking effect yesterday, mankind has finally taken a decisive step forward to safeguarding the planet by curbing global warming. It is time for modest celebration. The treaty on climate change promises to deliver great benefits for every member in the global village, no matter his or her government having signed it or not. It has been signed by 141 nations. More importantly, implementation of this pact, in itself, demonstrates a prevailing resolution the international community needs to make decisions on critical global issues. The Kyoto Protocol is aimed at stemming global temperature rises. It requires rich nations to cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 5.2 per cent of 1990 levels by 2008-12. The unremitting efforts made by the countries to allow this protocol to take effect yesterday deserve our applause. It was their persistence that has helped the treaty survive the pulling out of the United States in 2001.

The China Daily, 17 February 2005

#### **CIA issues warning on China's military efforts**

The director of the US Central Intelligence Agency changed the tone of his predecessors in the annual assessment about China on Wednesday, warning China's military modernisation is tilting the balance of power in the Taiwan Strait and increasing the threat to US forces in the region. Delivering the agency's annual assessment of worldwide threats on Wednesday, Porter Goss, a former Republican congressman who was named in September to head the CIA, dropped any mention of the co-operative elements of the US-China relationship that characterised recent CIA statements. Instead, he said China was making determined military and diplomatic efforts to "counter what it sees as US efforts to contain or encircle China".

The People's Daily, 17 February 2005

#### **Top US negotiator of six-party talks to visit China**

The new top US negotiator on the six-party talks, Christopher Hill, will visit China this week following the decision of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to withdraw from the talks, US officials said on Wednesday. Hill is expected to join South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-Soon for consultations with Chinese officials, US officials said. Hill was named by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on Monday as the new head of the US delegation to the six-party talks aimed at dismantling the nuclear programs of the DPRK. Hill, who currently serves as US ambassador to South Korea, replaces James Kelly, the assistant secretary of state who has so far led the US delegation to the six-party talks and who resigned last month as part of a shake-up under the new administration of President George W. Bush. The United States has said it is committed to the six-party talks even though the DPRK declared on Feb. 10 to withdraw from the talks "for an indefinite period." Three rounds of the six-party talks have been held to try to resolve the nuclear confrontation between the United States and the DPRK. The six-party talks have been stalled since June last year as the DPRK accused the United States of adopting a hostile policy towards Pyongyang.

The People's Daily, 18 February 2005

#### **China urges US officials not to send "wrong signal" to Taiwan**

China urged US officials to have "a better understanding about the situation in the Taiwan straits and not to send wrong

signals to the Taiwan authorities," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said Thursday at a regular press conference. He said China hopes US officials will observe the one-China policy, which has been reaffirmed by the US government, and the three joint communiques to safeguard the peace and stability of Asia including the Taiwan Straits.

The People's Daily, 18 February 2005

#### **China condemns CIA's warning on its military efforts**

China has protested against the US Central Intelligence Agency's warning that China's military modernization is tilting the balance of power across the Taiwan. Foreign ministry spokesman Kong Quan told the regular Thursday press conference that China is strongly against the US's irresponsible act: "The US warning has severely violated the conventions of international relations and the three Sino-US Joint Communiques. It sings a different tune compared with the long-standing One China Policy. US has outrageously interfered with Chinese internal affairs and sent a false signal to the advocates of 'Taiwan independence' ". Delivering the agency's annual assessment of worldwide threats on Wednesday, Porter Goss, the director of the US Central Intelligence Agency dropped any mention of the co-operative elements of the US-China relationship that characterised recent CIA statements. Instead, he warned that China was making determined military and diplomatic expansion.

The People's Daily, 18 February 2005

#### **China, India forming strategic ties**

When Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister Wu Dawei and Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, on behalf of their respective governments, sat together for a "strategic dialogue," the two countries were pushing their bilateral relations onto a new stage. The two-day strategic talks, held on January 24 in New Delhi, is aimed at broadening the scope of Sino-Indian relationship while providing both countries with a platform to exchange notes on regional and global issues of common concern. Among the topics discussed were the issues of globalization, energy security, democratization of international relations, reform of the United Nations (UN), non-proliferation, anti-terrorism and the situation in Iraq and on the Korean Peninsula. The launching of the first ever "strategic dialogue" mechanism fully demonstrates that the two neighbours have already raised relations above a lingering and plaguing border dispute that once plunged their relationship into an icy period. At this meeting of historical significance, both sides did not camouflage their strong desire to look beyond bilateral disputes and develop and upgrade ties in a global perspective. Both countries stressed the importance of reforming international institutions, including the UN and its Security Council. With their global clout increasing, the two countries have been conscious that consolidated mutual trust and co-operation between them serve as crucial elements that can make the region and the whole of Asia vibrant and energetic for growth. And there is also an expanded consensus in the minds of decision-makers in Beijing and New Delhi that the two countries have enough space and opportunity in the region and beyond to develop and boost ties. The establishment of the "strategic dialogue" mechanism shows the two neighbours have overcome the old mindset that two key regional players would inevitably compete and struggle for "scope of influence" and "geopolitical interests." There are reasons to expect that the two Asian heavyweights will further advance the strong momentum of stable and sound good-neighbourly ties under a larger scope following the first strategic talks.

The People's Daily, 18 February 2005

#### **Investing in China - temptation that cannot be kept out**

Sino-foreign enterprises "join hands" to make foreign investment in China continue to warm up. Since the start of the New Year, there have been repeated reports about transnational corporations' merger with Chinese enterprises. More signs show that batches of transnational corporations are dismantling the "joint venture bridges" from now on after more than three years of China's entry into the WTO: they include British BP, German Basf AG, Bayer Group, Siemens and Whirlpool, Japanese Mitsubishi, Hitachi and Panasonic... From 2002 up to now the companies including Panasonic, P&G and Siemens have turned their joint ventures in China into whole foreign-funded companies. For transnational corporations, joint venture is a short cut for entering into China.

The China Daily, 18 February 2005

#### **China, S.Korea urge patience for N.Korea talks**

BEIJING/SEOUL: China and South Korea urged patience with North Korea on Thursday, stressing their commitment to six-party talks on its nuclear program, as diplomats consulted in Beijing to try to get the process back on track. North Korea last week dealt a blow to the complicated diplomatic effort to persuade it to abandon its atomic program, declaring for the first time that it had nuclear weapons and was withdrawing indefinitely from the talks. South Korea's delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon, flew to Beijing on Thursday on a previously scheduled two-day visit. He met Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei. "We can't expect to resolve this in a short period of time. We should take a long-term perspective, and we will resolve it in a calm manner," Song told reporters upon arrival in Beijing. The recently named top U.S. nuclear negotiator for the Beijing talks, ambassador to South Korea Christopher Hill, also flew to Beijing for one day of meetings with Chinese officials

The People's Daily, 18 February 2005

#### **China to send official to DPRK on nuclear impasse**

China will send a senior Party official to Pyongyang this week to try to bring the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) back to the negotiation table to end the 28-month nuclear standoff. Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee will lead a delegation invited by the Workers' Party of Korea, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told yesterday's regular media briefing. A Beijing-based source said Wang will visit Pyongyang this weekend but gave no further details. The DPRK announced last Thursday it possessed nuclear weapons and was pulling out of the six-party talks on the standoff, which also include China, the United States, the Republic of Korea, Russia and Japan. "We are still analyzing its February 10 statement, and China has maintained close contact with all the other

related parties including Pyongyang since then," said Kong.

The People's Daily, 19 February 2005

### **China slams US remarks on military**

China has accused the United States of sending a false signal to Taiwan by disclosing a CIA assessment indicating the military balance across the Taiwan Straits is shifting in Beijing's favor. The comments by China's Foreign Ministry followed statements by CIA Director Porter Goss earlier this week that Beijing's military modernization was "tilting the balance of power in the Taiwan Strait." "Improved Chinese capabilities threaten U.S. forces in the region," Goss said. Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan described Goss's comments, made in the CIA's annual assessment of worldwide threats presented Wednesday, as an "irresponsible act." "The U.S. warning has severely violated the conventions of international relations," Kong said. "The United States has severely interfered with Chinese internal affairs and sent a false signal to the advocates of Taiwan independence." U.S. relations with Beijing have been relatively good in recent months. The two sides have boosted military exchanges and have been cooperating in efforts to persuade North Korea to dismantle its nuclear program.

The People's Daily, 20 February 2005

### **Chinese Vice-Premier leaves for 3 African nations**

Chinese Vice-Premier Zeng Peiyan leaves here on Sunday morning for a visit to Republic of Kenya, Republic of the Congo, and Republic of Angola from Feb. 20 to 26. as guest of the governments of the three countries. During the visit, Zeng, as guest of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), will also attend the 23rd Session of the UNEP Governing Council and the Global Ministerial Environment Forum, which will be held in Nairobi, capital of Kenya.

The People's Daily, 21 February 2005

### **China strongly criticizes US-Japan statement on Taiwan issue**

China expressed "grave concern" over a joint statement of the United States and Japan listing Taiwan as one of their "common strategic objectives" in the Asia-Pacific region, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Sunday, Feb. 20, saying that any "irresponsible remarks" on China's national defense is "untenable." The two countries, following a high-level US-Japan security alliance talk in Washington Saturday, announced that one of their "common strategic objectives" across the Asia-Pacific region is to urge China to resolve the Taiwan issue peacefully through dialogue and to be more transparent about its military modernization. The two allies declared that to encourage the peaceful resolution of issues concerning the Taiwan Straits through dialogue was part of their common strategic objectives. They also urged China to "improve transparency of its military affairs." The meeting was participated in by US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Japanese Defence Agency chief Yoshinori Ono and Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura. This is reportedly the first time during their half-century-old alliance that the US and Japan have expressed shared anxiety over tensions in the Taiwan Straits.

The People's Daily, 22 February 2005

### **Chirac, Bush discuss China arms embargo**

French President Jacques Chirac and US President George W. Bush discussed how Europe might allay Washington's concerns about moves to lift an EU arms embargo on China, a top US official said. "I would not say that the two sides are close to a compromise, if by that you mean that the United States is close to lifting its objections," said the official, who did not wish to be identified. The issue was one of the most contentious during what the official described as an "extremely cordial" dinner and "one of their best meetings and best extended discussions ever, in fact." Asked what made it such a good meeting, the official said: "It covered a great deal of ground and it did so very efficiently, without set piece speeches, long, turgid presentations of positions or reading of points." In addition to discussing Iran's nuclear program, the Middle East peace process, their joint determination to get Syria to end its military presence in Lebanon, and Iraq's future, the two leaders discussed the arms embargo.

The People's Daily, 22 February 2005

### **US, Japan meddling in China's internal affair**

Any country's desire for a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question is appreciated. However, if such a goal is listed as a strategic objective, then it is nothing short of blatant meddling in China's internal affairs, and amounts to a direct challenge to our sovereignty, territorial integrity and State security. Such is the case with a statement issued by the United States and Japan on Saturday, which aims "to encourage the peaceful resolution of issues concerning the Taiwan Straits through dialogue" as one of their 12 common strategic objectives in the Asia-Pacific region. This is the first time that the Taiwan question has been explicitly mentioned in the two countries' alliance. This is an irresponsible and reckless move that will have grave consequences. Although the aim of the strategy is to help maintain stability in the Taiwan Straits, this joint statement will instead become a destabilizing factor by sending the wrong signal to independence forces on the island. Any move that has the potential to embolden Taiwan's independence forces will further strain cross-Straits relations, rather than help reach a peaceful resolution to the question.

The People's Daily, 22 February 2005

### **Analysis: Japan-US security cooperation breaches bilateral framework**

Japan and the United States listed the Taiwan issue and problems in the Korean Peninsula as part of their "common strategic objectives" in a joint statement issued on Saturday, signaling that the Japanese-US security cooperation mechanism has breached a bilateral framework and is set for substantial changes. In a "two plus two" meeting attended by foreign and defense ministers of Japan and the US in Washington, the two countries worked out "common strategic objectives" in efforts to

strengthen the Japan-US military alliance. The agreement, which falls within Washington's global strategies, signifies that Japan will take part in the US global strategies and the two countries will become closer to each other in a military alliance before realizing a Japanese-US military integration. Moreover, the "common strategic objectives" will become the basic guidelines for the US to realign its military deployment in Japan and may serve as the prelude to another amendment to the Japan-US Defense Cooperation Guidelines. Military alliance between Japan and the US is a bilateral arrangement against the backdrop of the Cold War. The Japan-US Mutual Cooperation and Security Treaty has always confined the purpose of the US military presence in Japan to the defense of Japan and safeguarding peace and stability in the Far East region.

The People's Daily, 23 February 2005

#### **China's most advanced maritime patrol boat hits water**

China's largest and most advanced maritime patrol boat, the "Sea Patrol 31," started its mission on Tuesday. Equipped with a world-leading information gathering system, the patrol boat is able to handle maritime issues that safeguard China's maritime sovereignty. The patrol boat is 112 meters long and 14 meters wide, with a displacement of 3,500 tons. It mainly patrols across the South China Sea, the lifeline of China's energy, resources and container transportation. Liu Gongchen, the deputy director of China's Maritime Safety Administration, says the boat has quite a sound body able to resist heavy wind and terrifying waves. With various and complete functions, "Sea Boat 31" boasts the most advanced patrolling technologies of any boat in China.

The People's Daily, 23 February 2005

#### **Chinese FM talks with Rice over phone**

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice exchanged views on the latest development of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue during a phone conversation Tuesday night. Both Li and Rice, who is accompanying President George W. Bush on a visit to Europe, agreed that the six-party talks should be resumed as early as possible, according to sources with the Chinese Foreign Ministry. Li reiterated that China hoped all relevant parties would continue to work together for the denuclearization and long-term peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula. Three rounds of the six-party talks, which involved China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States, the Republic of Korea, Russia and Japan, have been held in Beijing since August 2003, serving as a channel for all concerned parties to solve the nuclear issue through dialogue and cooperation.

The People's Daily, 23 February 2005

#### **EU plan to lift arms embargo on China won't harm third parties**

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan maintained that the European Union's plan to lift its arms embargo on China won't infringe upon the interest of third parties, and that the lifting of the embargo is "irrelevant" to "the present situation of the Asia Pacific region." Kong told a regular press conference that the arms embargo, put in place in 1989, is a "sequel of the cold war," and the lifting of it is "conducive to a sound and smooth development of the China-EU relations based on equality and reciprocity." "The bilateral relations enjoy a smooth development at present, while the two sides are gradually solving historical problems between them," Kong said. He said he hopes that the United States will temporize to the trend instead of setting obstacles. Kong said the lifting of embargo is actually "the lifting of political discrimination on China, which won't lead to China to buy a large amount of weapons." China, he said, will "pursue peaceful development and a defense policy that is defensive in nature," and will be "no menace to any country." He said, "China is not the obstacle to the world peace and stability but an active strength to maintain it."

Japan Today, 23 February 2005

#### **Taiwan military renews push for huge budget**

TAIPEI: Taiwan's military on Tuesday renewed its bid for money to buy advanced weapons from the United States following a U.S.-Japan statement that called for a peaceful solution to the strained cross-strait relations. Defense minister Li Chieh welcomed the statement, issued jointly in Washington by the top-level U.S. and Japanese foreign affairs and defense officials on Saturday, saying it will help justify Taiwan military's arm procurement plan.

The People's Daily, 23 February 2005

#### **Chief nuke negotiators of S.Korea, US, Japan to meet in Seoul**

The chief nuclear negotiators of South Korea, the United States and Japan to the six-party talks will meet here Saturday to discuss strategies on how to reopen the multilateral talks, reported South Korean Yonhap News Agency. Participants in the meeting will be South Korea's Deputy Foreign Minister Song Min-soon, US Assistant Secretary of State-designate Christopher Hill and Kenichiro Sasae, chief of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia-Oceania Bureau, Yonhap quoted a source of the South Korean government as reporting. The three countries have usually met for such a strategy consultations to coordinate their standings on the nuclear issue. Since August 2003, China, the United States, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Russia, South Korea and Japan have held three rounds of talks in Beijing aimed at peacefully resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. Pyongyang refused to attend the fourth round scheduled for last September, citing hostile US policy.

The China Daily, 23 February 2005

#### **Bush threatens Europe on ending arms ban**

US President Bush warned Tuesday in Brussels that US Congress might retaliate if Europe revokes the 15-year arms ban on China. Bush said lifting the embargo "would change the balance of relations" between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan and "that's of concern." But French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said the ban should go. "It will happen," Schroeder said. Chirac said the European Union intends to end its ban on arms sales to China. "With regard to China, Europe intends to remove the last obstacles to its relations with this important country," Chirac told a news

conference just before all 25 EU leaders began a summit with Bush. He said the embargo was no longer justified but the EU would ensure its abolition did not change the strategic balance in Asia. He noted that U.S. allies Canada and Australia did not have such restrictions on arms sales to Beijing. To allay US worries, Chirac said security guarantees could be worked out.

The China Daily, 23 February 2005

#### **Interfering in internal affair**

The US-Japan statement on the Taiwan question has sabotaged political stability in East Asia and should therefore be opposed, says an article in Beijing News. The statement interferes with China's sovereignty, territorial integrity and state security. The statement is not unexpected though, and is in keeping with the traditional strategy of the US-Japan alliance. In the 1997 New Japan-US Defence Co-operation Guidelines, the Taiwan question was listed as an excuse for Japan's military assistance to the United States. Although "Taiwan" was not explicitly stated, it was easy to read between the lines. But in this latest statement, the two nations, especially Japan, have not bothered to disguise their intention to meddle in the Taiwan issue. But in this latest statement, the two nations, especially Japan, have not bothered to disguise their intention to meddle in the Taiwan issue. America has now lifted Japan to a higher status in the US' East Asia military strategy. But the complexity of politics in the region will probably mean the reality will be unsatisfactory for the two countries. One reason that contributes to the complexity is Japan's politics. Since it returned Taiwan to China after World War II, it has not stopped thinking about resuming its old relationship with the island. The "Taiwan complex" is not spoken out loud but is, nevertheless, still alive in the minds of many Japanese politicians and others with influence. Today Japan is gaining military strength under the protection of the United States and tomorrow it could disobey US orders. Both Japan's promising economy and its strong aversion to being controlled by the United States could turn that possibility into a reality. Will Japan mutate into a military giant like before? We cannot help but wonder.

The People's Daily, 24 February 2005

#### **China calls for restarting six-party talks at an early date**

Chinese Ambassador on Korean Peninsula Affairs Ning Fukui called for "concerned parties" to make efforts to restart and make "substantial progress" in the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue soon. Ning made the remarks during meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday with Russian Ambassador to China Igor A. Rogachev, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to China Kim Ha Joong, and Japanese Ambassador to China Koreshige Anami. Ning briefed the ambassadors on China's stance on the current situation.

The People's Daily, 24 February 2005

#### **China to see energy-saving building boom**

China will see a construction boom of green, energy-efficient buildings in the coming 15 years, Qiu Baoxing, vice minister of construction, said here Wednesday. By 2020, China will transform all existing buildings into energy-saving buildings, Qiu said at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office. Buildings built after 2005 will embrace new technology that could save 65 percent more energy per square meter compared with buildings built now, Qiu said. According to ministry statistics, the energy consumption per unit for Chinese construction is two or three times that of developed countries. Currently, energy-saving buildings in China occupy less than one percent of the country's total construction by square meter.

The China Daily, 24 February 2005

#### **Cultural factors bind China and India (Eric Teo Chu Cheow)**

The buzz today is over the rise of China and India in the big global power shift, as witnessed during the recent Davos World Economic Forum. The two Asian giants' rise is being reflected in the international arena. In fact, historical and cultural ties between China and India had already flourished between the first and 10th centuries AD, thanks to the arrival of Buddhism in China (and then in Japan, Korea and Viet Nam) via the Silk Road, that links India to China. This cultural dimension helped shape Chinese civilization from the Han Dynasty all the way to the Sui and Tang dynasties, the latter being considered the apogee, as well as then the decline, of Buddhism in China. China and India have "met" and held dialogue with each other for more than a thousand years through Buddhism and the Silk Road. This historical "civilization dialogue" was then extended (thanks to China) to Japan and the rest of East or Confucianist Asia. As the two Asian giants normalize relations and coordinate their strategies in "unifying" Asia, probably high on the agenda of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's upcoming visit to New Delhi in March, China and India should not forget their historical links and dialogues, which bound them together in the first millennium AD.

The People's Daily, 25 February 2005

#### **Nuclear arms race in South Asia not in interest of any party, spokesman**

The nuclear arms race in South Asia is not in line with the interest of any country, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan Thursday at a regular press conference. Commenting on an Indian report that says the United States will sell anti-ballistic missile system to India, Kong said "We hope the relevant countries in South Asia properly handle the difference and are committed to safeguarding stability, peace and development." "We have noticed the report," he said, adding that "we hope the relevant country would act to benefit peace and stability of Asia, especially South Asia." Kong said China welcomes the recent negotiations between India and Pakistan and hopes to work with the countries to safeguard stability in South Asia.

The People's Daily, 25 February 2005

#### **China willing to maintain dialogue with G8**

China values the role the G8 has played in international affairs and is willing to maintain dialogues and exchanges, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan Thursday. Kong told a press conference that the G8 has invited China to attend a meeting of the G8 summit to be held this year in London. "We hold a positive attitude towards dialogues on

international issues with the G8," he said. The Group of Eight (G8) includes France, Germany, Britain, Italy, the United States, Japan, Canada, and Russia. Chinese President Hu Jintao attended the informal South-North dialogue meeting in France in June 2003.

The People's Daily, 25 February 2005

#### **China, India rival US competitiveness: Survey**

China and India rival the United States when it comes to business competitiveness, and the Asian countries may soon surpass American rivals in technological innovation, according to a new survey. More than 300 executives who participated in the study, released Thursday by consulting firm A.T. Kearney, said Chinese companies were nearly as formidable competitors as US firms, particularly in the technology and telecommunications niches. Approximately 63 percent of US executives surveyed said their competition would come primarily from the United States, while 59 percent said it would come from China, and 45 percent said it would come from India. Nine out of 10 executives polled said the competitive threat posed by Chinese and Indian companies would likely intensify in the next two years.

The People's Daily, 25 February 2005

#### **China, US to tighten ties in global crime fight**

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) will continue to make its relationship with its Chinese counterparts as close as possible, China Daily reported. Thomas V. Fuentes, special agent in charge of international operations of the bureau, said here Thursday the FBI and the Chinese Ministry of Public Security will hold a second working group meeting in Beijing in March. "It will include matters such as organized crime, cyber crime, economic crimes and other issues to make sure we are helping each other as much as we possibly can," he said.

The People's Daily, 25 February 2005

#### **Clinton should abide by US commitments to China on Taiwan issue: FM spokesman**

As former US president, Bill Clinton should abide by the commitments made previous US governments concerning Taiwan, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan at a regular briefing Thursday. While commenting on Clinton's visit to Taiwan and his meeting with Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian, Kong said as former US president and an influential politician, Clinton should know and does know China's firm position on the Taiwan issue. He should abide by the one-China policy and the three joint communiques and oppose Taiwan Independence, said Kong.

The China Daily, 26 February 2005

#### **EU commissioner: It's time to lift arms ban**

Europe's top trade negotiator on Friday criticized a 15-year-old European arms embargo on China, saying it was high time to lift the ban given the rapidly developing relations between the two sides. European Union Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said he discussed the issue during two days of meetings with Vice Premier Wu Yi and Commerce Minister Bo Xilai. "To treat China as some sort of pariah in maintaining this arms ban is, in the view of Europe's member states, no longer valid," Mandelson said at a press conference. France and Germany are leading the push to end the embargo that was imposed since 1989.

The People's Daily, 26 February 2005

#### **Beijing moves to further co-operation with Taiwan**

Beijing on Friday pledged to expand cross-Straits charter flights while offering greater access to agricultural products from Taiwan. The government also agreed to consider launching cargo charters to Taiwan and allow Taiwanese airlines to use the mainland's international flight routes to Europe. These economic offers came despite officials' warning of a "grave cross-Straits situation" at a regular press conference held by the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council. "We will exert our greatest efforts as long as these things benefit our Taiwan compatriots," said Li Weiyi, spokesman of the office. Tang Yi, deputy director of the office's Economic Bureau, proposed talks on non-stop charter flights to cover more holidays or even regular charter flights between the two sides. "We hope airlines from both sides of the Straits can reach a consensus on launching charter flights for the Qingming Festival and other traditional Chinese festivals as soon as possible," he told reporters. "We also hope that charter flights can be operated in all major holidays and regular passenger flights can be run to link main mainland areas, where Taiwanese business people live, with major cities on the island."

The People's Daily, 26 February 2005

#### **Japan's policy on Taiwan remains unchanged: spokesman**

Japan's policy over the Taiwan issue remains unchanged, and it is critical for Japan to deepen the cooperation with China instead of listing it as a threat, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday. Hatsuhisa Takashima said what the Japanese and US high-ranking officials discussed in a security meeting held on last Saturday in Washington reflected the policy on security and the local issues Japan has been abiding by. After that meeting, the two countries announced that one of their "common strategic objectives" across the Asia-Pacific region is to urge China to resolve the Taiwan issue peacefully through dialogue and to be more transparent about its military modernization. The conference also addressed subject on the realignment of US troops stationed in Japan.

The People's Daily, 27 February 2005

#### **India considers China, US its top partners**

Indian PM Manmohan Singh said that India's foreign policy was driven by economic interests with the United States and China having emerged as the country's leading partners. "Our relations with major powers especially the United States and more recently China have been shaped by these economic factors," Singh told a conference in the Indian capital on Friday. "Who

could have imagined a decade ago that China would emerge as our second largest trading partner," he said. India and China fought a brief border war in 1962 that left their relations in shreds, but in recent years New Delhi and Beijing have played down their territorial dispute to focus on improving commercial and other ties. Bilateral trade exceeded 13 billion dollars in 2004 compared to a few hundred million dollars in the 1990s.

The People's Daily, 27 February 2005

#### **EU trade chief criticizes arms ban on China**

European Union's trade chief, Peter Mandelson has criticized a 15-year-old European arms embargo on China, saying it was high time to lift the ban given the rapidly developing relations between the two sides. Speaking in a press conference after the meeting with China's vice premier, Wu Yi and Commerce Minister Bo Xilai, the EU trade chief says maintaining the ban is not reasonable. The United States has voiced strong opposition to the lifting of the weapons embargo, saying European weapons sales to China could transfer hi-tech military know-how to China, thus breaking the military balance in Asia. To this, Mandelson believes the key question is not whether the ban stays or goes but what replaces it, adding that a clear and strong code of conduct for arms sales will do the job. Mandelson says talks with Chinese leaders also focused on deepening strategic relations between Europe and China. He says as members of the 148-nation WTO edge closer to a year-end summit in Hong Kong, they are trying to spur treaty talks that have been dragging on for more than four years. On intellectual property rights, he notes both parties have agreed to set up a joint expert group to nail down enforcement of the IPR protection, which he believes is the major problem in China's IPR issues. When asked about the issue of granting China the market economy status, the top trade negotiator says China should take more efforts to meet the relevant criteria, and pledges the determination to move forward with China. This is Mandelson's first visit to China since he took office in November 2004.

The People's Daily, 28 February 2005

#### **China publishes white paper on regional autonomy for ethnic minorities**

China published a white paper on Monday saying that the country's regional autonomy system for ethnic minorities adopted half a century ago has been in conformity with the country's "peculiar situation" and proven to be in the common interests of all ethnic groups. The 12,000-word document entitled Regional Autonomy for Ethnic Minorities in China was issued by the Information Office of the State Council. The system "is critical to enhancing the relationship of equality, unity and mutual assistance among different ethnic groups, to upholding national unification, and to accelerating the development of places where regional autonomy is practiced and promoting their progress," the white paper says. "This major historical decision (to pursue the regional autonomy system) was made out of consideration for the particular situation of China," the white paper says. By the end of 2003, China had established 155 ethnic autonomous areas, which cover 64 percent of the country's entire territory.