

People's Daily, 1 July 2004

China, Russia consult on strategic stability

The Chinese and Russian diplomats held consultations Thursday in Beijing on strategic stability, calling for international non-proliferation cooperation. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Kislyak exchanged in-depth views on the current security situations in the world, regional issues, multilateral arms control and non-proliferation.

People's Daily, 1 July 2004

China to join hands with Pakistani new government to promote bilateral ties

China will make joint efforts with the Pakistani new government to promote the Sino-Pakistani comprehensive cooperative relations, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue Thursday. Zhang said at a regular press conference that China and Pakistan traditionally enjoyed friendship and shared all-weather friendly cooperation. The good neighborly friendship between China and Pakistan had seen continuous development since the two sides established diplomatic relations in 1951, she added.

People's Daily, 1 July 2004

China opposes Japan's sea gas decision

China expressed grave concern over Japan's unilateral decision to explore a disputed area in the East China Sea Wednesday. "China is deeply concerned about Japan's decision on this issue," Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said. It is reported that Japan will start exploring an area under the East China Sea for natural gas near where China has been developing the resource. Shoichi Nakagawa, Japan's Minister for Economics, Trade and Industry, says Tokyo wants to start researching the sub-seafloor early next month in its exclusive economic zone, which is northwest of Okinawa, Japan's southern most prefecture.

Taipei Times, 2 July 2004

Lee launches constitution campaign
(Chang Yun-ping)

Former president Lee Teng-hui yesterday led hundreds of supporters to launch the "Action for a Taiwanese Constitution," a private, non-governmental effort to campaign for the creation of a new Taiwan constitution. Lee said that the constitution should not contain the name "Republic of China" (ROC) and must assert Taiwan's independent sovereignty. Addressing the campaign's inauguration ceremony, Lee, the general convener of the action, yesterday said this was an important moment for the people of Taiwan to begin building a real independent and sovereign country, which will be necessitated by the creation of Taiwan's own constitution.

Taipei Times, 2 July 2004

US realism unsettling for Taiwan (Li Thian-hok)

There are two schools of thought in the US foreign policy establishment -- realist and neoconservative. In the realists' view, Taiwan is a small nation. Its population is less than 2 percent that of China. China is determined to annex Taiwan and may be willing to bear whatever political, diplomatic, economic and military cost that is required to achieve that end, including a military conflict with the US. Therefore, it is in the US' interest to encourage cross-strait dialogue and economic integration, hopefully leading to a peaceful unification of the two sides.

The neocons worry about the growing US trade deficit with China (US\$124 billion last year). They are also worried about China's rapid economic growth, which enables the People's Liberation Army to acquire advanced weapons from Russia and modernize itself with state-of-the-art military technology to help China achieve its objective of absorbing Taiwan, turning Japan and Korea into China's vassal states, replacing the US as the dominant power in Asia and eventually challenging the US' role as the sole superpower. The neocons therefore firmly support Taiwan's status as a

de facto independent nation, at least until it becomes clear that a rising China will not threaten US strategic interests and national security with its imperial expansionism. US policy toward Taiwan is the result of a debate between the neocons and realists, and often reflects the influence of both schools. Since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the US, however, the voice of the realists, in support of warmer relations with China, has become stronger, while the voice of the neocons advising caution has become muted.

The Japan Times, 4 July 2004

A case for keeping Taiwan's status as is
(Richard Halloran)

Gradually, with hardly anyone noticing, President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan has emerged as the most influential player in the volatile triangle of relations between China, the United States and his own island nation. The reason: The Chinese are stuck with a rigid "one China" policy that shows no inkling of imagination or flexibility, and the Americans are paying only sporadic attention, hoping that the issue will somehow go away. That leaves Chen latitude to maneuver between them. Even so, the chances of a miscalculation by Chen -- or the Chinese or the Americans -- continues to make the future of Taiwan the most dangerous long-term confrontation in Asia. One slip and hostilities across the Taiwan Strait could erupt to drag the U.S. and China into a disastrous war.

Taipei Times, 4 July 2004

Making deals for arms purchases
(Editorial)

On Friday, the Ministry of National Defense (MND) briefed an invited group of media representatives on its arms purchase proposals. This was obviously a MND attempt to seek popular support for the purchases against the backdrop of a continued deadlock between the Legislative Yuan and the Executive Yuan over the special arms purchase budget. The MND is obviously in a hurry to have the deal sealed. As conceded by the Defense Minister Lee Jye during Friday's briefing, if the deal is not

closed by the year's end, then in view of the upcoming US presidential election it will face an increased level of uncertainty. What he meant was that if US President George W. Bush -- who has been friendly to Taiwan -- is not re-elected, then the chances of the US government backtracking on the offer increase. While efforts to cut prices should be appreciated, two things must be kept in mind -- they must be done for the right reasons (not merely to vex the government) and they must conform to the realistic situation of the market.

The Times of India, 5 July 2004

Crucial Sino-India border talks this month

Beijing: The third round of India-China special representatives-level boundary talks are likely to be held in New Delhi this month with Beijing hoping to discuss the "guiding principles" to settle the territorial issue. "We believe that during the third meeting, efforts should be made in finding the guiding principles for the solution (of the border issue)," a senior Chinese foreign ministry official said here. "With respect to the boundary question, the Chinese side is ready to seek a fair and reasonable solution acceptable to both sides through negotiations on an equal footing," he said.

Dawn, 5 July 2004

Bus service to China, Iran and ME this year

Islamabad: Pakistan will start a bus service within 2004 from Islamabad to China, the Middle East and Iran with the cooperation of the private sector, the official Associated Press of Pakistan reported Sunday. An unnamed official from the Islamabad District Transport Authority said Sunday that different national companies have offered their services to share the mega plan and that only one company has been recommended yet while others are being considered.

People's Daily, 5 July 2004

Taiwan media confirm island's plan to attack mainland

After the "Ministry of National Defense" denied reports of US suggest to attack the Three Gorges dam, Taiwan military confirmed for the first time on July 2 that the island indeed had plan to attack the mainland in case of war. Quoting related military officers from the "Defense Ministry", Taiwan-based China Times said that aimed at "stopping enemy at the opposite shore and countering enemy's attacks", the Taiwan ministry had planned to use fighters, submarines and missiles to defend itself and attack enemy's transportation lines, ports and airports. The "Defense Ministry" side that the number of CPC's conventional missiles had increased sharply from 500-odd last year to more than 600, and would reach 800 in two years. If a maximum of 150 missiles can be launched each time, then the PLA is capable of launching five waves of full-scale attacks lasting 10 hours. While the "Red Bird" series missiles, which are under research, are also capable of striking the island precisely from 1,000 li away.

China Daily, 6 July 2004

Taiwan has plan to attack mainland - local media

After the "Ministry of National Defense" denied reports of US suggest to attack the Three Gorges dam, Taiwan military confirmed for the first time on July 2 that the island indeed had plan to attack the mainland in case of war. Quoting related military officers from the "Defense Ministry", Taiwan-based China Times said that aimed at "stopping enemy at the opposite shore and countering enemy's attacks", the Taiwan military authorities had planned to use fighters, submarines and missiles to defend itself and attack enemy's transportation lines, ports and airports.

China Daily, 7 July 2004

China regrets Koizumi's defiant words

China is dissatisfied about and regrets the defiant words made recently by Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said Tuesday at a regular press

conference. A journalist said that according to reports, Koizumi pledged in a TV program last Friday that he would continue to visit the Yasukuni Shrine and said it was ridiculous that he could not visit China because of his visit to the Shrine. Asked to comment on Koizumi's words, Zhang said that since the Yasukuni Shrine honored war criminals whose hands were covered with the blood of people of China and other Asian countries, China firmly opposed visits to the shrine by Japanese leaders.

People's Daily, 7 July 2004

Russia, China to hold joint military exercise next year

Russia and China agreed Tuesday to hold a joint military exercise next year, the first conducted by the two countries' since a joint naval exercise in 1999, a Chinese delegation visiting Russia told Xinhua in an exclusive press statement. However, the memorandum, signed by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov and General Guo Boxiong, vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission of China, did not disclose the exact location, date or scale of the exercise.

People's Daily, 8 July 2004

PLA to conduct manoeuvre at Dongshan Is. this month

Following the large-scale joint beach landing exercise at Dongshan Island in 2001, the PLA (Chinese People's Liberation Army) is again to carry out a sea, land and air joint military exercise this month at Dongshan Island in Fujian Province, just 150 nautical miles away from Taiwan's Penghu Islands, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs confirms.

China Daily, 8 July 2004

Jiang: China never tolerates Taiwan independence

Jiang Zemin, chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission, said Thursday that China will adhere to the basic principle of peaceful reunification and "one country, two systems", but will never tolerate Taiwan independence. Jiang told US National

Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice that the Taiwan question is the most vital and most sensitive issue in Sino-US relations.

Taipei Times, 8 July 2004

China's 'Asia co-prosperity sphere'
(Sushil Seth)

The US preoccupation with Iraq and global terrorism has given China an ideal opportunity to expand its role. In Southeast Asia it has forged a free-trade agreement with ASEAN. It has also signed a "Strategic Partnership" agreement with the regional organization. Although the partnership is supposedly "non-aligned, non-military and non-exclusive," it has a wide scope to cover almost anything and everything. For instance, it calls for cooperation in "politics, economy, social affairs, security and regional affairs." On the surface, China's regional diplomacy is not directed against the US. But, in effect, Beijing is working on a two-pronged approach.

First, by enlarging its political and economic space in the region through multilateral forums, Beijing will make it increasingly difficult for Washington to enlist regional support against China in the future. Second, by virtue of its membership and or cooperation in the regional forums, it would have assured itself a seat in the conduct of regional affairs. And because of its political and economic weight, it will have a leading, if not determining, role. In the longer run, China has a larger ambition of forging and leading an East Asian community.

People's Daily, 9 July 2004

A rational approach to cross-Strait relations: Commentary

Owing to historical reasons, the cross-Strait relations are intricate and complex, and compatriots of the two sides, though with the same ancestry and root and the same language and culture, have formed many discrepancies and differences between them after 50 years of estrangement. Reunification is, in essence, integration and diffusion of discrepancies and differences. To achieve this, what is most needed is

rational communication and exchange, and what is most detrimental is misunderstanding and harming each other. Willing or not, the status quo of the cross-strait relationship is a reality that must be faced by people of both sides. Currently, the most beneficial thing to do is to talk more about the "three links", about deepening understanding and eliminating misunderstanding, about how to promote cross-strait economic and trading cooperation to achieve "win, win" results, and enhance understanding through communication and exchange.

China Daily, 9 July 2004

Rice reiterates one-China stance (Hu Xiao)

US National Security Council adviser Condoleezza Rice has assured Chinese leaders of her country's loyalty to the one-China policy while saying US-China relations are developing in an unprecedented manner. After meeting the Chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission Jiang Zemin and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Thursday, Rice reiterated during Friday's hour-long talks with President Hu Jintao that the US Government would honour its commitments, stick to the one-China policy and the three US-China joint communiques, and render no support during Taiwan's bid for independence.

Taipei Times, 9 July 2004

Rice won't let us down: minister (Melody Chen)

Minister of Foreign Affairs Mark Chen yesterday said he expected that US National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice would not make remarks harmful toward Taiwan during her visit to Beijing. But Chen said that Beijing would attempt to place pressure on Rice. Rice, who arrived in Beijing yesterday afternoon, is the highest-ranking US official to visit China since President Chen Shui-bian's inauguration on May 20.

Taipei Times, 9 July 2004

China's military threat no illusion (Editorial)

Anyone who thinks the Chinese military threat against Taiwan is merely in the minds of the Taiwanese people, or that the situation is no one else's concern, couldn't be more wrong. In a defense white paper released by the Japanese government on July 6, a strong emphasis was placed on the need for Japan to upgrade its defense capability in the face of the rapid modernization of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. The white paper pointed to concerns over China's increasing military budget -- as high as 11 percent of the country's annual budget by this year -- and the frequent movements by Chinese navy vessels in Japan's exclusive economic zones. Unfortunately, while countries such as Japan are beginning to see China for what it is -- the source of threats to regional peace -- very few are willing to take action to help counter it. Chinese military threats continue to be perceived by many as a headache for the Taiwanese alone. In fact, most countries in the region have kept silent when the Chinese government makes threats against Taiwan either orally or through military exercises.

People's Daily, 9 July 2004

Russia, China to enhance military co-op

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov and Vice-chairman of China's Central Military Commission Guo Boxiong met Thursday to enhance development of bilateral relations. "We have achieved a high level of military and technical cooperation," said Fradkov, adding that the development of bilateral cooperation has a broad prospect. Russia is satisfied with the high-level relationship with China and attaches great importance to the development of bilateral ties, the Russian prime minister said.

The Japan Times, 9 July 2004

Hu's star will keep rising (Frank Ching)

Hong Kong: Ever since Hu Jintao took over as general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party in 2002 and assumed the presidency in 2003, there has been much speculation as to whether he really wields the powers of those offices or whether his

predecessor, Jiang Zemin, who remains head of the armed forces, is actually the power behind the throne. It is certainly true that as long as Jiang is chairman of the Central Military Commission, with Hu as his deputy, the party leader and head of state -- as well as Premier Wen Jiabao -- must be constantly aware of the presence and the wishes of his predecessor. Fortunately, however, there does not appear to be any major difference between the two men in terms of broad policies. Moreover, Hu is clearly able to define his own agenda, though he is sensitive to policy areas that are especially important to Jiang.

China Daily, 10 July 2004

People condemn Japan's seabed survey
(Chen Hua)

Forty-four Chinese people protested before the Japanese Embassy in Beijing on Friday after Japan's sea bed exploration for natural resources at a disputed section of the East China Sea on Wednesday. A Japanese Embassy official accepted a written protest which says "we strongly call for the Japanese Government to immediately stop illegal actions on Chinese territory and demand an apology from Japanese authorities." Japan launched the exploration on Wednesday in the disputed waters to the east of so-called "medium line" which was unilaterally proposed by the Japanese side, reports said. Japan contends that it is drawn at equal distances from the shores of the two countries. But China maintains the border is where the continental shelf ends.

People's Daily, 10 July 2004

China reopens its embassy in Iraq

China on Friday formally reopened its embassy in Iraq, after more than four months of preparations for this move, a senior Chinese diplomat in Baghdad said. Sun Bigan, currently head of the Chinese mission team in Baghdad, told Xinhua that China's decision to reopen its embassy here showed that the Chinese government attaches great importance to China-Iraq relations. "The move also showed the support of the Chinese government for the

Iraqi interim government," he said, adding that he sees a bright future for the cooperation between the two countries in all aspects.

Taipei Times, 10 July 2004

China blasts US for supporting Taiwan

Beijing: Chinese President Hu Jintao yesterday expressed "serious concern" to US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice over US arms sales to Taiwan, saying the nation's status is the key to US-Chinese relations. Hu said Beijing wouldn't tolerate moves by the self-ruled nation toward formal independence and appealed to Washington to avoid sending the "wrong signal" to its government. Xinhua said Hu called on Washington to "honor its commitments" -- a reference to US pledges made in the 1980s that include a promise to reduce and eventually end arms sales to Taiwan.

Taipei Times, 11 July 2004

Rice's China visit restated old policies, lacked new ideas (Joy Su)

While US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice's recent meeting with top Chinese officials caused a small ripple of change in the standstill between Taiwan and China, experts said yesterday that the visit was mostly a reiteration of long-held principles. "The two nations [the US and China] exchanged ideas on the issues that each hold as top priorities and issues of concern, but in the end they both basically just repeated cross-strait policies that have long been held," said Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Legislator Chen Chung-hsin, who is also head of the DPP's Mainland Affairs Department and a member of the Legislature's National Defense Committee.

Taipei Times, 11 July 2004

US arms sales put into perspective
(Editorial)

During her trip to Beijing last week, the US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice met with three top Chinese officials -- Chinese President Hu Jintao, Central

Military Commission Chairman Jiang Zemin, and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing. Based on their meetings, it was obvious that Beijing's opposition to arms sales to Taiwan was the central message conveyed to Rice while discussing the topic. Other issues regarding Taiwan, for example, dealt with Li's so-called "three stops." Li urged the US to stop selling arms to Taiwan, stop supporting Taiwan's participation in international organizations for sovereign states and stop exchanges with the government -- on top of a statement of Beijing's refusal to accept Taiwan independence were communicated in all three meetings.

A few events highlight just how sensitive the issue of arms sales really is. First, there are large-scale military exercises planned by both the US and China in the region. This month, China will hold an amphibious landing exercise on a group of islands in the Taiwan Strait. On the other hand, the US is also deploying up to seven aircraft carrier strike groups in the Pacific as part of its new Fleet Response Plan. Then there is the unprecedented open, public and high-profile talks between Taiwan and the US on the sale of advanced weapons. The military exercise and the urgency attached to the arms sales to Taiwan by the US shows that the US is genuinely concerned about maintaining the balance of military power and the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

China Daily, 12 July 2004

What's behind Rice's visit to East Asia?

US National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice concluded her three-day visit to East Asia on Friday. Analysts in Beijing say her visit was aimed to help the White House to get out of the current embarrassment resulted from its isolated foreign policy and help President George W. Bush to be reelected in the November election. Rice's three-nation trip -- Japan, China and South Korea -- came at a time when the third round of six-party talks, designed to settle the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, ended with some progress, and the US-led

coalition forces handed over sovereignty to the Iraqi interim government. "For the United States, the nuclear issue is an urgent one, and we are focusing on how to get the North (DPRK) to give up its nuclear programs," Rice was quoted as telling Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi Thursday in Tokyo. It is obvious that the United States wants to make sure that there is no serious confrontation in East Asia before its general election slated for November so as to pave the way for President Bush's victory in the election. The next round of six-party talks is scheduled for September. Rice also wanted to get China's commitment to continuing to play a key role in the maintenance of the stability in East Asia. Another important task for the top security aide to visit China is to exchange views with Chinese leaders over the Taiwan issue.

China Daily, 12 July 2004

China opposes Singapore deputy PM's Taiwan visit

China expressed strong dissatisfaction with and protest against the visit by Lee Hsien Loong, deputy prime minister of Singapore, to Taiwan, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue in Beijing on Sunday. The Singaporean side should take full responsibilities for results from the event, Zhang said. Lee, neglecting China's repeated solemn representations, insisted on heading for Taiwan for a so-called unofficial visit on July 10.

Taipei Times, 12 July 2004

Singaporean minister on low-key visit (Huang Tai-lin)

Premier Yu Shyi-kun hosted a luncheon yesterday in honor of Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who arrived in Taipei on Saturday night for a low-profile private visit. Lee, who has been appointed by Singapore's ruling People's Action Party to succeed Goh Chok Tong as prime minister later next month, is widely expected to meet President Chen Shui-bian today to exchange views on matters of mutual concern, although this could not be

confirmed, as both the government and Presidential Office remained tight-lipped yesterday.

Taipei Times, 12 July 2004

Just say no to Asian monetary union
(Christopher Lingle)

Following the experiences of the EU's euro-zone region, a common currency area for Asia is being widely discussed. Even though an Asian monetary union is a fantasy that ignores both economic and political realities, even respectable economists have opined on the matter.

A private study group of the International Bureau of the Japanese Finance Ministry has promoted the idea of a unified currency for Asia. Unsurprisingly, it begins with a plan for greater use of the yen in transactions in the region. In fact, there are many reasons that Asian countries should hesitate before making radical moves toward increased cooperation of their monetary authorities. In the first instance, coordinated monetary policy leads to a reduction in sovereignty. A more important point is that Asia does not constitute what economists refer to an "optimum currency area" whereby a single currency would generate net economic benefits.

People's Daily, 13 July 2004

China hopes international community creates sound external environment for Myanmar's democratic process

China hopes the international community will create a sound external environment for Myanmar's democratic process in the spirit of respecting Myanmar's sovereignty and non-intervention in its internal affairs, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue Tuesday. Spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue told a regular press conference that Myanmar's democratic process is a gradual process, which requires a stable and sound external environment.

Taipei Times, 13 July 2004

Chen, Singapore's deputy PM discuss cooperation (Lin Chieh-yu and Huang Tai-lin)

President Chen Shui-bian met Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Presidential Office yesterday to discuss the enhancement of mutual co-operation as well as regional issues. "They focused on issues such as hastening the realization of a free trade agreement and cooperation in security and military affairs," a senior member of the Presidential Office told the Taipei Times. "Some reports in the local media claimed that Lee is here serving as a special envoy of Beijing to facilitate the reopening of cross-strait talks. This is over-interpretation," the official said.

People's Daily, 14 July 2004

China "gravely concerned" over US arms to Taiwan

China lashed out at the Bush administration's policies on Taiwan and Hong Kong July 13, saying it is "gravely concerned" that the issues will undermine progress on US-China relations. Sun Weide, press counselor and spokesman of the Chinese Embassy in Washington DC, urged the United States at a news conference to honor its commitments, to stop sending wrong signals to the Taiwan authorities, and to stop selling advanced weapons to Taiwan.

People's Daily, 14 July 2004

Substantial progress made in Sino-US relations this year: Chinese diplomat

China and the United States maintained a sound momentum of improvement in bilateral relations in the first half of this year, and progress has been achieved in a number of important areas, a Chinese diplomat said in Washington Tuesday. The two countries continued to have top-level close contacts and exchanges, which have given great impetus to the development of the China-US constructive and cooperative relations, Sun Weide, press counselor and spokesman of the Chinese embassy in the United States, said a press conference.

China Daily, 14 July 2004

Paper reveals Japan's military ambition
(Wang Baofu)

In an annual defence white paper published by the Defence Agency on July 6, the Japanese Government expounded on its basic views about the current international security situation and summed up its defence policy over the past year. It also states that it intends to make some substantive adjustments of its defence policy in its new defence programme outline, which is expected to be enacted by the end of this year. By saying the proliferation of ballistic missiles and terrorist attacks present two main threats to Japan's security, the latest white paper has clearly demonstrated Tokyo's strong interest in a missile defence system and a shift in its definition of defence.

China Daily, 14 July 2004

China: Lee's Taiwan visit damages relations (Jiang Zhuqing)

China-Singapore relations will unavoidably suffer gravely from Singapore's incoming leader Lee Hsien Loong's just-concluded visit to Taiwan island, said a Foreign Ministry spokesperson. Answering an inquiry at a news conference yesterday, Zhang Qiyue said Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Lee's visit to Taiwan has severely violated Singapore's commitment to the one-China policy and damaged the political base between China and Singapore, she said.

Taipei Times, 14 July 2004

Singaporean ties boosted (Lin Chieh-yu and Melody Chen)

The Presidential Office yesterday said that the four-day visit of Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong is testament to the two countries' strengthening friendship. A senior official, speaking to the Taipei Times on condition of anonymity, added that the government had worked hard to impress its guest. "The visit should be thought of as a trip of 'understanding' for Mr. Lee before he is inaugurated as Singapore's next prime minister," the official said. "The visit was proposed by the Singaporean government and we gladly

embraced the opportunity to arrange a top-level reception and provide full assistance in meeting Mr. Lee's expectations [of meetings with high-level figures]," the official said.

Taipei Times, 14 July 2004

Thieves and thugs run China (Editorial)

Taiwanese people know that today's China has become a haven for Taiwanese gangsters and economic criminals. For humanitarian reasons and for the safety of air travelers, the government began in the 1990s to send Chinese hijackers seeking freedom back to China, in accordance with international regulations. This has stopped people from using such violent means to escape. However, to this day, Taiwan's efforts to improve cross-strait relations have not been reciprocated by China. On the contrary, Beijing uses Chinese criminals to repeatedly attack the nation, politically and economically.

The Washington Post, 14 July 2004

China Warns U.S. on Policies (Glenn Kessler)

China lashed out yesterday at the Bush administration's policies on Taiwan and Hong Kong, declaring it is "gravely concerned" that the issues will undermine progress on U.S.-China relations. The tough statement, made at a rare news conference called by the Chinese Embassy spokesman in Washington, came just days after national security adviser Condoleezza Rice toured the region and met with top Chinese officials. During the trip, Rice rebuffed demands from China that the United States curb arms sales to Taiwan, but the official state media then reported China's concerns in more muted language. Sun Weide, the embassy spokesman, repeatedly declined to say whether Rice's message during the trip had unnerved the Chinese leadership. But he expressed fear that the administration's actions have undermined support for the "one China" policy that has governed U.S.-Sino relations for three decades.

People's Daily, 15 July 2004

US committed to one China, yet sells arms to Taiwan

The United States reaffirmed its commitment Wednesday to a "one China" policy and its opposition to any moves that would change the status quo of the Taiwan Straits. The statement, by State Department spokesman Richard Boucher, came a day after Sun Weide, the Chinese Embassy spokesman in Washington, called in reporters to complain about U.S. support for Taiwan.

People's Daily, 15 July 2004

US should reconsider its Taiwan policies: Expert

On July 8 and 9, US National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice paid a 24-hour visit to China. Rice's visit has drawn great attention, because: First, the United States has been adjusting its global strategy since the Iraq war. The emphasis of adjustment is eastward shift of its battle line, taking the Chinese mainland and the Korean peninsula as the focus. Second, simultaneously with strategic adjustment, the United States has strengthened cooperation with Australia, Japan and the region of Taiwan in regard to the missile defense system. Third, many US congressmen claim to review the "one China policy", thinking that this policy should be changed. Fourth, general election is going to take place in the United States this winter, early in the election, in order to win more votes, Bush would take some new strategic measures to get more support, because there will be adjustments to the foreign policy on the eve of presidential election that takes place every other four years. This also causes people to doubt whether the United States is going to change its policy toward China.

People's Daily, 15 July 2004

Expert: Japan violates United Nation pact

A Chinese researcher says it is against international law for Japan to explore the sub-seafloor in the disputed areas in the East China Sea along the intermediate line, reported CRIENGLISH.com. Zhang Haiwen notes the intermediate line is only one way

of demarcating sea areas, but not the principle way of doing that.

Taipei Times, 15 July 2004

Watch for China's split with Russia (Paul Lin)

US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice recently visited Japan, China and South Korea. The tour was probably related to US President George W. Bush's preparations for the presidential election campaign. The US has invited Chinese President Hu Jintao to the US, partly to find out where China draws the line on the Taiwan issue, and partly to show voters the importance the administration attaches to the US-China relationship. Of the two US presidential candidates, China clearly prefers the presumptive Democratic candidate, Senator John Kerry, who has said that he wants to solve the Taiwan issue using the "one country, two systems" model to Bush, who is militarily aggressive and quite friendly towards Taiwan.

There are two aspects to the changes in the China-Russia relationship. The first aspect was embodied by the three-week-long military exercise held in Russia's far east last month. It was the nation's biggest military exercise in the 15 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union, and it was held in the vicinity of Dongning, Heilongjiang Province, and Chunhua, Jilin Province. There is also another oil-related change: the official Russian announcement that it has reversed course on the construction of the pipeline from Angarsk in Russia to Daqing in China, which Russia originally had agreed to. Although the Angarsk-Nakhodka pipeline suggested by Japan will not be built, there will be a pipeline from Taishet to Nakhodka, still clearly biased towards Japan. Observers are now trying to assess what retributive measures China will adopt towards Russia.

International Herald Tribune, 15 July 2004

The EU's foolish idea of selling arms to China (Reginald Dale)

Washington: A new strategic confrontation between Europe and the United States is threatening to inflict further serious damage on trans-Atlantic relations. This time it is European unilateral action that risks precipitating a crisis. The immediate dispute is over a French-German proposal, fiercely opposed by Washington, to lift the European Union ban on arms sales to China imposed after the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989. But the broader and equally controversial background to the Franco-German initiative is the EU's drive to forge a strategic relationship with China, independently from Europe's links to the United States. This effort, several years in the making, has been warmly, if conditionally, welcomed in Beijing. It reflects the desires of both France and China to create a multipolar world, in which the United States would be no more than one of several global power centers. The EU, however, risks overestimating its potential influence with Beijing and paying too high a price for a pact with China.

The Indian Express, 15 July 2004

China is going to be a democracy:
Amartya (Sabyasachi Bandopadhyay)

Kolkata, July 15: Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya fidgeted and his Finance Minister Ashim Das Gupta looked wide-eyed as Amartya Sen declared: "I believe China is going to be a fully functioning democracy before long. The signs are all there. I believe it will happen very soon." "In 1979, China replaced state health insurance with private health insurance system and there was no hue and cry there. I believe that kind of things is unbelievable in India."

China Daily, 16 July 2004

Sino-US disarmament meeting set for next week

The fifth Sino-US conference on arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation will be held in Beijing from July 20 to 21, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue in Beijing Thursday at a regular press conference. Over

50 scholars, experts and government officials from China and the United States will attend the conference, she said. Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui also will be present at the opening ceremony. The representative for the US side is Susan Burk, acting Assistant Secretary of the State, and the representative for the Chinese side is Liu Jieyi, director of the Department of Disarmament and Arms Control with the Foreign Ministry, she said. Major topics of the conference include the construction of Sino-US strategic security framework, challenges facing the international nonproliferation system and strategies to deal with them, Sino-US cooperation on nonproliferation and the development of international nonproliferation, Zhang said. China holds that its government and the United States share common interests in arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation. The two sides have undertaken frequent consultations in these fields in recent years, including the Sino-US conferences in both countries and three rounds of consultations at vice ministerial level.

People's Daily, 16 July 2004

China holds 1st online air-defense exercise

An online air defense exercise, the first of its kind in the country, was held Thursday in Tianjin Municipality, the largest coastal city in north China. General Cao Gangchuan, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) and member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, observed the military exercise. In an address, Cao urged CPC committees and governments of all levels to well accomplish the work of air defense and build air defense facilities through reform, innovation and multi-channel investment. Also present were Zhang Lichang, member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and secretary of the municipal CPC committee, and Liang Guanglie, CMC member and chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

China Daily, 17 July 2004

Quarterly growth slowing slightly (Xu Dashan)

China's economic growth slowed down in the second quarter, with the central government's measures to cool down the economy getting the credit for having taken effect. The economy grew 9.6 per cent during the April-June period compared to the same period a year ago, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Friday. It rose 9.8 per cent year-on-year during the first quarter. For the first six months, the country's gross domestic product grew year-on-year at 9.7 per cent to around 5.9 trillion yuan (US\$708.1 billion). Bureau spokesman Zheng Jingping said the overall performance of the country's economy was good. "The national economy kept stable and fast growth, the economic efficiency was improved continuously... residents' income rose obviously," he said.

People's Daily, 17 July 2004

China hopes Austria to extend bilateral ties

China hopes that the parliament of Austria will continue efforts for pushing forward Sino-Austrian ties and listen to and understand China's stance on Taiwan and Tibet, a senior Chinese official said in Beijing Friday. Jia Qinglin, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), told Barbara Parammer, second president of the National Council of Austrian Parliament, that China appreciates Austria's adherence to the one-China policy. Jia, also chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), said China is satisfied with the growth of the relationship between the two countries. China and Austria established full diplomatic relations 33 years ago. Jia said China considers Austria an important partner of China in Europe. China is willing to strengthen ties on the basis of mutual benefit and respect.

People's Daily, 18 July 2004

South African president meets Chinese general

South African President Thabo Mbeki said Pretoria on July 17 that his country would like to further its efforts to enhance relations with China and do its share to promote world peace and common development. Mbeki made the remarks while meeting with General Guo Boxiong, vice chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission, in his presidential palace in Pretoria. Since the signing of Pretoria Declaration with former Chinese president Jiang Zemin six years ago, Mbeki said, the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries have developed rapidly and such relations are beneficial to both South Africa and China. Guo conveyed the best regards from Chinese President Hu Jintao and Central Military Commission Chairman Jiang Zemin to the South African president. He said South Africa is an important African country, which plays a big role in regional and international arena. Guo, who started his visit to South Africa from Saturday, said China attaches importance to the friendship of the two countries and two armies and would like to advance the strategic partnership relations with South Africa.

People's Daily, 19 July 2004

China opposes US congress resolution on Taiwan

The Chinese Government lodged solemn representations against the US House of Representatives for its July 15 approval of a congressional resolution to reiterate the promise of the Taiwan Relations Act. China has been firmly opposed to the unilateral enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act by the United States in 1979, regarding it as openly violating China's sovereignty, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue said on Saturday. "We expressed strong dissatisfaction and opposition towards the US House of Representatives for its neglect of the principles of the three Sino-US communiques and the basic standards of international relations," said the spokeswoman. The Chinese side cherishes

peace, said Zhang, adding that the separatist activities of the "Taiwan independence" forces are of the utmost threat to the stabilization of the relations of Taiwan Straits. The resolution fabricated the Chinese military threat and advocated selling weapons to Taiwan and raising the US-Taiwan relationship level, she said. It will not only damage the stability of two sides along the Straits, the Sino-US relationship, but will hurt the interests of the US side.

The Hindu, 19 July 2004

India, China border talks likely next week
Beijing, July 18: The third round of the India-China special representatives-level boundary talks are likely to be held in New Delhi during July 26-27, sources said here. It is understood that Beijing is likely to endorse these dates proposed by New Delhi. The meeting would be the first between India's new National Security Adviser, J.N. Dixit, who was appointed as special representative to negotiate the issue with his Chinese counterpart, Dai Bingguo.

People's Daily, 20 July 2004

China's nuke industry: 5 strides in 5 years

Compared to five years ago, the number of staff was cut by half and main business income increased 78 percent, these are the "visible changes" brought to us by China Nuclear Engineering and Construction (Group) Corporation (CNECC) over the past five years. However, the changes are far more than that: China's nuclear industry has made five strides by "developing nuclear industry with science and technology", said Kang Rixin, general manager of CNECC, during a recent interview by a journalist of People's Daily.

People's Daily, 20 July 2004

Pakistan PM lauds ties with China

Pakistani Prime Minister Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain Monday in Islamabad said Pak-China friendship is a model friendship and the relations between the two countries have stood the test of time, the Associated Press

of Pakistan reported. The prime minister made the remarks while meeting with a 13-member Chinese media delegation. Hussain added that Pakistan was consolidating its economy and China's role has been laudable in this regard.

People's Daily, 21 July 2004

Nations team up on arms control

As terror groups' access to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) have become more of a major threat to world security, China is teaming up with other countries such as the United State to improve global non-proliferation, Vice-Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui said. He made his remarks at the opening ceremonies of a two-day 5th Sino-US Conference on Arms Control, Disarmament and Nonproliferation that opened Tuesday in Beijing. Zhang said China has already participated in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and is willing to take part in the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). He said China has formulated and enacted a number of laws and regulations, which form a complete system for export controls on nuclear, biological, chemical, missile and other sensitive items and technologies. Looking back on co-operation between China and the United States on such issues anti-terrorism, chemical and biological weapons, mines and small weapons, Zhang noted that the Taiwan question is at the core of Sino-US relations and also a most delicate one.

The New York Times, 21 July 2004

China Releases the SARS Whistle-Blower
(Joseph Kahn)

Beijing, July 20: Chinese military authorities have released the prominent surgeon who exposed China's SARS cover-up and condemned the 1989 crackdown on democracy protesters, apparently bowing to the doctor's status as a local hero and to international pressure to free him, people informed about his case said Tuesday. The doctor, Jiang Yanyong, 72, returned home Monday night after about 45 days in military custody, where he underwent political

indoctrination and was investigated for possible criminal activity, one person told about his case said. He is not expected to be charged with a crime. Dr. Jiang, who is a senior Communist Party member and holds a rank corresponding to lieutenant general or major general in the West, is expected to be kept under surveillance and to be prohibited from making contact with outsiders. Yet the decision to allow him to return home appears to amount to a rare victory for an individual who directly and repeatedly confronted China's Communist Party leaders. In a letter released in February, Dr. Jiang pressed government leaders to admit that the Tiananmen Square crackdown of June 1989 was wrong.

The Hindu, 21 July 2004

China resents meeting with Dalai Lama

Beijing, July 20: A reported meeting between the Tibetan leader, the Dalai Lama, the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, and the UPA chairperson Sonia Gandhi, has been resented by China, which today urged New Delhi to refrain from doing things that would hurt the "good momentum" witnessed in bilateral ties recently. "We hope the Indian side will abide by the political commitment, refrain from interfering in China's internal affairs and not affect the good momentum of Sino-Indian relations," the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman, Zhang Qiyue said, reacting to the report in an Indian daily. She said China hoped that India would adhere to the "political commitment" it made last year. "The Dalai Lama is not a religious figure but a political exile," Mr. Zhang said while stressing that the Chinese Government is opposed to any meetings with the Dalai Lama by "officials of any country in any name or any form." China had protested similarly when the U.S. President George W. Bush as well as Prince Charles met the 69-year-old Nobel Peace Prize Laureate in recent months. Mr. Zhang said that last June, China and India signed the first-ever "Declaration of Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation" to guide bilateral ties.

The Hindu, 21 July 2004

Ready to take forward negotiations: Beijing (Amit Baruah)

Beijing, July 20: "We hope that the two Special Representatives of India and China will maintain the momentum of contacts and engagement," the Chinese Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs, Shen Guofang, said today about the July 26-27 talks between designated officials to establish principles to settle the border dispute between the two countries. Speaking ahead of the meeting between the Chinese Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dai Bingguo, and the National Security Adviser, J.N. Dixit, in New Delhi, for the third round of talks as Special Representatives, Mr. Shen told a group of visiting presspersons that the atmosphere during the two previous rounds had been "very good." He said the new Indian Government had indicated that it was ready to promote the process of talks on the border dispute with China. Beijing, for its part, was ready to take forward the negotiations between the Special Representatives and facilitate a settlement of the border problem. Indicating that the Chinese side was fully committed to the Special Representative process, the Assistant Minister maintained that in the previous two rounds there had been an "in-depth discussion on matters of principles." "We believe that during the third round of talks, the Special Representatives will have an in-depth exchange of views on these guiding principles," he said, adding that the process of settling "border questions" would not be smooth and "we expect problems." "The Chinese Government is ready to facilitate peaceful negotiations to reach a fair and reasonable solution acceptable to both parties on the basis of mutual respect and equality," Mr. Shen reiterated.

Reuters, 21 July 2004

China, Taiwan military drills on

Taipei: Two Mirage fighter jets touched down on Wednesday on a usually busy Taiwan highway - the first time in 26 years - as part of war games to test the island's

combat readiness against any attack by arch-foe China. The drills by Taiwan, claimed by China and seen by security analysts as the most dangerous flashpoint in the Asia-Pacific, coincided with drills by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) on the island of Dongshan off China's southeastern coast. Taiwan's air force sealed off for six hours a section of the highway linking the island's north and south to allow the advanced French-made warplanes to land, re-fuel, load missiles, and take off in the early morning drill. The last time the military jets practiced landing on the highway -- built to double as an emergency runway in times of war -- was in 1978 before the road was opened. "The drill shows the air force's capability and determination to defend our air space," Mirage pilot Chang Wei-kwang told a news conference after completing his mission.

China Daily, 22 July 2004

China refutes UK official's intervention in HK (Gang Bian)

Stephen Bradley, the British consul-general in Hong Kong, has come under fire for intervening in Hong Kong affairs. Expressing his "strong displeasure" over Bradley's remarks, Yang Wenchang, commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong, yesterday criticized and refuted the consul-general's claims. Bradley had claimed that the operation of "One Country, Two Systems" in Hong Kong has run into problems. Yang said such an accusation was "totally groundless and made out of ulterior motives". Since Hong Kong's reunification with the motherland seven years ago, the central government has unswervingly implemented the policies of "One Country, Two Systems", "Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong" and "a high degree of autonomy". It has acted in strict accordance with the Basic Law and spared no effort in supporting the SAR government to rule according to the law, Yang noted. Except for the end of rule by British governors, Hong Kong's political, economic, social and cultural systems and lifestyle remain intact. The basic liberties Hong Kong people are enjoying under the law,

such as freedom of the press, speech and assembly, have all been well protected.

People's Daily, 22 July 2004

America's key interests

For a long time, the United States has adopted a vague strategy with regard to the Taiwan Straits. The most typical posture of which is that it has never clearly said whether it would get itself involved once there was a war across the Straits. This ambiguous gesture has, on the one hand, given Taiwan authorities hopes and, on the other, greatly contained the strategic moves of the Chinese mainland. The problem is that compared with the Taiwan authorities that are increasingly dependent on America's vague strategy, China's mainland is responding actively. According to published data, the Chinese military has included the possibility of US military intervention into the scope of combat drills against Taiwan and has continuously upgraded its capability of frightening and blocking foreign troops. This made some farsighted US personages see a crisis. They feel if this vague strategy is allowed to continue, and wrong signals continue to be sent to Taiwan, the United States may someday be dragged into the mire.

People's Daily, 23 July 2004

Chinese premier calls for clean, efficient government

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has called for the country's governments at various levels to strive to be clean, pragmatic and efficient while working hard to administer according to law, official sources said Thursday. Addressing the July 20-21 national meeting attended by chiefs of general offices of provincial governments, the premier said the Chinese government has the important task of improving the style of governing while deepening economic reforms and continuing to promote socialist democracy. Vice Premiers Huang Ju, Wu Yi and Zeng Peiyan, and some other high-ranking central government officials also attended the meeting. Governments at various levels

should carry out their duties in economic regulation and market supervision while giving more attention to social management and public services. One of the important tasks for them is the improvement of their capacity to respond to unexpected incidents, said the premier.

People's Daily, 23 July 2004

Lee's Taiwan trip tightens tension

Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's visit to China's Taiwan Province earlier this month drew great attention and earned a rebuke from China. Singapore, which has a predominantly Chinese society, has played a special role in the cross-Straits relationship since its establishment of diplomatic relationship with China. Lee Kuan Yew, Senior Minister of Singapore has cultivated close ties with the top leaders across the Taiwan Straits and shuttled between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan. Admittedly, on several occasions, he has exerted critical influence over the cross-Straits relationship. For example, in 1993 he played a major role in arranging the first-ever top-level talks between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan - the Wang-Koo Meeting - which provided a new framework for negotiations on political issues. Until recently, Lee Kuan Yew has also expressed concern about the Taiwan question and warned that the island's pursuit of independence would have a prohibitively high cost. Today, Lee Kuan Yew is aging and frequent travel between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan is highly unlikely. It is understandable that he would like his son, Lee Hsien Loong, the prime minister-in-waiting, to also exercise important influence across the Straits in the future. In this sense, Lee's Taiwan visit can be interpreted as a response to his father's wish.

China Daily, 23 July 2004

China tells US not to sell arms to Taiwan

China told the top U.S. military officer in Asia Friday that it resolutely opposed U.S. arms sales to Taiwan and that it would not allow the island to become independent under any circumstances. After meeting

visiting Pacific Commander Admiral Thomas Fargo, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing told state television that China was willing to advance Sino-U.S. relations but its "biggest concern" was Taiwan. "We resolutely oppose the United States violating the Three Joint Communiques and violating the 'one China' principle to sell advanced weapons to Taiwan because this does not benefit our efforts to peacefully resolve the Taiwan issue," Li said. The communiques date back to 1979, when China and United States formally established the diplomatic relationship. One of the communiques pledged to gradually reduce arms sales to Taiwan in qualitative and quantitative terms. Taiwan is considering weapons purchases of US\$18 billion from the United States, including Patriot anti-missile systems, submarines and anti-submarine aircraft.

People's Daily, 23 July 2004

China expresses displeasure, opposition to British comments on HK affairs

Interpretation of the Basic Law and other decisions by the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee simply does not involve the question of so called "inconsistency with the high degree of autonomy" in Hong Kong, Hong Kong's self-governance, and China was strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to the British government's recent comments on the issue. Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan made the remarks Thursday in response to the British government's Six-monthly Report on Hong Kong Affairs presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs. Since Hong Kong's return to Chinese control seven years ago, the principles of "One Country, Two Systems," "Hong Kong people administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy have been fully implemented, Kong acknowledged. All basic freedoms and rights legally granted to Hong Kong residents have also been fully guaranteed, he said, adding it is known to all that Hong Kong's democratic process is advancing according to the Basic Law.

People's Daily, 24 July 2004

Malaysia bars ministers from making visits to Taiwan

Malaysia has further strengthened its one-China policy by barring its ministers from making visits to Taiwan. The cabinet had told all ministers to abide by the policy and not to make official visit to Taiwan as "it could offend sentiments of the Chinese government," Deputy Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak told reporters after meeting vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission Guo Boxiong at the Defense Ministry. Guo is heading a 15-member delegation on a one-day visit to Malaysia. Malaysia-Taiwan relations were confined to economic and cultural matters, he said. Najib, who is also Defense Minister, said Guo had said that Beijing wanted countries it had diplomatic ties to adhere to the one-China policy. "We have indeed fully adopted the one-China policy," he said. During the meeting, Guo said he was satisfied with Malaysia's stance and spoke highly of the close and all-round relations between Malaysia and China. Guo had also expressed confidence that the friendship and cooperations between the two countries and two armies would further expand in all fields.

People's Daily, 24 July 2004

China's economy moves in right direction as expected: President

Chinese President Hu Jintao said Friday in Beijing that the Chinese economy is moving in the right direction as anticipated by economic policymakers. Hu made the remarks at a meeting with leaders of the country's non-Communist parties, the national federation of industries and commerce and personage without party affiliation. Premier Wen Jiabao gave a briefing on the country's economic situation during the first half of this year at the meeting, which was presided over by Hu. "The various measures and policies introduced by the central government are being implemented step by step, and the whole economy is moving towards our

anticipated targets of macro-economic regulation," the premier said. In order to achieve a sustainable and healthy economic development and narrow the growing income gaps, China has tightened management of land releases and loans to selected sectors in order to cool the economy since late last year. The Chinese economy grew 9.7 percent in the first half of this year. The government has increased support for farmers to boost grain production and raise their income.

China Daily, 24 July 2004

US advised arms sales to Taiwan harms ties

China told visiting Admiral Thomas Fargo of the United States that the US should halt its arms sales to Taiwan and end its military exchanges aimed at upgrading its relationship with Taiwan. Admiral Thomas Fargo of the U.S. Pacific Command waves as he leaves a hotel in Beijing, July 23, 2004. [Reuters] During separate meetings with Fargo on Friday, General Liang Guanglie, chief of the general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said US officials should clearly understand the seriousness and sensitivity of the Taiwan question. Expressing appreciation for US President George W. Bush's repeated assurances that the US side will adhere to the one-China policy, abide by the three Sino-US joint communiques and oppose the independence of Taiwan, both Liang and Li acknowledged the Sino-US relationship is generally advancing in a positive direction. However, they noted the Taiwan question, which concerns China's core interests, has become the biggest factor in the steady development of ties between the nations.

Southasianmedia.net, 24 July 2004

China willing to cooperate with Saarc

Beijing: China is willing to associate itself with the Saarc to promote regional peace and development. "We are looking forward to developing mutually beneficial cooperation with Saarc," said Chinese foreign office spokesperson Zhang Qiyue.

"We believe that Saarc is an important forum for promoting multilateral cooperation among the countries in the region," she told APP. Saarc had been playing a very useful and constructive role for socio-economic development, she said. China, she said, was glad to see the consistent progress of Saarc and wished it greater success in realizing the goal of economic prosperity for the people of the region.

Terror Wire, 24 July 2004

China Interested In More Iran Cooperation

Tehran: Director general of energy bureau at China's National Development Reforms Commission announced that his country was ready for more cooperation with Iran in such fields as trade, engineering, and oil refining. Zo Ding Ming said holding Boao meeting in Tehran was a sign of China's determination to develop oil ties with Iran. China signed a contract with the National Iranian Oil Company in 2003 and is currently implementing projects aimed at streamlining Iranian refineries, he said. Ding Ming added that due to China's burgeoning population, any problem in energy sector could have negative effects on Chinese economy. The official stated that energy consumption in China last year comprised 67 percent coal, 22 percent oil, 2.8 percent natural gas, and 7.4 percent hydropower. He said that China's energy industry was open to the whole world and also followed regulations set by environmental and international bodies such as WTO and IEA. China is the world's third energy producer and its energy production stood at more than one million coal units, 1.6 million tons crude oil and 280 billion units electricity last year.

The Hindu, 25 July 2004

Where India, Tibet and China come together (Amit Baruah)

Tibet, July 24: Buddhism is alive and kicking in Tibet. Monasteries are open, monks are learning the scriptures and Tibetans are prostrating themselves like never before in front of their Sakya Muni.

All else is propaganda. If the excellent state of the Potala Palace in Lhasa could have been projected as a showpiece of Chinese intention towards the freedom of religion, a visit to the Eighth Century AD Samye monastery, the very first in Tibet, proved that seeing is believing. A three-and-a-half-hour drive from Lhasa and a little more than an hour from Tsetang, capital of the Shanan prefecture, Samye is the best in Indian, Tibetan and Chinese tradition put together. Built by King Trisong Detsen with the help of Indian Buddhist masters Padmasambhava and Shantarakshita (who came from Nalanda), a sign inside Samye says the design followed was that of the Udantipura monastery in India.

The Indian Express, 25 July 2004

Buzz positive as India, China enter the next round of talks (Jyoti Malhotra)

Beijing, July 24: In a dispute that has spanned five decades and had its share of false dawns, India and China are once again moving in the direction of a major breakthrough. A package deal is being hammered out and it involves the idea of a 'territory swap' between the eastern and western sectors. But since, in diplomacy, nothing is finalised until everything is finalised, these proposals too would have to overcome a couple of related roadblocks before something concrete emerges. Officials, however, say there is definite movement forward. Zheng Ruixiang, an India hand and a senior fellow at the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), a thinktank associated with China's Foreign Office, sees a solution emerging in the 'near future. The two Special Representatives on the border issue, National Security Adviser J N Dixit and his counterpart, Chinese vice-minister Dai Bingguo will meet in New Delhi on July 26-27 for the third round of talks on the subject. Dai held the first two rounds of talks with Brajesh Mishra during the NDA rule.

People's Daily, 26 July 2004

China successfully launches "Probe No. 2" satellite

Probe No. 2, the second satellite of a Sino-European joint space probe program, known as the Double Star Project, was successfully launched at the Taiyuan Satellite Launching Center, in north China, at 15:05 p.m. Sunday. The polar orbiting satellite entered into the preset orbit 30 minutes after the launching, with a perigee of 681 kilometers, an apogee of 38,278 kilometers, and a gradient of 90 degrees, according to the Xi'an Satellite Monitoring and Control Center, in northwest China. The Probe No. 2 and the Probe No. 1, which went up into the orbit on December 30, 2003, will form an innovative, constellation-like and independent probing system. The duo are expected to operate in space areas that have not been covered by other international satellites, so far. The Double Star Project is sponsored by the Chinese Academy of Sciences in collaboration of the European Space Agency (ESA).

People's Daily, 26 July 2004

Chinese president stresses both national defense, economy

Chinese President Hu Jintao said Saturday, July 24, that the nation must carry out comprehensively the guideline of maintaining a coordinated development of national defense and economy, so as to ensure a favorable security environment for the nation's modernization drive. On the basis of economic development, China must make efforts to push forward the construction of national defense, Hu, also general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), said. Hu made the remarks when presiding over a group study focusing on how to coordinate the military and economic development. Members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee participated in the study. Hu said the current international situation in general favors China's goal of building a "xiaokang", or relatively well-off, society.

People's Daily, 26 July 2004

Why America always picks at China?

Recently, the US House of Representatives, in defiance of the three Sino-US joint communiqués and the overall situation regarding US-China relationship, passed a congressional common resolution on so-called reiterating commitments to the "Taiwan Relations Act", which fabricates the story about China's military threats, preaches arms sales to Taiwan and upgrades US-Taiwan military relations. Such gross interference in China's internal affairs has aroused indignation among the Chinese people and caused people to have serious doubts about the sincerity of the US government policy statement that voices the "one-China policy" and "opposition to Taiwan independence". That's because people have noticed that this is by no means an accidental event.

The Hindu, 26 July 2004

India-China talks

New Delhi, July 25: The third round of talks by the special representatives of India and China on the boundary dispute will begin here tomorrow. The National Security Adviser, J.N. Dixit, and the Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister, Dai Bingguo, will lead the teams.

The Hindu, 26 July 2004

FTA to figure in Sino-Indian talks

Beijing, July 25: India and China will discuss the possibility of signing a Free Trade Agreement and ways to step up bilateral trade and investment when officials and experts from the two sides meet tomorrow in New Delhi. At its first meeting here on March 22, the Sino-Indian Joint Study Group (JSG) on Trade and Economic Cooperation initiated measures to discuss the possibility of signing a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. At tomorrow's meeting, both sides are expected to carry forward the discussions and explore the possibility of encouraging cooperation between the business communities of both sides, official sources said here.

People's Daily, 27 July 2004

Chinese, German armies conduct strategic consultations

China is ready to make joint efforts with Germany to promote military cooperation between the two sides, said a senior Chinese army officer on July 26. "China holds a positive approach towards the military relations", said Xiong Guangkai, deputy chief of the general staff of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), on the occasion of the second round of strategic consultations between Chinese and German armies. The initial round of strategic consultations was held in May 2002 in Germany. During the consultation, the two sides exchanged views on international and regional issues of common interest and reached extensive consensus. Xiong also introduced China's recent achievements in its national defense and army modernization. Hans-Heinrich Dieter, deputy inspector general of the German Armed Forces, said that Germany has been emphasizing the relations between the two countries and their armies. The two nations have seen successful cooperation in many fields and are expecting to promote such cooperation through in-depth discussions, Dieter said, adding that the two sides have witnessed frequent high-level exchanges.

People's Daily, 27 July 2004

Jiang Zemin stresses information technology in army construction

Jiang Zemin, chairman of Central Military Commission (CMC), called on Chinese military forces to be equipped with information technology for the strategic goal of winning information warfare. Jiang made the call Monday when meeting with delegates attending a seminar on studying the important thought of "Three Represents", which was held by the armed forces. Hu Jintao, Guo Boxiong, and Cao Gangchuan, three CMC vice chairmen, attended the meeting. The important thought of "Three Represents" says that the Communist Party of China (CPC) always represents the trend of development of advanced productive forces and culture in China, and the fundamental interests of the

overwhelming majority of the Chinese people. "In recent years, the military forces have made remarkable progress in studying the 'Three Represents' thought, and accumulated lots of experience," Jiang said, stressing that the military forces are under the absolute leadership of the CPC.

Southasianmedia.net, 27 July 2004

India, China mull line of actual solution

New Delhi: After a mandate from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), National Security Advisor J.N. Dixit Monday met Chinese Executive Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo for a third round of special talks on the boundary dispute. While the government was tight-lipped on the talks, it is believed to be broadly based on looking at a political solution to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries. That the UPA government gives top priority to Sino-Indian relations was evident from the fact that the CCS was given a detailed briefing on the ground positions by the Indian Army on June 28. Taking part in the first special representative meeting, Dixit received his Chinese counterpart at his South Block office. The CCS on Saturday had finalised the brief for the meeting. It had reviewed the last two rounds of talks 'held between Dai and then NSA Brajesh Mishra' before firming up on what should be conveyed to Dai and what should be sought from him.

The Hindu, 27 July 2004

India-China talks begin, statement likely today

New Delhi, July 26: The third round of talks on solving the India-China boundary dispute began here today. There was no official word about the talks and the External Affairs (MEA) Ministry spokesperson said a statement is likely tomorrow, concluding day of the talks. The National Security Adviser and India's special representative, J.N. Dixit, and his Chinese counterpart and Executive Vice-Foreign Minister, Dai Bingguo, held the talks. Mr. Dixit received the Chinese

Minister at his South Bloc office and the two reportedly went over the ground that has already been covered. The Indian side comprises the Ambassador in Beijing, Nalin Surie, the Additional Secretary in the MEA, Nirupama Rao, and other senior officials. The previous National Democratic Alliance Government had taken the decision to upgrade the talks and the then National Security Adviser, Brajesh Mishra, led the first two rounds of talks. It is understood that both sides have managed to narrow down the differences in perception on the approach to the problem.

Hindustan Times, 27 July 2004

What to expect from Sino-Indian talks
(Manoj Joshi)

New Delhi, July 27: The two days of talks between Indian special representative on the border issue J.N. Dixit and his Chinese counterpart vice-minister Dai Bingguo are likely to mark a substantive advance towards resolving the Sino-Indian border issue. But since both sides are committed to avoiding comment before reaching substantive agreement, there has been considerable speculation on the nature of the talks, with some suggestions that an old proposal to swap claims is the basis of their discussions. The exchange proposal first mooted by Chinese premier Zhou Enlai in New Delhi in 1960 had China giving up its claims over the 90,000 sq km that constitutes Arunachal Pradesh of today in the eastern sector, in exchange for India giving up its own claims over Aksai Chin in the western sector that China controlled. That the proposal was not workable is self-evident. There have been 15 rounds of talks between the two countries since the early 1980s when the proposal was again floated, but it is clear that it is now a dead letter.

The Japan times, 27 July 2004

Worrisome muscle flexing

Relations across the Taiwan Strait continue to deteriorate. The re-election of Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian has alarmed the mainland government, which is convinced Mr. Chen seeks Taiwan's independence.

China has been sending signals that it is prepared to take military action if Taipei takes that fateful step. That does not mean war is imminent. But the military muscle-flexing does create opportunities for mischief, miscalculation and mistakes. Since Mr. Chen was elected president four years ago, China has been worried that he will push the independence agenda. His behavior during his first term confirmed many of Beijing's worst suspicions. His re-election this year increased fears that the island would split from the mainland. Even before his inauguration, Beijing released a statement warning against any rash actions. Instead, Mr. Chen's inaugural address was moderate, more notable for what he promised not to do, than what he hinted might lie ahead. For that caution, credit consultations between Taipei and Washington, not Beijing's bluster. After the unprecedented verbal slap that U.S. President George W. Bush delivered to Mr. Chen in December, at a meeting with visiting Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, Taiwan and the U.S. have worked to ensure that both sides are comfortable with what the other is doing.

The Washington Post, 27 July 2004

China, Taiwan, U.S. Display Might
(Edward Cody)

Beijing, July 26: About 18,000 Chinese troops using their country's most advanced weapons systems last week rehearsed coordinated air, sea and ground attacks on Dongshan, an island in the South China Sea that resembles Taiwan in terrain and weather. At about the same time, Taiwanese pilots 185 miles northeast landed advanced Mirage 2000-5 fighters on a blocked-off freeway to practice what they would do if their air bases were hit during a Chinese missile assault on the disputed territory. Providing its own martial background music, the U.S. Navy staged a global readiness drill with seven carrier groups around the world to show that the United States could muster overwhelming force anywhere, including Taiwan, despite the war in Iraq. Asia's season of concurrent military

exercises reached a high point with the Dongshan maneuvers. The activity provided a reminder that, although Iraq is the main focus of military conflict for the moment, the standoff over Taiwan remains one of the world's most dangerous flashpoints.

People's Daily, 28 July 2004

Sino-US relations viewed from general election

The 2004 US presidential election is turning white-hot. Will the China question become a topic of debate in the forthcoming election? Will some people who cash in on the election stir up a new round of anti-China wave? Will China issue become a topic in debate? For people familiar with the US history of general elections in the past two decades, it's only natural that they raised these queries. Since the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1979, whenever the Democrats and Republicans fight tooth and nail for presidency, contender of the party out of office would invariably launch severe criticism of the current administration's policy toward China, with the only exceptions being in 1988 when George Bush succeeded Ronald W. Reagan, and in 1996 when Bill Clinton took his second term. Clinton once accused George Bush of trying to be in good terms with Beijing, and George W. Bush attacked Clinton on his appeasement with a "strategic rival". Other China-related cases such as "political-oriented money contribution" and "spying" appeared one after another. Under such circumstances, the China policy of the United States often become a mortgage or a sacrifice to election politics; while the China-US relations suffer gratuitous disturbances, so much so that people call this phenomenon a "China syndrome" in US presidential elections.

China Daily, 28 July 2004

Opinion: China policy volatile in US election (Yuan Peng)

With the lead up to the US presidential election hitting fever pitch, Chinese are becoming increasingly concerned about whether Washington's China policy will be

used for political gain or whether some conservative forces in the United States will instigate a new anti-China campaign. Raising these two questions seem particularly natural for the Chinese who have followed the past two decades of US presidential campaigning. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and the United States in 1979, it has become common practice for the Republican or Democratic presidential candidate to severely criticize the China policies of the incumbent government when the two parties are struggling for power. In the 1992 election, Democratic candidate Bill Clinton reproached Republican President George Bush for the latter's efforts to be on "friendly terms" with China. Eight years later, Bush's son, George W. Bush, as the Republican candidate, lashed out at the Clinton administration for its "appeasement" towards Beijing, which Bush said remained as Washington's largest strategic competitor.

People's daily, 28 July 2004

Third meeting on Chinese-Indian border issue ends

The third meeting of the Special Representatives of China and India on the boundary issue ended Tuesday in New Delhi. The meeting between Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and Indian National Security Advisor J.N. Dixit, Special Representatives of China and India respectively, was held in a friendly, constructive and cooperative atmosphere, according to a press release from the Chinese delegation. Dai Bingguo also called on Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh. During the call on the Prime Minister, Dai handed over a letter from Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. The two sides agreed to hold the next meeting in Beijing at a mutually convenient date.

The Indian Express, 28 July 2004

In 13 yrs, India will be where China is today and China will be thrice as large (Morgan Stanley)

Mumbai, July 27: The Chinese dragon is 13 years ahead of the Indian elephant. If India's economy grows at 6 per cent per annum, its per capita GDP (\$545) will match current levels in China (\$1,087) in 13 years. By then, states a Morgan Stanley research report on the two economic superpowers, China's economy would be nearly three times larger than India's. Not surprisingly, China scores over India in most segments of the economy. With one exception: notwithstanding the recent collapse of Global Trust Bank, the Indian financial system is healthier.

China leads on all other counts "infrastructure, consumption, trade. China spends eight times more than India on physical infrastructure. Its total capital spending in electricity, construction, transportation, telecom and real estate was \$ 260 billion (20.3 per cent of GDP) compared with \$ 31 billion (6 per cent of GDP) in India. Specifically, while China has been investing around \$ 24 billion on improving highways, India's investment in the Golden Quadrilateral is only \$ 12 billion. No wonder, the report stresses, the cost of infrastructure services in India is about 50-100 per cent higher than in China.

Southasianmedia.net, 28 July 2004

India, China tight-lipped after border talks

New Delhi: India and China on Tuesday ended two days discussing their disputed Himalayan border, considered central to ties between the world's most populous nations, but gave no details.

India's National Security Adviser JN Dixit and Chinese Executive Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo led the talks to demarcate the 3,500-km (2,200-mile) border, an issue that has lingered for more than four decades. An Indian foreign ministry statement said the discussions were held in a friendly, constructive and cooperative atmosphere. No breakthrough was expected in the latest round of talks, but analysts say the giant neighbours, who fought a brief war in 1962, are preparing to

strike a deal after years of intransigence. Dai met Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and handed over a letter from the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, the foreign ministry statement said. Both sides claim the other is occupying parts of its land. India disputes Chinese rule over Aksai Chin, 38,000 square km (15,000 square miles) of barren, icy and uninhabited land on the Tibetan plateau which Beijing seized from the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir in the 1962 war. China claims 90,000 square km (35,000 square miles) of territory ruled by India in the eastern part of the border, mostly in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

People's Daily, 29 July 2004

China sets clear timetable for solving Taiwan issue: HK newspaper

According to a report from the Hong Kong-based Wen Wai Po, the CPC Central Committee recently held a "very important meeting" in Beijing, which sent out an important message and brought up the timetable for solving the Taiwan issue - "Solution of the Taiwan question cannot be delayed indefinitely", and "although the first two decades of this century are a 'development opportunity period' for China, settlement of the Taiwan issue during this period cannot be ruled out".

China Daily, 29 July 2004

Taiwan: Don't test Beijing's resolve (Xing Zhigang)

A senior Taiwan affairs official said Wednesday that Beijing will not tolerate "Taiwan independence" just for the sake of the mainland's economic development. Wang Zaixi, vice-minister of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, stressed the mainland aims to fight and contain any separatist activities. The development of pro-independence forces on the island is not only the biggest threat to cross-Straits peace and stability but can ultimately hurt the economic growth of the mainland and Taiwan. Ships and boats carrying personnel and equipment sail off braving gunfire from 'enemy forces' during a military drill on Saturday in the coast of Zhangzhou, East

China's Fujian Province. At present, separatist forces are the biggest hurdle to cross-Straits economic and trade relations, Wang noted.

The Hindu, 29 July 2004

India and China: a shifting paradigm (C. Raja Mohan)

Until recently politics had been in command of Sino-Indian ties. Now economics has begun to drive the relationship. That the relationship with China is among the more exciting ones in India's global engagement has been borne out again this week with two sets of talks taking place simultaneously in the capital. One was about resolving the longstanding boundary dispute and the other was about expanding partnership through comprehensive economic cooperation. The exploration of opportunities on these two fronts are in fact inter-related. Together they constitute what one might call, paraphrasing one of Mao Zedong's slogans in a different context, "walking on two legs." Thanks to the new efficiency and speed, Sino-Indian relations have never been as sound as they are today. Is this a new beginning or a passing phase? Is the current momentum in bilateral relations sustainable? These questions are indeed relevant. For, the absence of normal neighbourly relations between India and China has been a geopolitical reality in Asia for decades. That past, it can be asserted now, is no longer a guide to the future. It is possible to argue that Sino-Indian relations are on the threshold of a paradigm shift and that the current level of cooperation between the two is only the tip of the iceberg. As political problem-solving and deepening economic cooperation begin to take root, the nature of the Sino-Indian engagement could be radically different in the coming years.

Hindustan Times, 29 July 2004

Forever shanghaied (Brahma Chellaney)

India and China have held regular border-related negotiations since 1981 in what is the longest such continuous process between any two nations in post-World War II history. Yet, after 23 years of negotiations,

the two neighbours have not achieved even the bare minimum a mutually defined line of control separating them even as they deceptively call their disputed front line, the Line of Actual Control, or LoAC. In the period since the negotiations began, China has emerged as a global economic and political force and strengthened its leverage vis-a-vis India, both directly and through its transfers of weapons of mass destruction to Pakistan and strategic penetration of Burma. As the negotiations have proceeded, Beijing has shown weakening inclination to settle the border or even clarify the so-called LoAC.

China Daily, 30 July 2004

Beijing: Chen Shui-bian may cause Straits conflict (Xing Zhigang)

A cross-Straits military conflict before 2008 cannot be ruled out if Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian continues to push hard for his pro-independence timetable, a senior Taiwan affairs official warned Thursday. Wang Zaixi, vice-minister of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, also said the current cross-Straits political stalemate will remain during Chen's controversial second term unless the leader accepts the one-China principle. In an interview with China Daily, he said the biggest threat to cross-Straits peace and stability comes from Chen's plan to write a new "constitution" through referendum in 2006 and enact the document in 2008. Chen has not substantially changed his separatist scheme although he used the term of "constitutional re-engineering" in his May 20 inauguration speech to cover up his plot to promote formal independence for the island, according to Wang. "New tensions may arise and even a serious crisis in the cross-Straits situation, if Chen obstinately pursues his timetable," the official said at the sideline of a seminar on cross-Straits ties.

The Hindu, 30 July 2004

China-India ties reviewed (P.S. Suryanarayana)

Singapore, July 29: The new positive trends in China-India interactions were reviewed

by designated officials of the Central Committee of the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) during their meetings with a visiting delegation of the Communist Party of India (CPI) in Beijing today. The five-member CPI delegation, led by the party's National Secretary, D. Raja, is now in China on a weeklong visit. Besides calling on the Secretary in the CPC's Central Committee Secretariat, He Young, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, the delegation met Hu Zhenmin and Cai Wu, both ranking party officials, separately. The CPI team had a discussion with the Vice-Chairperson of the All Chinese Federation of Trade Unions, Huang Yan Rong, as well. Summing up the overall thrust of all these meeting, Mr. Raja said, over phone from Beijing, that the Chinese interlocutors emphasised the need to continue the current process of China-India talks on various issues, including the border question and economic relations. He said the CPC leaders and the CPI delegation exchanged views on the issue of foreign direct investments in both India and China.

People's Daily, 31 July 2004

President holds talks with Jordanian king
Chinese President Hu Jintao and visiting King Abdullah II Bin Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan agreed here Friday to strengthen multi-faceted exchange and cooperation. In his talks with Abdullah, Hu said that bilateral relationship has continued to develop since China and Jordan forged their diplomatic ties 27 years ago. In recent years, Hu added, the two countries have seen a frequent exchange of visits by each other's leaders, rapid growth of trade volume and cooperation in other fields such as culture, education and tourism. The two countries have also established sound and close contact and cooperation on international affairs, Hu acknowledged. Hu noted that China appreciates Jordan's long-standing adherence to the one-China policy and support for China's just cause for reunification. Abdullah II said that bilateral relations were founded by older generations of the two nations' leaders, and have developed fairly well in the latest decades.

He said Jordan highly values the relationship with China and places it as a priority in Jordan's foreign policy.

China Daily 31 July 2004

Hu: China to resolve Taiwan peacefully

China will exert its utmost efforts with its utmost sincerity to resolve the Taiwan issue by peaceful means, but will never tolerate "the independence of Taiwan," Chinese President Hu Jintao stressed in Beijing Friday. President Hu made the remark when he held a telephone conversation with US President George W. Bush. China and the United States have maintained good relations, Hu said, noting that his country is willing to continue to maintain close contact and communication with the United States and respect and handle their mutual concerns to further promote the Sino-American constructive partnership. Hu reaffirmed China's opposition to US sales of sophisticated weapons to Taiwan, saying that the current situation across the Taiwan Strait is very sensitive and complicated and that the two sides should act resolutely against "the independence of Taiwan" and any adventurous attempts by separatist organizations. President Bush made a positive appraisal on the recent development of China-US relations. He said a strong and prosperous China is in the interest of the United States and China, and that the United States desires to maintain good relations with China.

People's Daily, 31 July 2004

Braving the tide for military revolution: Commentary

On entering the new era we see a surging tide for military revolution in the whole world. In this revolution the Chinese armymen of the new era, with the spirit of braving the tide and studying hard the new knowledge in military science and technology, have energetically realized a leaping-over development for national defence and military construction in China. Chen Changfeng, regimental commander of an amphibious vehicle regiment of the Chinese navy as we are reporting today, is

the very model advanced bravely forward in the military revolution. As an armyman of a new era with lofty sense of responsibility and mission, Chen Changfeng, with a farsighted, innovative and indomitable spirit began to study new knowledge, master new technology and equipment, study new strategy and tactics, and actively push ahead the construction of the mechanization and informationization. He led his regiment in storming the new battlefield for military revolution, tempering the regiment into a brave armored force, an invincible one daring to fight and win victory.