

The People's Daily, 1 June 2005

Meeting among FMs of China, Russia and India "important"

The informal meeting of foreign ministers from China, Russia and India, due to be held in Vladivostok, a city in Russia, on June 2, is an important meeting, said Kong Quan, spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry Tuesday during a regular press conference. Kong said China and Russia, China and India, and Russia and India have maintained sound bilateral relations and cooperation. The three nations have shared similar view on pushing forward democracy in international relations as well as safeguarding world peace and stability.

The People's Daily, 1 June 2005

Dalai Lama more and more unpopular among Tibetans, says chairman

Dalai Lama has become more and more unpopular in southwestern China's Tibet Autonomous Region since what he wants is to split the region from China, regardless of its robust development momentum and sound ethnic relations, said Qianbo Puncog, chairman of the region during an exclusive interview with Xinhua. "All the locals want the current stable and sound situation in Tibet to continue but Dalai Lama, judging from his words and deeds, simply wants to destroy it and make something different," said Puncog. "And the result is he has grown more and more unpopular in Tibet."

International Herald Tribune, 1 June 2005

Japan and China plan new gas-field talks

BEIJING China has turned down a Japanese request to stop its exploration of a gas field in the East China Sea, but the two powers agreed to continue talks over the dispute, Japanese officials said on Tuesday. A Japanese delegate to the two-day talks that began in Beijing on Monday said China had offered to jointly develop the gas field in the disputed East China Sea area. "We pointed out problematic points about it, and we told them it was hard for us to accept it as is," Kenichiro Sasae, the head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asia and Oceania Bureau, said after the talks on Tuesday. "But Japan and China agreed to continue to discuss what we can do about it."

The People's Daily, 1 June 2005

China condemns Japan not correctly treating history

China expressed strong condemnation for Japanese leaders "not correctly treating history," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan Tuesday. "Japanese politicians' continual voicing grievances for class-A war criminals made people see clearly the political fact that Japanese leaders cannot correctly face the history of aggression," he said. Kong said, Japanese politicians have ignored the strong condemnations from Asian countries and the world and denied the verdicts by the International Military Tribunal.

The People's Daily, 2 June 2005

Russia-India-China talks not directed against anyone: Russia foreign ministry

The Russian Foreign Ministry stated on Wednesday that the ongoing three-party talks among Russia, India and China are not directed against any country in Asia or in the world, but will focus on economic cooperation instead, the Itar-Tass news agency reported. "One can observe a stronger disposition of Russia, India and China toward the development of contacts and a growing interest in cooperation in various directions," Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko proclaimed while the talks are being held in Vladivostok, the Far East of Russia.

Taipei Times, 2 June 2005

China envoy warns of UN security veto

China described a resolution by Brazil, Germany, India and Japan to expand the UN Security Council -- and hopefully give them permanent seats -- as "dangerous" and hinted it would use its veto power if necessary to block final approval. The language used by China's UN ambassador, Wang Guangya, appears to be the strongest yet by Beijing. Wang made clear in an interview that China opposes any move to expand the council now because the 191 UN member states are deeply divided. "I think what has been proposed by G-4 is very dangerous, so as far as China is concerned, we will work with others to see that this will not happen," Wang said in an interview on Tuesday.

The People's Daily, 2005

Japan seeks China's cooperation in solving energy disputes

Japan and China can work together to resolve their energy problems, although individual issues need to be dealt with separately, the Japanese government's top spokesman said Wednesday. "If possible, for example, we want to see China increase the ratio of nuclear power generation from the viewpoint of preventing global warming," Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said. He noted that Japan can provide its atomic power generation

technology to China as a step to promote bilateral cooperation in the field of energy. Hosoda made the comments at a press conference after the meeting over gas projects in East China Sea between Japanese and Chinese governments on Tuesday.

The People's Daily, 2 June 2005

Putin signs law on Russian-Chinese border agreement

Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law on the ratification of an additional agreement on the eastern part of the Russian-Chinese border, the Itar-Tass news agency quoted the Kremlin as announcing on Wednesday. The law was approved by the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, on May 20, 2005 and passed by the Federation Council, the upper house, five days later. The agreement defines the two countries' borderline on two sections, which constitute less than two percent of the Russian-Chinese border. The dispute between the two countries over the borderline has been left unsettled since 1991 when the two sides signed a border treaty on the eastern part of the common border.

The China Daily, 2 June 2005

Amid tense trade ties, US officials visit China

U.S. Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez arrived in Beijing on Thursday for a three-day visit to try to ease tensions in a growing trade row over surging textile exports from China. U.S. imports of clothing from China have risen dramatically since Jan. 1, when a decade-old international quota system was phased out as the result of a 1994 world trade deal. Under pressure from the domestic textile industry, the administration of US President Bush has put emergency import curbs on trousers, shirts, underwear and cotton yarn from China. China has called the U.S. move, and similar restrictions by the European Union, unjustified and in violation of World Trade Organization rules. In retaliation it said it would scrap export tariffs on 81 textile products.

The People's Daily, 3 June 2005

China opposes forced voting on UNSC expansion resolution

China voiced opposition Thursday to forced voting on any resolution about the expansion of the UN Security Council (UNSC) that might undermine the unity of UN member countries or the process of UN reform. "The Security Council reform is an issue of major importance that concerns the immediate interests of every country. It needs extensive, transparent discussions and unanimous agreements so as to find a converging point and compromised plan," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said at a regular press conference.

The Indian Express, 3 June 2005

India, Russia and China join to fight terror, boost trade (Dadan Upadhyay)

MOSCOW, JUNE 2: The trilateral meeting between Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China, in Vladivostok on Thursday, agreed to step up cooperation in fighting terrorism, boost economic cooperation and prevent natural disasters, such as tsunamis. A joint communique issued at the end of their two-hour parleys said the three FMs declared their intention to cooperate in a trilateral format on combating international terrorism, drug-trafficking, and new global threats and challenges.

The Hindu, 3 June 2005

China, Russia back India for Security Council seat (Vladimir Radyuhin)

VLADIVOSTOK: India, Russia and China on Thursday upgraded their trilateral dialogue, deciding to move from discussion to joint action and add an economic dimension to their political cooperation. The U.N. reform was discussed at great length, with the three countries registering their agreement "on the objective requirement for comprehensive reforms of the U.N., including of the UNSC." But while Russia and China both support India's bid for permanent membership of the Security Council, the Indian and Russian Ministers failed to persuade China to lift its objections to Japan as a member of the quartet of Security Council candidates promoted by India, informed sources said.

International Herald Tribune, 3 June 2005

China quotas 'temporary,' U.S. says (Chris Buckley)

BEIJING Carlos Gutierrez, the U.S. secretary of commerce, on Thursday rejected complaints by Beijing that U.S. quotas on Chinese textile exports were protectionist and warned of rising tensions over intellectual property enforcement in China. The U.S. quotas imposed last month on some Chinese textiles did not amount to protectionism and were a temporary step while the American textile industry "finds new ways of competing," Gutierrez said to a group of graduate-level business students at Qinghua University in Beijing, where he was making his first visit as commerce secretary.

The People's Daily, 4 June 2005

China's friendly policy towards Japan remains unchanged, vice president

The Chinese government adopts a friendly policy towards Japan and such stance remains unchanged, said Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong Friday in Beijing. "We hope the two sides to make concerted efforts for realizing the five-point proposals for the healthy and steady growth of Sino- Japanese relations as put forward by Chinese President Hu Jintao in Jakarta," he said during a meeting with a delegation from Japanese Diet.

The People's Daily, 4 June 2005

China, US hold talks over textile trade, IPR issues

Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai held talks with his US counterpart Carlos Gutierrez Saturday in Beijing to explore for the solution to the Sino-US textile trade friction which reports said will cause 100,000 job cut in Chinese factories. The two ministers also discussed intellectual property right protection, US trade deficit with China and the preparation work for the upcoming sixteenth meeting of Sino-US joint commission of commerce and trade, but mostly focus on the textile issue, sources said. "Sino-US trade witnessed such great progress in the last 26 or 27 years and we two countries should have the capability to properly deal with the textile trade issue and other questions," Bo said after the talks, which lasted three quarters longer than the scheduled one hour.

The People's Daily, 4 June 2005

China poses no threats to other countries: Rumsfeld

China poses no threats to other countries including the United States, US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said on Saturday in Singapore. "China is an increasingly important country which is growing economically and has relations with many nations across the globe. That is a good thing, it is not a bad thing, not a threatening thing," He said at the fourth IISS Asia Security Conference here. He noted that China's emergence is understandable, taking into consideration its size, population and history. "China's emergence is an important new reality of this era - one that the countries of the region would no doubt like to embrace. Indeed, the world would welcome a China committed to peaceful solutions and whose industrious and well-educated people contribute to international peace and prosperity," he added.

International Herald Tribune, 6 June 2005

Rumsfeld criticizes China's arms growth (Thom Shanker)

SINGAPORE Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld of the United States, in an unusually blunt public critique of China, said that Beijing's military spending was threatening the delicate security balance in Asia and called for an emphasis instead on political freedom and open markets. In an address Saturday at an Asian security conference here, Rumsfeld argued that China's investment in missiles and up-to-date military technology threatened not only Taiwan and U.S. interests, but also nations across Asia that view themselves as China's trading partners, not rivals.

BBC News, 6 June 2005

Deaths from China floods top 200

The number of people killed in torrential rains at the start of China's annual flooding season has risen to more than 200. The worst-hit areas have been the south-western provinces of Hunan, Sichuan and Guizhou. About 17m people have been affected, either losing property or being forced to flee, the Xinhua news agency said. Local authorities have been ordered to mobilise manpower to prevent rivers and reservoirs bursting their banks. A week of torrential downpours in many parts of the country has killed 204 people, with 79 more missing and tens of thousands of farm animals left dead, Xinhua said.

Taipei Times, 6 June 2005

Missile test successful, report says (Rich Chang)

A Chinese-language newspaper yesterday said that the military has successfully tested a 1,000km-range cruise missile, the Hsiung Feng II-E (Brave Wind). The military would not confirm the report. "The ministry has no comment on the progress of any weapons under development," said Rear Admiral Liou Chih-chien, spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense (MND). The local newspaper said that the Hsiung Feng cruise missile will be able to hit targets in southeast China. A small number of cruise missiles will go into production later this year or next year, the report said. The testing missile was launched into the Pacific Ocean southeast of Taiwan, traveling more than 500km and finally hit the target, the paper said.

The Indian Express, 7 June 2005

China says willing to cooperate with India on nuclear power

BEIJING: China has expressed willingness to cooperate with India in the sensitive nuclear power sector under the guidelines of the UN nuclear watchdog and other concerned international agencies. "My personal feeling is that cooperation can be carried out with India as long as nuclear technology is for the purpose of economic growth

and is guided by relevant rules and regulations of International Atomic Energy Agency and other concerned agencies," general manager of the China National Nuclear Corp. (CNNC), Kang Rixin told a press conference here.

The People's Daily, 7 June 2005

Russian FM lauds meeting with Chinese, Indian counterparts

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov praised on Monday in Moscow the tripartite meeting his Chinese and Indian counterparts, and proclaimed a tripartite business forum would be held in India in March, 2006, according to the Itar-Tass news agency. The major principle is "the adherence of Russia, India and China to the multi-polar world with the central role of the United Nations and the collective settlement of regional and global problems," Lavrov stressed. Lavrov believes the agreements signed by the three ministers will strengthen tripartite cooperation and meet the interests of each country, if they are well implemented.

BBC News, 7 June 2005

Taiwanese 'parliament' faces chop

Taiwan's National Assembly, a once-powerful body imported from China as a parliament-in-exile 56 years ago, is set to vote to dissolve itself. The assembly lost the right to elect Taiwan's leaders in 1996, after direct presidential elections were introduced. Formally disbanded in 2000, it was briefly revived last month to ratify a series of constitutional changes. Its abolition is designed to streamline Taiwan's government and stress its separation from mainland China. The assembly - which is separate from the country's legislature - is expected to pass a motion dissolving itself on Tuesday.

The China Daily, 8 June 2005

FM: Rumsfeld's remarks on China's military 'groundless'

China has rejected as "totally groundless" claims by US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that China's defence budget is now the largest in Asia and third largest in the world. "In recent years, following the pace of China's economic development, Chinese defence spending has indeed increased a little," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao. "But the bulk of the increase is for the improvement in living conditions of officers and soldiers. China has not the intention nor the capability to drastically increase its military buildup." During an international security conference in Singapore on Saturday, Rumsfeld said China was spending too much on its military build-up, risking an unbalanced military situation in the Asia-Pacific region.

The China Daily, 8 June 2005

China supports Pakistan, Iran, India becoming SCO observers

China welcomes and supports Pakistan, Iran and India becoming observers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said in Beijing Tuesday. At a SCO foreign ministers' meeting held last Saturday in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan, SCO member states agreed in principle to give the three countries SCO observer status. The SCO will make a formal decision on the issue at the forthcoming SCO summit, scheduled to be held in Astana in July. Liu said the three are influential countries in the region, and China believes for them to become SCO observers will further promote mutual-beneficial cooperation between them and the SCO.

The China Daily, 8 June 2005

Paper clarifies China position on UN reforms

China Tuesday issued a position paper on the United Nations reforms, emphasizing multilateralism and urging the reforms to meet the need of developing countries. "All countries should make concerted efforts ... to cope with threats and challenges, especially to eliminate their root causes, by collective action," the paper said, which is the first one elaborating China's all-round stance on UN reform.

BBC News, 8 June 2005

Chinese blogs face restrictions

The Chinese government has announced plans to police web forums, chat rooms and blogs alongside other websites. Websites in China have long been required to be officially registered. The authorities are now determined that blogs should also be brought under state control. Press advocacy group Reporters without Borders said the initiative would "enable those in power to control online news and information much more effectively". Private bloggers must register the full identity of the person responsible for the sites, the Chinese Ministry of Information Industry (MII) said. Commercial publishers and advertisers can face fines of up to one million yuan (£66,000) if they fail to register. All blogs and websites must be registered by 30 June.

The People's Daily, 8 June 2005

Chinese ambassador says six-party talks expected to resume in weeks

Chinese Ambassador Wang Guangya said Tuesday that the six-party talks on nuclear programs of Korean Peninsula are expected to resume in the next few weeks in Beijing. Wang told reporters at UN headquarters in New York that all sides agree that the talks are "the best way" to resolve the nuclear issue. It has been about a year since the last round of six-party talks was held in Beijing among the United States, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Republic of Korea, China, Japan and Russia, Wang said. "All sides are working to make sure the six-party talks would be resumed as soon as possible," Wang said, adding that he expected the talks will be resumed in the next couple of weeks.

The China Daily, 9 June 2005

Bush: US opposed to Taiwan 'independence'

US President George W. Bush stressed on Tuesday his country's continued opposition to Taiwan "independence." President Bush also reaffirmed US adherence to the one-China policy and the three Sino-US joint communiques. Bush made the remarks at a meeting with Sheng Huaren, vice-chairman and secretary general of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), who is currently on a visit to the United States. Bush also said he was looking forward to meeting with President Hu Jintao during their exchange of visits later this year.

The Hindu, 9 June 2005

Avoid "divisive debate" on U.N. Council: China (Nirupama Subramanian)

BEIJING: China does not want the debate on United Nations reform to be hijacked by the single and "divisive" issue of the expansion of the Security Council, a senior Chinese official said on Wednesday. Shen Guofang, Assistant Foreign Minister, told a group of South Asian journalists visiting here on an invitation from the Chinese Government that "we should avoid concentrating on Security Council reforms as it had become a point of tension and divisions in the world." "We understand India's desire to play a bigger role in the United Nations, but reform of the Security Council is only one aspect of the U.N. reform, which has several other aspects. We hope equal seriousness will be given to all these aspects," Mr. Shen said during an interaction with the journalists at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs here.

The Indian Express, 9 June 2005

G-4 dividing UNSC members: China (Anil K. Joseph)

BEIJING, JUNE 8: China on Wednesday accused India and other G-4 countries, which are seeking permanent membership in an expanded UN Security Council, of dividing member states of the world body's top organ on the issue. Shen noted that the G-4 has been "working with other countries on a big scale". "In fact, their activities have already divided the member nations of the UNSC," he said. "We hope the G-4 is fully aware of the seriousness of the issue. When the whole issue of UNSC reform is still very divisive, it is not appropriate for us to talk about who should be a permanent member and who should not," Shen said. Though he noted that China and India have upgraded their relations to a strategic level during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to India in April, he avoided any mention of Beijing's reported backing of New Delhi's bid for a permanent UNSC seat during the trip.

The Times of India, 9 June 2005

China Faces Uncertain Future: India's democracy holds long-term advantages (Ashutosh Varshney)

Where will China and India be, economically and politically, in the next 10-15 years? Most short-run advantages are with China, but most long-run advantages are with India, said Lee Kuan Yew, the father of Singapore, recently. What are China's short-run advantages over India? The key indicators are: A monumentally larger inflow of foreign direct investment; a world class infrastructure of roads, ports and power; an overall investment/GDP ratio of about 44-45 per cent versus India's 24-25 per cent ; a trade/GDP ratio of 70 per cent in 2004 versus India's 25 per cent , etc. A communist China has been much more economically open, business-friendly, and tuned for economic growth. The serious long-run issues are, however, all institutional, economic as well as political. Of the many differences in economic institutions, two stand out: World class firms have emerged in India, but not in China; and India's capital markets are significantly more developed. This institutional map has a clear history. Post-Independence, India over-regulated entrepreneurs, but a private sector was always allowed to function. Not so in communist China under Mao for three decades till 1978. Those Chinese private firms that do exist now are no more than 20 years old. Roughly the same is true for the capital markets.

International Herald Tribune, 9 June 2005

EU worries grow over China goods (Paul Meller)

BRUSSELS After its decision to take formal steps to counter a surge in imports of T-shirts and linen from China, the European Commission said Wednesday that it was now worried about a similar sudden rise in imports of

Chinese shoes. Peter Mandelson, the European Union trade commissioner, may fly to Beijing in the coming days to try to resolve the dispute over T-shirts and linen and resolve the problem concerning shoes, one of his aides said on condition of anonymity. In a survey published Wednesday, the commission found that imports of six categories of shoes rose on average almost 681 percent in volume during the first four months of this year from a year earlier, while prices fell 28 percent - pressuring European producers.

The China Daily, 10 June 2005

China rejects peppered-over UNSC reform plan

China again poured cold water Thursday on the revised version of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform plan spearheaded by Japan, which describes an additional six new permanent members would not exercise the right of veto until 2020. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said in Beijing June 9 that China firmly opposes the "immature plan" proposed by some countries on UNSC reform. He said that a peppered-over plan will lead the United Nations reform nowhere.

The People's Daily, 10 June 2005

China reaffirms stand on Korean Peninsula nuclear issue

China has always firmly supported the realization of a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula although it does not have information about nuclear weapon development in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said in Beijing on June 9. "China hopes the six-party talks process will proceed to this objective," Liu said in a reply to a reporter's question at a routine press conference. Liu said that the reopening of the six-party talks is the common aspiration of all parties concerned and the international community. China was "delighted" to see that DPRK and US officials met twice in New York and the DPRK expressed its desire to return to the talks.

The China Daily, 20 June 2005

EU, China talk to settle textile row

EU trade chief Peter Mandelson said ahead of a trip to China that he wanted to reach "an enduring agreement" with Beijing in a growing row over booming Chinese textile imports into the European Union. "I am going to China either to agree a way of dealing with the dramatic textile import surge or, if necessary, to explain, face to face, why the EU needs to introduce measures of its own," Mandelson said Thursday. "My preference is for an enduring agreement which brings predictability for traders in China and Europe and stability in our wider relations," he added.

The China Daily, 10 June 2005

East Asia history book sets facts right (aymond Zhou)

Scholars and publishers from China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) yesterday unveiled the Chinese edition of "The Contemporary and Modern History of Three East Asian Countries", a book that aims to set the record straight about what happened in, and between, the three neighbouring countries. It may seem like a riposte to the controversial Japanese history textbook that whitewashes Japan's war-time atrocities but compilers of the new book downplayed the association. "This is not a rebuttal of that textbook," said Bu Ping, deputy director of the Institute of Modern History under the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), the Chinese participant in the joint project.

The People's Daily, 10 June 2005

General: China has no intention of big military expansion

A Chinese general said Thursday that China has no intention of large-scale military expansion, even though its military spending has grown moderately in recent years. "Along with its economic growth, China has increased national defense spending in recent years. The increased part is mainly used to improve living conditions of military officers and soldiers," said Ding Jiye, a major general and head of the finance office of the General Logistics Department of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). Ding told Xinhua that China had no intention nor capability to carry out large-scale military expansion. The bulk of the increased funding, said Ding, has gone to improve lives of officers and soldiers. Second, fund has gone to meet the cost of organizational reform, which has included cutting the number of military personnel and employing civil servants for certain posts. He said that moderate increases on weapons spending have gone towards keeping up with accelerated military reform in the world.

International Herald Tribune, 10 June 2005

U.S. faults EU-China talks

BERLIN A senior U.S. diplomat said Thursday that a discussion on lifting the European Union's arms embargo on China was "out of step" and urged that broader talks be held between Europe and the United States on policy

toward China. "The arms embargo discussion was simply out of step," the diplomat, Daniel Fried, assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian affairs, said during a visit to Berlin. "What we needed to do instead of discussing the arms embargo first, is we needed to have a strategic conversation about East Asia in general and China in particular so we could explore our respective assumptions," Fried said. "And we've just started to do that."

The People's Daily, 11 June 2005

China strives to bring UN reforms "back on track"

Amid heated debates about United Nations reforms, China has made it clear that while fully supporting the process, it sternly opposes any "immature" plans that could divide the UN. To give a full explanation of its stance, China, one of the five UN Security Council permanent members, first issued a position paper on Tuesday detailing its stance on UN reforms. According to the paper the reform should put more emphasis on multilateralism and developing countries' needs. The paper came a few days after China's UN Ambassador Wang Guangya told media that China objects to putting the G-4 resolution to a vote.

Xinhuanet, 12 June 2005

EU agrees to stop probe on Chinese textile

The European Union has agreed to stop investigations on ten categories of textile products from China, according to the agreement signed by both sides at the early hours Saturday in Shanghai. China and EU also reached consensus on the annual growth of exports to the European market for the ten lines of Chinese products from June 11, 2005 to the end of 2007. Both sides agreed to address problems emerging from textile trade "through consultation," according to the agreement.

The People's Daily, 12 June 2005

US claims of PLA expansion rejected

China has denied claims by the United States that it is planning a large-scale military expansion. "As China's economy has grown, so has its spending on national defence. The increase is mainly for improving the living conditions of officers and soldiers," said Ding Jiye, a major general and head of the finance office of the General Logistics Department of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). United States Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is reported to have said he could not understand why China increased its military expenditure with no threat from other countries. Ding said China had neither the intention nor the capability to carry out large-scale expansion.

Guardian Unlimited, 13 June 2005

US acts over Israeli arms sales to China (Conal Urquhart)

The United States has imposed sanctions on Israel after a dispute over Israel's sale of drones - unmanned aerial vehicles - to China, according to news reports. The US has suspended co-operation on several development projects and frozen delivery of night-vision equipment. An official at the US embassy in Tel Aviv said he was aware of the reports but would not comment on them. He said the information about the sanctions had come from the Israeli government and not the US. The sanctions have been in place for at least three months and were approved by Donald Rumsfeld, the defence secretary, and Condoleezza Rice, the secretary of state, seven months ago, according to the reports.

The China Daily, 13 June 2005

Lee: Anti-secession law leads to stable cross-Straits ties

Singapore's Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew says cross-Straits relations have actually become more stable ever since Beijing passed its Anti-Secession Law. Mr Lee says both sides, as well as the US and Japan, know exactly what is at stake if Taipei crosses the red line. He gave this assessment of cross-Straits ties in during an interview on China Central Television, which was aired on Sunday. The legislation sanctions the use of "non-peaceful means" against Taipei, if the island formally declares its independence.

The China Daily, 13 June 2005

Flooding leaves 89 students dead (Wang Zhenghua, Liang Chao, Li Fangchao)

Flooding caused by torrential rain struck Shalan Township of Ning'an in Northeast China's Heilongjiang Province on Friday afternoon leaving at least 92 people dead, 89 of them students of one school. The death toll is expected to rise as head counting continues. According to officials from a mortuary in Ning'an, 92 bodies had arrived by yesterday. Thirty more bodies were reported to have been sent to another funeral home 100 kilometres from Shalan Township.

The China Daily, 14 June 2005

FM condemns remarks on 'comfort women'

China strongly condemns the remarks of a senior Japanese official denying the existence of "comfort women", said Liu Jianchao, spokesman of Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing Monday. Japanese Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Minister Nariaki Nakayama said in a public address Saturday that there were originally no such words as "comfort women," so it was good that the "incorrect" description was removed from school textbooks. Liu said it is known to all that the "comfort women" system was a serious crime committed by the Japanese militarists during World War II, and the overt denial of this ugly history by a Japanese cabinet member who is in charge of education seriously hurts the feelings of the peoples of the victim countries.

Guardian Unlimited, 14 June 2005

China's secret internet police target critics with web of propaganda (Jonathan Watts)

China's communist authorities have intensified their campaign against the party's biggest potential enemy - the internet - with the recruitment of a growing army of secret web commentators, sophisticated new monitoring software and a warning that all bloggers and bulletin board operators must register with the government or be closed down and fined. With the number of users forecast to rise above 100 million this year, access to the web is spreading beyond China's well-rewarded middle class and into the more disgruntled factory and farming communities, where young migrant workers are teaching their families about internet cafes. In response, the propaganda departments of provincial and municipal governments have recently been instructed to build teams of internet commentators, whose job is to guide discussion on public bulletin boards away from politically sensitive topics by posting opinions anonymously or under false names.

The China Daily, 15 June 2005

EU urged to lift 16-year China arms embargo (Hu Qihu)

China yesterday urged the European Union to lift its 16-year-old arms embargo on the country, calling the ban an obstacle to better relations. "We have requested that the EU truly put into practice the political promises it has made, and remove the political barrier to the development of bilateral relations," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said. Liu reiterated Beijing's position that it was not interested in buying weapons from Europe, but was only seeking respect as a "strategic partner" of the EU. "We are not aiming at importing arms from the EU. As strategic co-operative partners we hope, on the basis of equality and mutual respect, to further our relations with the EU and we hope the EU will honour its political commitments and remove the arms embargo," he said.

The People's Daily, 16 June 2005

EU strives to lift arms embargo against China

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn pledged in Luxembourg on June 15 to make more efforts for early lifting of arms embargo against China. Luxembourg, which is to hand over the presidency of the European Union (EU) to Britain, would urged Britain to continue the efforts aiming to strike a deal on the EU code of conduct on arms exports at an EU summit in September, so as to lay down a solid road for the lifting, Asselborn told Xinhua in an exclusive interview. According to the minister, EU member states have reached consensus on some principled issues, but still some countries have different opinion on a certain articles of the code, thus making the lifting impossible.

BBC News, 16 June 2005

Donald Tsang set to be HK leader

Donald Tsang has effectively won Hong Kong's leadership, after saying he had secured an overwhelming majority of nominations from a Beijing committee. He handed in nomination forms showing he had support from 710 of the 800 election committee members. This means two rivals do not have enough votes to challenge him, and if election officials verify the result, he will be declared winner on Thursday. Polls show Mr Tsang enjoys public support of more than 70%, a stark contrast to the unpopular Tung Chee-hwa. But, given his close ties with Beijing, he is unlikely to press for any substantial political change in Hong Kong.

Xinhuanet, 16 June 2005

China to host maritime drill with ASEAN members

China is to host a maritime security exercise in the East China Sea next month, sources from the Maritime Safety Administration said yesterday. "The exercise, to be held on July 7, will focus on assistance and salvage in maritime accidents, anti-terrorism operations at sea and disposal of oil leaks in possible vessel collisions," said Qiu Ming, a press official from the maritime safety authority. More than 40 vessels and four maritime helicopters are expected to participate, as will Japanese and South Korean vessels, Qiu said.

The People's Daily, 17 June 2005

China welcomes Rumsfeld's visit: FM spokesman

China welcomes US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to visit China, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu

Jianchao at a regular press conference Thursday. He made this comment in reply to a question on whether Rumsfeld will visit China this Autumn. Liu said China attaches great importance to conducting exchanges in military field with the United States and deepening mutual understanding and mutual trust.

The China Daily, 17 June 2005

US, China to begin talks on textile trade

The United States and China will hold initial consultations later on Thursday to try to reach an agreement to diffuse recent textile trade tensions, U.S. trade officials said. Richard Mills, a spokesman for the U.S. Trade Representative's Office, said the consultations would cover recent import restrictions imposed by the United States on seven categories of Chinese-made clothing and textile products. The discussion on Thursday night will take place by videoconference and is aimed at finding a way to "ease or avoid the market disruption" caused by the surge in imports from China, Mills said.

The People's Daily, 17 June 2005

Official: We're not building aircraft carriers

A senior official in charge of China's shipbuilding industry Thursday categorically denied reports that the country is building an aircraft carrier in Shanghai. "I'd like to make it clear that there's no such thing at all," said Zhang Guangqin, vice-minister of the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence. He made the comments when asked to confirm a report that China had started building an aircraft carrier in Shanghai. He said that China adheres to peaceful development and pursues a "defensive national defence policy." Only 10 per cent of the vessels built in China are for military use, he said. Yet he did not rule out the possibility that China would build its own aircraft carriers in the future.

The People's Daily, 17 June 2005

China condemns arms embargo interference

China Thursday criticized US and Japanese opposition to the lifting of the European Union (EU)'s arms embargo as "unreasonable and unnecessary," saying it hoped the ban would soon be removed. "We believe that on the question of lifting the arms embargo, the Chinese side, and especially the EU side, have indeed been (recipients) of unreasonable and unnecessary disturbances," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said. "The arrangement between the EU and China to lift the embargo is not directed against any third country, or aimed at undermining the interests of any third party. Therefore, to stand in the way is totally unnecessary and unreasonable," Liu said.

The People's Daily, 17 June 2005

China, Russia initiate regular inter-parliamentary exchange mechanism

China and Russia initiated in Beijing on June 16 the annual regular exchange mechanism between the National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature, and the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament. NPC Standing Committee Chairman Wu Bangguo and visiting State Duma Chairman Boris Gрызlov signed a constitution of the cooperation committee between the two sides here Thursday afternoon following their talks at the Great Hall of the People, which marked the formal initiation of the mechanism. The committee, with Wu and Gрызlov as the chairmen, will hold a meeting every year in China or Russia in turn.

The People's Daily, 18 June 2005

China plays indispensable role in solving Korean nuclear issue: Goh

Goh Kun, former prime minister of the Republic of Korea (ROK), said in Beijing Friday that China plays indispensable role in solving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. At the 2005 China-ROK Economic Cooperation Forum, Goh said that the early settlement of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, as a prerequisite for the common prosperity of the ROK, China, East Asia and the rest of the world, is one of the most important tasks for cooperation between the ROK and China. The ROK and China share common interests in the Northeast Asia region, Goh said, adding that a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula will be conducive to safeguarding the interests of the two countries and also beneficial to the regional peace and economic prosperity.

The China Daily, 18 June 2005

Navy fleet from New Zealand visits Shanghai

A fleet from New Zealand arrived at the port of Shanghai here Friday for a five-day good-will visit. The fleet, composed of an escort vessel and a supplementary tanker, is headed by captain Jack Raymond Steer, a senior navy officer of New Zealand defense force. The fleet has a crew of 226 members. During their stay in Shanghai, they will visit a missile escort vessel made by China and a number of local scenic and cultural sites, including the Oriental Pearl Tower, Shanghai Museum and Yuyuan Garden. The visiting escort vessel, named Hmnzs Te Mana, is 109 meters long and 14.8 meters wide with a displacement of 3,600 tons. The supplementary tanker,

named Hmznz Endeavour, is 138.1 meters by 18.4 meters with a displacement of 12,390 tons.

The People's Daily, 19 June 2005

China, ROK willing to advance FTA process

China and the Republic of Korea (ROK) Friday expressed their positive attitude towards speeding up research about establishing a free trade area (FTA) amid the fast-growth economic ties between the two countries. "To quicken the study of setting up the FTA between the two countries is active and feasible," said Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai at China-ROK Economic Cooperation Forum held here Friday. Former ROK Prime Minister Goh Kun, with about 150 ROK officials, businessmen and scholars, attended the forum. He said he considered a free trade agreement in East Asia as a historic opportunity. He said that the integration of China and the ROK will become a catalyst for promoting the development of Northeast Asia.

The People's Daily, 19 June 2005

Chinese vice premier stresses South-South cooperation, South-North ties

Visiting Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan Wednesday held talks with some G77 leaders during the intermissions of the second summit of the G77 plus China, discussing potential South-South cooperation and South-North dialogue. During the talks, leaders from Cape Verde, Lebanon, Togo, Laos, Thailand, Jamaica, Benin, Cuba, Afghanistan, Gabon, Pakistan and officials from the United Nations (UN) all expressed appreciation of China's active role in South-South cooperation, and the support China has offered to the UN and developing countries. They hoped to further strengthen economic and technological cooperation with China in the future, and to promote coordination and negotiation on core international issues such as UN reform, so as to further protect developing countries' interests.

The People's Daily, 19 June 2005

EU vows to develop strategic partnership with China

The European Union (EU) summit, which entered into its second day Friday, pledged to develop a strategic partnership with China. "It reiterates its determination to develop a strategic partnership with China by intensifying dialogue in all areas, whether of an economic or political nature, and by working towards a rapid solution to its trade dispute," said a conclusion document issued by the summit. The summit also "welcomes the progress made on the revision of the code of conduct" on arms exports, which is designed to replace the arms embargo imposed against China.

The China Daily, 20 June 2005

Israel bids to defuse arms sales row

Israel sought to defuse a row with top ally Washington over a controversial arms deal with China ahead of a visit by Beijing's top diplomat, saying it regretted any possible damage to US interests. Speaking ahead of talks with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom insisted Sunday Israel had "acted in good faith" amid continued fallout from a deal to upgrade Harpy Killer drones that Israel sold to China. "I regret that these sales could have damaged the interests of the United States, but we were acting in good faith," Shalom told public radio. The top US diplomat last week indicated her unhappiness with the Israelis over their transfer of military equipment and technology to China despite rounds of what she called "very difficult discussions."

China to expand cooperation with Israel: FM

Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said in Jerusalem on June 19 that China is ready to expand dialogue with Israel on a broad spectrum of bilateral and international issues and strengthen cooperation in various fields. In a meeting with his Israeli counterpart Silvan Shalom, Li said China appreciates the efforts by the Israeli government to develop relations with China in accordance with the fundamental interests of both sides, which is also conducive to peace and stability in the Middle East region and the world at large. He said China is ready to expand its cooperation with Israel in trade, agriculture, culture, education, tourism and other fields.

The People's Daily, 20 June 2005

Equality, mutual benefit serve high-tempo growth of Russia-China ties, new ambassador

Russian-Chinese relations have achieved a high tempo of growth thanks to equality and mutual benefit, Sergei Razov, Russia's newly appointed ambassador to China, told Xinhua in a recent interview. Razov, who was deputy foreign minister before he was appointed by President Vladimir Putin earlier this month to succeed Igor Rogachev as ambassador to China, described current Russia-China ties as "at their best and still continuing to expand rapidly." Ties between Russia and China can reach such a high level because they are based on equality and mutual benefit, and mutual interests are taken into account, Razov said.

International Herald Tribune, 20 June 2005

New signs of democracy in China (Howard W. French)

ZEGUO, China With his smart dress, blow-dried hair and speech peppered with references to Rousseau, Voltaire and Montesquieu, Jiang Zhaohua, the young Communist Party secretary for this prosperous township, bears little resemblance to the usual Chinese politician. Under his leadership, Jiang's township of 110,000 people in Zhejiang Province recently embarked on a novel experiment in governance, allowing citizens' preferences to determine, after detailed consultations over the pros and cons, which major projects would go ahead and how their money would be spent. The downside of that method, common in China, has been a lack of transparency, runaway corruption and in recent years an explosion of sometimes violent unrest in townships and villages. Angered by abuses of power, rural Chinese, networking even in the countryside via cellphones and computers, have been taking matters into their own hands.

The China Daily, 21 June 2005

'Mountain Eagle' ready to spread wings (Zhao Huanxin)

GUIYANG: Mass production of the country's most advanced fighter-pilot training aircraft is expected to start next year, one of the country's major military aircraft developers said yesterday. Tests on the "Mountain Eagle", China's new home-designed and developed trainer plane, are going so well that the Guizhou Aviation Industry Group is producing parts and components to prepare for mass production, according to company Vice-President Zhang Shangdao. As well as being used for training at home, the new aircraft is also aimed at the foreign market, Zhang said.

The People's Daily, 21 June 2005

Hainan Island eyes satellite launch pad

China is likely to build its fourth satellite launch centre in the southern island province of Hainan. The provincial government is working to persuade the central government to approve the massive project, which is expected to be located in Wenchang, in the northeast of the island. Local media reported that an expert panel has approved a preliminary feasibility report by the provincial government. But economic planning officials said the report was just the start of the complicated application process. "There is still a long way to go before the central government finalizes the proposal," said a provincial commission for development and reform official who identified himself by only his surname, Deng. He said the project is still "a long-term blueprint," and there is a complicated process before the central government agrees to the project.

The People's Daily, 21 June 2005

CPC official calls for improving Sino-Japanese relations

A senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official urged statesmen of both China and Japan to enhance exchanges to improve and further develop bilateral relations. Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks during a meeting with visiting former Japanese Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Secretary General Koichi Kato in Beijing on Monday. Wang said the key to resolving the difficulties in present Sino-Japanese relations hinges on how the Japanese side treats history issue properly.

The People's Daily, 21 June 2005

Donald Tsang appointed chief executive of Hong Kong SAR

Donald Tsang, 60, was appointed Tuesday by the State Council, or the Chinese central government, as new Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. According to a decree signed Tuesday by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Tsang will assume his office on June 21 and his term will expire by June 30, 2007. Tsang resigned from the position as chief secretary of the Hong Kong SAR on May 25 to run for the chief executive election and won on June 16 supported by 714 members of the Election Committee.

The People's Daily, 22 June 2005

Chinese premier urges efforts to create conditions for early resumption of 6-party talks

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao urged in Beijing on June 21 all parties concerned to take the opportunity and show more flexibility and sincerity to create an atmosphere and conditions for the early resumption of the six-party talks. The Chinese side will go on with its efforts and maintain close coordination and cooperation with the Republic of Korea (ROK) to this end, said Wen during his talks with ROK Prime Minister Lee Hae-Chan, who arrived here earlier Tuesday on a three-day official visit to China as Wen's guest.

The People's Daily, 22 June 2005

China demands Japan properly handle disputes with Taiwan fishermen

China said on June 21 that it strongly resents to Japan's driving away of Taiwan fishing boats in waters near China's Diaoyu islands, and demands Japan handle and handle the fishing disputes prudently and properly. Taiwanese fishermen said they have been repeatedly driven away by Japanese patrol boats in waters near the

Diaoyu Islands, traditional fishing grounds for them. Some have even flown China's five-star national flag. "The Chinese Government attaches great importance to the protection of the legitimate fishing rights of China's fishermen, including those from Taiwan," Liu Jianchao said at a press conference.

The People's Daily, 22 June 2005

China regrets EU decision on arms sales ban

China expressed on June 21 its regret over the EU's recent failure to foot its pledge of lifting its arms sales ban to China. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao made the remarks at a routine press conference when commenting on the EU's decision at a summit in Brussels earlier this month. The European Union (EU) summit pledged to develop a strategic partnership with China. "It reiterates its resolve to develop a strategic partnership with China by intensifying dialogue in all areas, whether of an economic or political nature, and by working towards a rapid solution to its trade dispute," said a conclusion document issued by the summit. Liu said China still hopes that the EU will materialize its pledge to lift the ban as soon as possible.

The Indian Express, 23 June 2005

China vows to vote against G-4 UNSC plan (Anil K. Joseph)

BEIJING: Making clear its stance on the proposals mooted by India and three other aspirants (G-4) for an expanded United Nations Security Council, China has said it would vote against any "highly contentious" expansion formula which could split the UN if such a proposal was put to vote in the General Assembly. "China is opposed to artificially setting a time limit for the reform of the Security Council," the official Xinhua news agency quoted the Chinese Ambassador to the UN, Wang Guangya, as telling a closed-door General Assembly debate in New York on Tuesday.

The Indian Express, 23 June 2005

China achieves ICBM ability to strike US

WASHINGTON: China has achieved intercontinental missile strike capability from land or from a submarine, enabling it for the first time to target parts of the US from the Chinese coast, a report said on Wednesday. China has had land-based capability for quite some time with the DF-31 missile. About 10 days ago, it flight-tested a JT-2 missile—a submarine version of the DF-31—and it proved the same capability of hitting a target 6,000 miles away. The successful flight-testing of the submarine-launched missile, US officials said, marks a major advance in Beijing's long-range nuclear programme.

The People's Daily, 23 June 2005

China to work with ROK to promote bilateral relations, says Hu

Chinese President Hu Jintao said in Beijing Wednesday that China will work with the Republic of Korea (ROK) to promote the further development of bilateral ties, thus helping bilateral overall and cooperative partnership yield more results. Hu made the remarks at a meeting with visiting ROK Prime Minister Lee Hae-Chan, who arrived here Tuesday on a three-day official visit to China as guest of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

The People's Daily, 23 June 2005

Chinese Vice FM leaves for Japan for strategic talks

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo left Beijing Thursday for Japan to attend the second round of Sino-Japanese strategic talks. Dai will confer with Japanese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Shotaro Yachi on Sino-Japanese relations and issues of common concern. The first round of talks, also attended by Dai and Shotaro Yachi, was conducted in Beijing from May 13 to 14 this year. The two sides agreed during the talks to continue the dialogue process, and held that the two-day dialogue was positive and helpful.

The People's Daily, 24 June 2005

China, ROK vow to push for early restart of Korean nuclear talks

Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan said in Beijing Thursday that China will push for an early resumption of the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue. China appreciates Republic of Korea's (ROK) contribution. China supports the improvement of North-South relations on the Korean peninsula and China will, along with all concerned parties, push for an early resumption of the six-party talks, he said.

The People's Daily, 24 June 2005

China proposes to advance int'l nuclear disarmament process

China made proposals on Thursday to break the current stalemate in the international nuclear disarmament process. "Firstly, a secured international environment and strategic stability is the foundation," Hu Xiaodi, ambassador on disarmament affairs of China, told a plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Secondly, efforts on nuclear disarmament and those to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons are mutually complimentary, according to the Chinese ambassador. Lastly, the establishment of an ad hoc committee on nuclear disarmament is the platform, said the ambassador.

The People's Daily, 24 June 2005

Japanese court rejects compensation for Chinese forced laborer

The Tokyo High Court denied on June 23 compensation to the family of a deceased forced laborer from China who escaped from a work site toward the close of World War II and hid in mountains for about 13 years unaware the war had ended. The high court overturned a 2001 Tokyo District Court decision that marked the first time a Japanese court had awarded compensation to a foreign national forcibly brought to Japan for labor during the war.

The Indian Express, 24 June 2005

Citing India, China, Blair warns EU of 'strategic failures'

BRUSSELS: British PM Tony Blair on Thursday warned that Europe faces "grand strategic failure" if it shies away from urgent economic reform while emerging giants like India and China power ahead. "The USA is the world's only superpower. But China and India, in a few decades, will be the largest economies, each of them with populations three times that of the entire EU," he told EU lawmakers. "If European nations, faced with this immense challenge, decide to huddle together, hoping we can avoid globalisation...then we risk failure. Failure on a grand, strategic, scale."

The China Daily, 24 June 2005

China, Japan meet to ease tense ties

China and Japan kicked off fresh talks in Tokyo yesterday to ease the two sides' tense bilateral relations. Vice-Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo is to hold two days of closed-door talks with his Japanese counterpart Shotaro Yachi, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao at a news briefing yesterday. The meeting is the first between the two countries since Vice-Premier Wu Yi visited Japan in May and cancelled a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi at the last moment.

BBC News, 24 June 2005

China 'is more popular' than US

America's image is still so tattered abroad after the Iraq war that China is viewed more favourably than the US in many countries, a global poll finds. Its image has not recovered in Western European countries, the US-based Pew Research Center found. In none of the 16 countries surveyed, the US included, does a majority of the public think the war leading to Saddam Hussein's removal made the world safer. But hostility towards the US has eased in some parts of the Muslim world. China is well considered in Europe and Asia, although there is considerable wariness about its growing economic and military power.

The People's Daily, 24 June 2005

Premier Wen Jiabao meets new HK Chief Executive

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met Friday in Beijing with Donald Tsang who had just taken oath of office as the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administration Region (SAR). Premier Wen sent his congratulations to Tsang, and cited an old Chinese saying: "The task is arduous and the road ahead is long" as an encouragement to Tsang. He expressed the hope that Tsang will live up to the great expectations and high hopes of the mainland and the Hong Kong people.

The People's Daily, 25 June 2005

China in strong opposition to EU's restriction to import Chinese shoes

China strongly opposes to the launch of anti-dumping investigation by the European Union to imported Chinese shoes, which lacks practical and legal basis, Chong Quan, spokesman for the Ministry of Commerce, said in Beijing on June 24. "China also prompts the EU to make prudent decisions so as to avoid from trade friction," Chong said. The delegation of the European Commission has recently reported to the Chinese Ministry of Commerce that the EU plans to launch a probe into certain kinds of imported shoes from China at the end of June. Chong said. The Chinese government is highly concerned with it. The Chinese side holds that the EU has removed the control on the quotas for imported Chinese shoes on January 1 this year, but only several months later the EU launches an anti-dumping investigation into Chinese shoes based on inaccurate statistics, intending to take a new round of restriction. This is against the free trade principle, he added.

The People's Daily, 25 June 2005

China, Japan conclude second strategic talks, agree to continue dialogue

China and Japan agreed to maintain the dialogue process after concluding their second strategic talks in Tokyo on June 24. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and Japan's Vice- Minister for Foreign Affairs Shotaro Yachi hosted the talks between June 23-24 and agreed that the next China-Japan strategic talks will be held in Beijing. During the two-day talks, the two sides exchanged opinions frankly on the China-Japan relations and issues of common concern, the Chinese delegation said, without giving details.

The People's Daily, 25 June 2005

Japanese govt should compensate forced Chinese laborers: experts

The Japanese government's stance on historical issues caused the "disappointing verdict" on the suit of a late forced Chinese laborer, and the Japanese government should give a "just" answer to the people of the nations it victimized, some Chinese experts said on June 24. The Tokyo High Court Thursday denied giving compensation of 20 million Japanese yen (approximately 183,000 US dollars) to the family of Liu Lianren, a late forced laborer from China who escaped from a worksite toward the end of World War II and hid in mountains for about 13 years unaware the war had ended. The high court overturned a 2001 first-instance verdict of the Tokyo District Court that signaled for the first time the Japanese government should compensate a foreign national forcibly brought to Japan for labor during the war.

The People's Daily, 25 June 2005

Chinese vice premier meets ROK counterpart

Chinese Vice Premier Zeng Peiyan met with his ROK (Republic of Korea) counterpart Han Duck-soo in Beijing on June 24. Zeng hailed the sound Sino-ROK relations, saying that the two countries share bright prospects for further enhancing economic and technological cooperation and expanding two-way investment and trade. Zeng said he hopes that the economic departments of the two countries can positively carry out policy dialogue and strengthen discussion about the regional and world economy and push forward bilateral and regional economic cooperation. Han, who is currently here for a Sino-ROK economic officials meeting, said that the ROK will take positive measures to expand the scale of bilateral trade and raise the level of cooperation.

The People's Daily, 26 June 2005

China, Japan agree on financial dialogue

Chinese and Japanese finance ministers agreed on Saturday to work for the establishment of a bilateral financial dialogue mechanism and hoped the first ministerial dialogue could be held "at the earliest possible time." Chinese Finance Minister Jin Renqing and his Japanese counterpart Tanigaki Sadakazu agreed that the two ministries would conduct further consultations on the details of the issue, including the modality and scope, at the working level, after the Asia-Europe Finance Ministers Meeting due to open on Sunday. According to a press release issued after their talks, China and Japan are increasingly dependent on each other in the economic fields in the process of economic globalization, and are facing opportunities and challenges in economic development.

The China Daily, 27 June 2005

Japan weapons causes poison gas accident

Japan has concluded that a poison gas accident in Guangzhou city in southern China earlier this month was caused by chemical weapons abandoned by the Japanese military at the end of World War II, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday night. Poison gas experts and government officials sent from Japan in response to a Chinese request inspected the site earlier Sunday, ministry officials said. On Thursday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry notified the Japanese Embassy in Beijing that three people inhaled poison gas leaked from abandoned shells when they removed sand on a river bank in Guangzhou on Tuesday. Noting that the three received treatment at hospital, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said the accident must have been caused by abandoned Japanese chemical weapons, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

The Guardian, 27 June 2005

Israel scraps arms deal with China (Conal Urquhart)

Israel has cancelled a major arms deal with China after US allegations that it misled Washington on the export of shared technology, it was reported yesterday. The US imposed a series of tough trade sanctions on Israel in protest at its deal to upgrade Chinese unmanned aerial vehicles, or drones. American defence officials said Israel had claimed it was maintaining the drones when in fact it was upgrading them using technology the US did not want to fall into Chinese hands. According to a report yesterday in the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz, Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, has ordered officials to travel to Washington to resolve the dispute. It is understood that Israel has frozen the upgrade of the Chinese drones and has agreed to allow the US to examine its defence exports.

The China Daily, 27 June 2005

Lawmaker: Japan to blame for worsening ties

The fundamental cause of this difficult situation of China-Japan relations lies in the Japanese side, Chinese top legislator said Sunday in Beijing. Bilateral relations are faced with certain difficulties at present, which the Chinese side does not want to see, Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, said during a meeting with Masahiko Komura, president of the Association of Dietmen League for Japan-China Friendship from Japan. The Japanese government repeatedly hurt the feelings of the Chinese people on such issues as history and Taiwan, according to Wu. He said the two sides should earnestly implement the five propositions that Chinese President Hu Jintao put forward on improving and developing Sino-Japanese relations. He also said the two sides should stick to the guideline of taking history as a mirror and looking to the future, properly handle the issues of history and Taiwan, so as to push bilateral relations back to the normal track of development.

International Herald Tribune, 27 June 2005

News Analysis: Chinese bid for Unocal puts Bush in hard spot (Richard W. Stevenson)

WASHINGTON President George W. Bush's initial response to the proposed takeover of a major American oil company by a Chinese rival has been to duck. It is not hard to see why. The \$18.5 billion offer by CNOOC for Unocal, which had already made a deal to be acquired by the U.S. oil giant, Chevron, is forcing the Bush administration to confront its own internal rifts over whether China should be viewed as friend, foe or something in between. Hardly a week goes by without Bush vowing to make America less dependent on foreign sources of energy, so any deal that increases that dependence - or is even perceived as doing so - would create a problem.

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The People's Daily, 27 June 2005

China, Australia hold annual dialogue on human rights

China and Australia started their ninth round of human rights talks in Beijing on June 27. The Chinese delegation was led by Assistant to Foreign Minister Shen Guofang and the Australian delegation was headed by Deputy Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Geoff Raby. Shen said at the opening of the talks that China and Australia have maintained close contacts in the human rights field.

The China Daily, 28 June 2005

China criticizes EU antidumping probe

China on Monday criticized the European Union's plan to launch an antidumping probe on Chinese shoe exports, calling it a violation of free trade. China believes the EU has based its probe on inaccurate data, the Commerce Ministry said in a statement posted on its Web site. "The EU's intention to adopt a new round of safeguards against Chinese shoes violates the principles of free trade," the ministry said.

The People's Daily, 28 June 2005

UN reform should improve unity, international law authority: Chinese official

The UN reform should contribute to the promotion of multilateralism, maintenance of the authority of international law, and enhancement of unity among its member states, said a Chinese official at a legal forum Monday in Nairobi. Liu Zhenmin, director general in charge of treaty and law in China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who leads the Chinese delegation to the 44th session of Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization (AALCO), told the delegates that the UN reform should be aimed at enhancing its capacity to deal with new threats and challenges.

Xinhuanet, 28 June 2005

Japan says sorry for chemical weapon injuries

BEIJING, June 28 -- Tokyo has expressed its "true regrets" for the latest injuries caused by chemical weapons abandoned in China by Japanese troops during World War II. Three Chinese people were injured last week when poisonous gas leaked from weapons left in the Panyu District of Guangzhou, capital of South China's Guangdong Province. After checks by its own investigation team, the Japanese Embassy in Beijing yesterday confirmed the injuries had been caused by chemical weapons. "Our government released a statement on Sunday and expressed true regrets for the accident," said Ide Keiji, minister in charge of press relations at the embassy.

The Indian Express, 29 June 2005

Tibet group brings case against China

MADRID, JUNE 28: A Tibetan group on Tuesday presented a criminal case for genocide and crimes against humanity against top Chinese officials, including President Jiang Zemin and former Prime Minister Li Peng. The case, which the Committee for the Support of Tibet says is the first of its kind, seeks to take advantage of Spain's laws on international human rights crimes. This year, the High Court asserted powers to try suspects for

genocide, terrorism or torture committed anywhere in the world if Spanish victims were involved. While it was not strictly necessary for Spanish citizens to be affected for the High Court to try the case under the principle of "universal justice", prosecution lawyer Jose Elias Esteve said, one of the Tibetan monks presenting the case held Spanish nationality. Spain's High Court must now decide whether to assign a judge to the case.

The People's Daily, 29 June 2005

Spokesman: Taiwan's New Party delegation to visit mainland

The New Party in Taiwan will organize a delegation to visit the Chinese mainland from July 6 to 13 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the victory of the War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, a Chinese mainland spokesman said Wednesday.

The People's Daily, 29 June 2005

It's legal to hold books for Japanese school, says Chinese FM spokesman

It is legal to hold textbooks for a Japanese school in northeastern Chinese city of Dalian, said Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Jianchao Tuesday. On April 25, Dalian Customs held temporarily 128 textbooks sent from Japan to the Japanese school in Dalian and found different colors were used for Taiwan and Chinese mainland on maps of 15 geography books. ne-China policy is concerned with Chinese sovereignty and Chinese people's feeling, said Liu, noting that China is dealing with it in accordance with the relevant laws. Liu listed related laws the issue has violated, saying that 15 geography books will be returned back to Japan according to law.

The People's Daily, 29 June 2005

China, Japan to tighten ties via financial dialogue: FM spokesman

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said on Tuesday that China and Japan had agreed to establish a bilateral financial dialogue mechanism and would discuss about details at the working level. "The two sides expressed the hope that the first ministerial dialogue could be held at the earliest possible time" after Chinese Finance Minister Jin Renqing met with his Japanese counterpart Tanigaki Sadakazu in Tianjin last Saturday, Liu told a regular press conference. The two ministers agreed that China and Japan are increasingly dependent on each other in the economic field in the process of economic globalization, and are facing opportunities and challenges in economic development, Liu said.

The China Daily, 29 June 2005

FM: CNOOC's Unocal bid is pure business

China said it opposed any political interference in China National Offshore Oil Corporation's (CNOOC) 18.5-billion-dollar bid to buy US oil major Unocal, amid signs of growing concern in Washington. "The economic cooperation between China and the US serves the interests of both sides. The bid by CNOOC for Unocal is a normal commercial activity between enterprises," foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told journalists on Tuesday. "We think that these commercial activities should not be interfered in or disturbed by political elements." The US government on Friday said the takeover bid was likely to be reviewed on national security grounds, with US officials acknowledging fierce disquiet over a Chinese company controlling a major player in the sensitive US energy sector.

The China Daily, 29 June 2005

Fixed yuan 'legitimate choice': WB director

The World Bank's director for China said on Tuesday Beijing's fixed exchange rate policy was a "legitimate choice" and not a manipulation of the yuan currency, despite escalating rhetoric from Washington. "I don't agree with any of the criticisms of China that it is manipulating its exchange rate," David Dollar told a meeting of the Washington-based Center for Global Development. "My own preference would be to move to a more flexible exchange rate system (but) it is a very difficult thing to manage and lots of developing countries have had financial crises as they have made this transition, so I respect the fact that the Chinese authorities are cautious," he added.

The People's Daily, 30 June 2005

Roundup: Sino-Russian relations see steady development

Chinese President Hu Jintao is scheduled to start his four-day state visit to Russia on Thursday with an aim to further boost bilateral relations. Sino-Russian relations have maintained a good momentum of growth in the past several years, with mutual political trust deepening and economic cooperation improving. Significant efforts have been made to strengthen bilateral ties this year, including the ratification of an additional agreement on the eastern part of Sino-Russian border by respective parliaments, the launching of a consultation mechanism on national security and the reaching of an agreement on further boosting cooperation in energy and investment

between the two countries.

The Indian Express, 30 June 2005 (Editorial)

Open markets, closed minds: Faced with the China threat, is the US preparing to shut shop? (T .V. R. Shenoy)

There is blood on the streets of Baghdad and Mosul, and there is blood on the streets of New York and Washington. It flows from American wounds. The United States waged war on Saddam Hussein, at least in part because of its quest for oil. (Not since the palmy days of World War II has the US produced enough oil to meet its domestic demands.) The champions of energy security now find themselves under attack in their own bastions. In a dramatic example of China's economic clout, the state-owned China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) made an unsolicited offer of US \$18.5 billion for the California-based Unocal Corporation, topping a US \$16.65 billion bid by the American oil giant Chevron. This ignited a political firestorm. Crude oil prices have hit the roof thanks to China's ravenous appetite. As of 2005, China, not Japan, is the world's second largest importer of petroleum. (The US is still first on the list.) Confronted with this fact, China's leaders have been hunting for fresh assets to add to their reserves. This is the first time, however, that China has clashed directly with the US.

The People's Daily, 30 June 2005

Development paramount in UN reforms: FM official

Development should be paramount in the reforms of the United Nations, a Chinese Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday in Beijing. Liu Jieyi, director general of the ministry's Department of International Organizations and Conferences, made the remark at the International Symposium on the United Nations that opened here Wednesday morning. Liu said the UN is discussing the most comprehensive reforms ever in its 60-year history. China supports UN reforms and believes that development should be put first, Liu said.

The China Daily, 30 June 2005

Hu-Chen meeting 'should be on own soil' (Xing Zhigang)

Beijing yesterday rejected Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian's call for unconditional talks with President Hu Jintao at a neutral location, saying any such talks should be held on "our own soil." "The Taiwan question is an internal matter for the Chinese people, so any such meeting should take place on our own soil," said Li Weiyi, spokesman for the State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office. He also stressed that any possible Hu-Chen meeting should be based on the one-China principle. The comments, made at a regular press conference, were in response to Chen's recent suggestion that talks with Hu could take place in a third place, preferably the United States. Chen also insisted there be no preconditions for talks. Li said the mainland is willing to talk with any Taiwanese political party or representative as long as they uphold the one-China principle that both the mainland and Taiwan are part of China.