

The People's Daily, 1 March 2005

Chinese, ROK FMs talk over phone on six-party talks

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his counterpart of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Ban Ki-moon agreed in a phone conversation Monday afternoon to step up concerted efforts for the progress of the six-party talks. Ban briefed Li on recent efforts ROK has made to resume the six-party talks, according to sources with the Chinese Foreign Ministry. Chief negotiators of the ROK, the United States and Japan to the six-party talks discussed the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue in Seoul this February. Li told Ban about the support of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) for the resumption of the six-party talks. SCO, a regional organization grouping China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, held a meeting of foreign ministers in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan, last Friday. Both Li and Ban agreed to strengthen coordination and cooperation, and work together to drive the process of the six-party talks. Three rounds of the six-party talks, which involved China, ROK, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States, Russia and Japan, have been held in Beijing since August 2003, serving as a channel for all concerned parties to solve the nuclear issue through dialogue and cooperation.

The People's Daily, 1 March 2005

KMT envoy to embark on mainland visit

Taiwan's leading opposition party Kuomintang (KMT) plans to send a top party envoy to visit the mainland in a move to help ease cross-Straits tensions. KMT Chairman Lien Chan told a public gathering on Sunday that Chiang Ping-kun, one of the party's vice-chairmen, is expected to visit the mainland this month. "Chiang's visit will not only help cross-Straits relations, it will also be a historic moment for the KMT," Lien told Taiwanese reporters. He reportedly said details of the trip would be unveiled at a later date. The party sees the trip, the first of its kind in 56 years since the KMT fled to Taiwan at the end of the Chinese civil war, as a first step for future parleys by top party officials. "This would be an ice-breaking trip," KMT Chief Secretary Lin Feng-cheng told journalists. "There will be more... plans on the line, and hopefully Chairman Lien would be able to visit the mainland." During his visit, Chiang will pay homage at the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum in Nanjing and the Mausoleum of the 72 Martyrs in Guangzhou. The 80th anniversary of the death of Sun, founding father of Republic of China, falls on March 12.

People's Daily, 2 March 2005

Chinese air force commander leaves for three-nation tour

Qiao Qingchen, commander of the Air Force of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, left Beijing Tuesday afternoon for a three-nation tour. Qiao, member of the Central Military Commission, is to pay an official good-will visit to the three countries of Sweden, Spain and Brazil as guest of the Sweden military, Chief of Staff of the Spanish Air Force Francisco J. Garcia De La Vega and Commander in Chief of Brazilian Air Force Luiz Carlos Bueno.

People's Daily, 2 March 2005

Chinese, Pakistani FMs talk over phone

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing talked to his Pakistani counterpart Mian Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri Tuesday afternoon. Kasuri reported on how Pakistan prepares for the fourth foreign ministers' meeting of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) to be held this April in Islamabad. Li said China would like to help Pakistan in preparation of the meeting. The two foreign ministers agreed to further the good-neighboring relations between China and Pakistan.

People's Daily, 2 March 2005

Sino-Japanese ties face challenges

Economic and trade exchanges between China and Japan have been expanding over recent years, with bilateral trade expected to reach a record US\$200 billion this year. However, political ties between the two neighbours experienced just about the biggest setback last year since diplomatic relations were normalized in 1972. Early last year, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi paid a fourth visit to the controversial Yasukuni Shrine in his term of office. The shrine honours Japanese who died in World War II, including Class-A war criminals. And at the year's end, the Japanese Government gave former Taiwan "president" Lee Teng-hui, an advocate of the island's independence, the green light for a "sight-seeing" tour of the country. On December 10, the Japanese Defence Agency issued a new defence outline, which explicitly states that there exist some non-transparent and uncertain factors involving the Korean Peninsula and the Taiwan Straits. In this round of security co-operation talks with the United States, Japan became more active and tougher on a series of issues. It has expressed its desire to impose sanctions upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea over its nuclear weapons programme.

China Daily, 2 March 2005

Combining strength for a stronger nation

Not many countries can claim, as China can, that their nation is the result of a lot of mixing and sharing, of joining many nationalities and people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. China has never claimed to be the home of any one nationality, despite times when its doors were shut. During the periods Chinese are most proud of, the communities living in its central areas were all interested in learning from the communities on the country's geographic peripheries. Today's Chinese nation has in fact incorporated many nationalities that have not just existed, but also given this land heroes and even emperors and empresses, along with political and cultural influences that are still in evidence today. Despite so many wars in the past, none has been fought in this land with the purpose of racial cleansing or religious conquest, perhaps a unique case in the old Eurasian continent. Nor has any ruler pursued the goal of making China homogeneous or pure.

People's Daily, 2 March 2005

One must be responsible for his threats (Huang Qing)

At the beginning of this year, Washington's "China threat" theory was heard everywhere. For a while there was filled with confused voices in the Capitol Hill about canceling China's permanent normal trade status and resuming "diplomatic ties" with Taiwan. What is more noteworthy is that the United States is speeding up its actual plans for containment against China. Therefore, challenging the "One China" principle and consensus can be interpreted as to unilaterally change the status quo across the Straits, to spoil the tacit agreement of peace across the two sides and, furthermore, to make trouble and stir up war. Over this question, the United States must have a clear statement of its stance.

China Daily, 2 March 2005

China tightens Internet security

China will enforce a 24-hour monitoring over the Internet during the imminent annual meeting of top legislature, or the Third Plenum of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC). Chat rooms and forums of major Chinese Internet portals will be monitored by "security guards" at these websites. Any messages submitted by Internet users will go through rigid censoring and filtering before appearing on the Internet. "Some messages on the Internet are sent by those with ulterior motives," acknowledged Qin Rui Monday, deputy director of the Public Information and Internet Security Supervision Bureau under the Ministry of Public Security, at a meeting Monday to beef up Internet security as the NPC and the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) start their annual meetings this week. China has the world's second largest number of Internet users with an Internet population of 94 million.

China Daily, 3 March 2005

US, Chinese envoys meet on N.Korea nuke programs

US and Chinese envoys huddled to discuss North Korea's nuclear weapons drive after the Stalinist country said it was ready to return to six-party talks aimed at dismantling its atomic programs. China's top nuclear envoy, Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, and US Ambassador to Seoul Christopher Hill, who heads Washington's negotiating team to the talks, met at the US embassy here. Wu arrived Wednesday for a three-day trip which included talks with Foreign Minister Ban Ki-Moon and other South Korean officials. The isolated nation demanded the United States apologize for branding it part of an "axis of evil" and an "outpost of tyranny", calling on Washington to clarify its willingness to co-exist with Pyongyang. The United States brushed off the demand and insisted North Korea should resume talks "without delay and without preconditions."

People's Daily, 3 March 2005

Chinese FM spokesman: anti-secession law conducive to peace, stability across Taiwan Strait

China's anti-secession law aims at curbing secessionist activities conducted by the "Taiwan independence" forces and is conducive to safeguarding peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and in the Asia-Pacific region, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said Thursday. Liu told a regular press conference that the Chinese government will firmly carry out its policy of "peaceful reunification with one country, two systems" and will make the utmost efforts to achieve peaceful settlement of the Taiwan issue. Meanwhile, China will not allow "Taiwan independence," and will not allow any forces to separate Taiwan from China in any excuse or any form, Liu said. During the upcoming plenary session starting March 5, the Chinese National People's Congress will examine the draft of the anti-secession law.

People's Daily, 3 March 2005

Social harmony tops topics among Chinese legislators

Members of China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), are expected to discuss a number of new topics in the annual parliament session beginning Saturday, though some lingering topics may still catch their attention. Building a harmonious socialist society, the law to prevent Taiwan from being separated from China, the safety of China's coal mines and the growing income gap between rural and urban residents are likely the new hot topics for this year's session. Chinese leaders have on many occasions called on officials to "enhance their capability of looking into major social issues in building a harmonious society." The "harmonious socialist society" is defined as one that features the socialist democracy, rule of law, equity, justice, sincerity, amity, vitality, stability and order, as well as harmonious co-existence between man and nature, according to Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC). China has been one of the world's fastest growing economies over the past years. But problems arising from farmers' loss of land, growing disparity in incomes, unemployment, poverty, corruption, pollution and dissatisfaction of the lower-income group have become the major challenges, said Li Peilin, a renowned Chinese sociologist.

People's Daily, 3 March 2005

More than half Chinese believe US containing China

More than half of Chinese said the United States government is containing China, while 66.1 per cent said they liked American people, a recent survey showed. The survey, done by the Global Times in cooperation with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, found that 49.2 percent of the responders consider the United States a competitor, and 60.5 percent said that how to resolve the Taiwan issue will definitely influence Sino-US bilateral relations. Asked why "you do not like the United State government", 37.6 percent said that Washington supported Taiwan regime by selling it weapons, 31.7 percent said Bush administration launched the Iraqi war under false claims, and 7.9 percent based their dislike on increasing military ties between the United States and Japan, which till today refused to apologize to the Chinese people for the enormous hurt it inflicted on China during WWII. And, 45.0 percent anticipated status quo of bilateral ties during the 2nd Bush term, while 29.4 percent said that the relations will improve. Those who admire or accept American culture make up 59.4 percent. Up to 41.2 percent of the responders said that China and the United State could possibly enter into hostility and conflict because of Taiwan in the future. Yan Xuetong, a foreign policy expert with Beijing's Qinghua University, said in an interview that the survey results proved his long-time belief that although the majority of Chinese do not like Washington government, because of its unfriendly China policy, they like American people and appreciate American culture.

People's Daily, 4 March 2005

China's top advisory body convenes annual session

China's top advisory body, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), convened its annual full session Thursday afternoon, laying much stress on the role it can play in promoting national reunification and social harmony. Founded in 1949, the CPPCC consists of elite members of the Chinese society who are willing to serve as the think tank for the government and for the country's legislative and judicial organs. As an open forum where the Communist Party of China (CPC), the non-Communist parties of China and people without party affiliation discuss state affairs freely and on an equal footing, the CPPCC is also regarded as a perfect interpretation of China's "socialist democracy". However, Jia, also a member of the CPC's top decision-making body, the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, also reaffirmed the unshakable leadership of the CPC over the advisory body. An important job for the advisors during their 9.5-day full meeting, scheduled to last till March 12, is to discuss and offer advice on the draft version of a law the country's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), plans to enact to prevent the separation of Taiwan from China.

People's Daily, 4 March 2005

Thai navy fleet visits Shanghai

A Thai naval fleet arrived in Shanghai Thursday for a five-day visit to the city. The 870 officers and soldiers of the fleet, involving three vessels Naresuan, Bangpakong and Surin, will visit Chinese frigate, TV broadcasting tower, temple and typical traditional Chinese garden in Shanghai during the stay. "The visit will be part of a celebration for the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Thailand and China," said fleet chief Wttoon Kumpeerapana. It's the Thai navy's sixth visit to Shanghai.

People's Daily, 5 March 2005

China proposes 12.6 percent defense budget increase

China proposed a 12.6 percent increase in the defense budget for 2005, according to the government annual budget report submitted for review Saturday to members of the parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC). "Expenditures for national defense will total 244.656 billion yuan (29.58 billion US dollars), 12.6 percent more than last year," said the report drafted by the Ministry of Finance. The report added that the increase in defense spending is aimed "to improve the defensive combat readiness and ability of the armed forces to respond to emergencies under hi-tech conditions and safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity." Chinese lawmakers and defense experts say China's expenditure in the military ranks was defensive and not threatening. The budgeted money will be mainly used for the raise of payment and social security guarantee for the servicemen, the arrangement of officers and soldiers discharged in China's latest move to cut its troops by 200,000, and the military's armament upgrading to promote the modernization of China's national defense, Jiang said. Chen Zhou, a professor with the Chinese PLA Military Academy of Sciences, said in an interview that China's increase in defense spending will not constitute a threat to its neighbors.

China Daily, 5 March 2005

Jiang Zemin resigns remaining post

Former Chinese president Jiang Zemin resigned his remaining political post as chairman of the State Central Military Commission (CMC) yesterday. In a letter handed to a presidium meeting of the National People's Congress, China's parliament, the 78-year-old officially stepped down. The presidium adopted a draft resolution to accept Jiang's request, and submitted the resolution for deliberation at the upcoming 3rd session of the NPC. Jiang resigned from the chairmanship of the Central Military Commission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) last September, and was succeeded by Hu Jintao. The parliament session will elect a new chairman of the State Central Military Commission, according to an agenda adopted at a preparatory meeting of the session yesterday. Current president, Hu Jintao, who is also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, is expected to succeed Jiang as chairman of the State Central Military Commission. Jiang became chairman of the CMC of the CPC in November 1989, and chairman of the State CMC in 1990. In 2002, Hu Jintao succeeded him as general secretary of the CPC Central Committee. Hu became Chinese president in 2003. Also yesterday, the preparatory conference of the NPC session elected a 173-people presidium and a secretary general.

People's Daily, 5 March 2005

China to finish trimming 200,000 military ranks, premier

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announced Saturday in his annual government work report to the parliament, the National People's Congress, that China will complete the task of trimming 200,000 military ranks this year. China announced in September 2003 to further cut its troops by 200,000 by the year 2005. The total number of its troops is maintained at 2.3 million, according to a white paper released recently. Chinese military experts said China aims to improve the quality of its forces through reducing the size and improving the structure as the quality rather than quantity of troops decides the combat readiness of troops. China is also downsizing troops equipped with backward technology, the number of logistical organizations and personnel and military educational institutions while strengthening the Navy, Air Force and the Second Artillery Force, according to the white paper. "I think the real aim of the current military streamlining is to improve China's combat readiness, to prepare for local war in the information age," Chen Zhou, a professor with the Chinese PLA Military Academy of Sciences, said in an interview. The professor predicted that China will continue to scale down its forces in the future as the road to build a high-quality army has been set.

China Daily, 5 March 2005

Mainland works to resume cross-Strait talks

Premier Wen Jiabao said in Beijing Saturday the Chinese mainland will continue working to restore consultation and

negotiation between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits under the one-China principle and on the basis of equality. "We will make the greatest possible effort to do anything conducive to the development of cross-Straits relations and the country's peaceful reunification," Wen said in his government work report to the annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC). Wen said the mainland will adhere to the basic principles of "peaceful reunification" and "one country, two systems" and the eight-point proposal for the current stage of efforts to develop cross-Straits relations and promote peaceful reunification of the motherland, safeguard peace in the Taiwan Straits and facilitate steady development of cross-Straits relations. Wen said the Anti-Secession Law (draft), which will be deliberated in the current NPC session, provides a full expression of the mainland's unvarying position, which is that "we are working most sincerely and energetically to bring about peaceful reunification".

People's Daily, 5 March 2005

China calls for efforts to end Korean nuclear standoff

A senior Chinese nuclear official Friday called on the United States to hold direct bilateral talks with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) under the framework of the six-party talks. "To restart negotiations and make progress, I hope Washington agrees to hold bilateral talks with Pyongyang," said Yang Xiyu, director of the Office for Korean Peninsula Issue under the Chinese Foreign Ministry. "Some have blamed China for lack of progress, saying it did not bring its "great potential influence" and "economic leverage" on Pyongyang into full play during the talks. Beijing, which is Pyongyang's most vital economic lifeline, has repeated that it objected to economic sanctions. It is China's firm belief that DPRK's possession of nuclear weapons cannot diminish its security concerns. On the contrary, it will only trigger a negative fallout and ultimately damage DPRK's security interests. Yang said the root cause of the nuclear issue was the remaining shadow of the Cold War in the Korean Peninsula and the deadlock is because of the lack of mutual trust between the US and the DPRK. Some analysts expressed the fear that if the US administration's main goal is to isolate the DPRK and force its government to collapse, the resolution of the nuclear issue would remain elusive and could make war more likely.

China Daily, 6 March 2005

Premier Wen meets HK chief executive

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met with Tung Chee Hwa, chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) government on Sunday. Tung is attending the Third Session of the Tenth National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) as a member and also the Third Session of the Tenth National People's Congress (NPC) as a non-voting participant. Wen greatly appreciated the work of HKSAR government and its chief executive after hearing Tung's report on the situation of Hong Kong. The central government will stick to the principle of "One Country, Two Systems," strictly follow the Basic Law of the HKSAR, push forwards the economic cooperation between Hong Kong and the mainland and contribute to the prosperity and development of Hong Kong, Wen said.

People's Daily, 6 March 2005

Chinese FM vows to expand ties with Pakistan

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing expressed his belief Sunday that China and Pakistan will further strengthen their bilateral relations and cooperation in multi-lateral spheres and various regional organizations. This is conducive not only to our peoples, but to the regional development and stability, he said at a press conference during the annual session of China's top legislature. During this process, the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) will play a role as a bridge and unite the Asian countries together, Li said. The Chinese foreign minister said China and Pakistan are friends under "all weather conditions." "We wish the Fourth Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the ACD to be held next month in Pakistan a success", he said.

People's Daily, 6 March 2005

DPRK top leader still pursues nuke-free peninsula: FM

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said here Sunday the supreme leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) still pursues the objective for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. At a press conference at the ongoing annual session of the National People's Congress, Li said that after receiving the verbal message from Chinese President Hu Jintao, the DPRK supreme leader said they still pursue the objective for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula. "They remain ready and willing to continue to participate in the six-party talks," Li said, "they hope the rest of the parties should display more sincerity."

People's Daily, 6 March 2005

Chinese FM: Sino-Japan relations deserve to be cherished

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said here Sunday that said relations between China and Japan were achieved as a result of the "long-term and arduous efforts" made by generations of leaders, governments and peoples of the two nations. Li made the remarks at a press conference on the sideline of the annual session of China's top legislature. "It is a hard-won result and deserves to be cherished," said the minister. To maintain sound relations with Japan is a set policy of China and the Sino-Japan friendship should continue from "generation to generation". He called for concerted efforts of the two countries in handling historical issues and the Taiwan issue "properly" as well as continuing to strengthen cooperation on the basis of the two nations' "overall interests". China has "indisputable, historical and legal sovereignty" over the Diaoyu Island and the adjacent islands. Relevant problems should be solved through talks on the basis of facts and should not affect the healthy development of the Sino-Japanese ties, he said.

People's Daily 6 March 2005

Chinese FM: EU arms embargo "obsolete, useless, harmful"

The European Union's arms embargo on China is "obsolete, useless and harmful", Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said here Sunday at a press conference during the annual session of the country's top legislature. The embargo does not comply with

the all-round strategic cooperative partnership between China and the European Union, he said. Li Zhaoxing said what China opposes is political discrimination. Li made the remarks in reply to a German journalist, who said whether the anti-secession law to be submitted to the National People's Congress for approval would affect to some extent the EU arms embargo. "It is an unfounded worry," Li said. The law conforms to the peace and stability in the Asian-Pacific region and even the world at large, so it will definitely receive more and more understanding and support in the international community, he acknowledged.

China Daily, 7 March 2005

US-Japan security alliance should not include Taiwan

Beijing yesterday warned that the US-Japan security alliance should be restricted solely to bilateral issues and not encompass Taiwan, an inalienable part of China. "The Taiwan question is China's internal affair and should by no means be deliberated in the framework of the security alliance between the United States and Japan," Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said yesterday. He spoke at a press conference on the sidelines of the ongoing annual full session of the top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC). "Any move to include Taiwan directly or indirectly in the scope of US-Japan security co-operation constitutes an encroachment on China's sovereignty and an interference in China's internal affairs," Li said, adding that the Chinese Government and people are firmly against such action. Beijing last month voiced strong opposition to a US-Japan joint statement which described Taiwan as one of their "common strategic objectives."

China Daily, 7 March 2005

Economic zone facing Taiwan proposed

A new economic zone on the west coast of the Taiwan Straits would not only be economically significant, but would also have political implications for the full reunification of the motherland, China's top advisers said. But, they added, the zone's progress will to some extent hinge on the state of cross-Straits relations. The idea of building the zone, which would mainly cover East China's Fujian Province and the neighbouring Zhejiang and Guangdong provinces, was broached several years ago and is gathering steam, advisers said. "The proposed economic zone would help Fujian catch up with Taiwan in its economic development," Chen said, citing the current yawning economic disparity between Fujian and Taiwan to make his case. Fujian has already put the building of the economic zone high on its agenda. It aims to turn it into one of China's major regional economic blocks such as the Pan-Pearl River Delta and the Yangtze River Delta economic areas. The construction of such an economic zone is significant because of its vicinity to Taiwan, which is opposite the province. It is expected to boost economic integration between Taiwan and the mainland, advisers said.

People's Daily 7 March 2005

Chinese FM on relationship between China, neighbors

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said Sunday that the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) could play as a conduit for the Asian countries to work together and strengthen cooperation. Calling Pakistan an "all-weather" friend of China, Li said the two countries would further strengthen bilateral relations and collaboration in multi-lateral spheres and various regional organizations. China is willing and ready to further deepen friendly relations and cooperation with Singapore in the United Nations and other international organizations as well as the regional cooperative frameworks of "10+1" and "10+3", meaning the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) plus China (10+1), and plus China, Japan and the Republic of Korea (10+3), respectively, he said. He said that China has maintained friendly relations with the ASEAN countries including Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar and the Philippines. China and ASEAN are also moving toward a strategic partnership toward peace and prosperity in a mutual and beneficial way, Li noted.

People's Daily, 8 March 2005

China urges bilateral military alliance to keep bilateral nature

China has always held that the military alliance between any two countries should not go beyond the bilateral scope, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said in Beijing Tuesday. "While dealing with the relationship of alliance, the countries concerned should take into full consideration the interests and concerns of other countries in the region," spokesman Liu Jianchao said in response to a question regarding US-Australia military alliance. Liu called on the relevant countries to honor their commitment on Taiwan by taking actual measures.

People's Daily, 8 March 2005

China's top legislature accepts Jiang's resignation from remaining post

China's top legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC), accepted Jiang Zemin's request to resign from his remaining post as chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China Tuesday. Jiang submitted his letter of resignation to the presidium of the current NPC annual session Friday. The presidium on Monday adopted a draft resolution to accept his request and decided to submit it to Tuesday's plenum for vote. Jiang's request of resignation "fully displayed his foresight about the development of the cause of the Party and the state," and "his broad-mindedness as a true Communist," a source with the NPC annual session cited deputies as saying.

People's Daily, 9 March 2005

NPC adopts new voting method to ensure "full democracy"

Chinese lawmakers Tuesday have revamped their decades-old method of writing the ballots to ensure "100 percent democracy" in their voting procedures when they elect state leaders and decide on government lineups. The new method, which requires all lawmakers to write on the ballots no matter they vote pro or con or choose to abstain, is entitled to be first applied when the top legislature votes to elect China's new state military chief, or the chairman of the State Central Military

Commission, on Sunday. "Though the revision only involves a 'trivial' detail, it is of vital importance to ensuring that every lawmaker can fully exercise his democratic rights without any outside influence or interference in voting and elections," commented Wang Quanjie, a deputy to the 10th National People's Congress (NPC), China's top legislature now in its annual full session in Beijing.

People's Daily, 9 March 2005

President Hu calls for good implementation of policies on ethnic minorities, religions

President Hu Jintao Tuesday called for implementing China's policies on ethnic minorities and religions in an all-round way and improving the system of regional ethnic autonomy so as to boost the nationwide endeavor for social harmony. While underscoring the role of ethnic officials and grass-roots organizations in boosting economic and national unity in ethnic autonomous areas, Hu encouraged the people of western China to follow the scientific outlook on development, continue macroeconomic control, keep to the new path of industrialization and focus on resolving agriculture and farmers-related issues for the sake of sustained, rapid, coordinated and health economic and social development.

People's Daily, 9 March 2005

Japan's remarks on China's history education "unreasonable": FM spokesman

China Tuesday expressed astonishment and dissatisfaction over Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura's recent remarks asking China to improve education on history, saying that the remarks were "totally unreasonable". Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said this when he answered a journalist's question at the regular press conference Tuesday. The Chinese government always advocates "taking history as a mirror and looking forward to the future" and educates its people in the spirit of keeping friendship between the Chinese people and Japanese people generation after generation, he said.

People's Daily, 10 March 2005

PLA leader stresses enhancing army's overall combat capability

Premier Wen Jiabao's Government Work Report sets forth new tasks and requirements for further strengthening national defense and army building, calling on the army to consciously plan and guide military work from a political height and the interest of the nation as a whole, to push forward military reform with Chinese characteristics and combat readiness as well as to do its best to enhance the army's overall combat capability in the information age, said Liang Guanglie, NPC deputy, CMC (Central Military Commission) member and Chief of the PLA General Staff.

People's Daily, 10 March 2005

Taiwan military claims to conduct 50 military exercises

The Taiwan military on March 8 released a news report on various military maneuvers to be conducted in 2005. According to the news report, there will be a total of 50 military drills in 17 items this year, including the "Hanguang" exercise to be launched between April and August, seven trial fire of various missiles of the naval and air forces and 10 combat firing of naval guns between May and December, one maneuver to be directed by a Taiwan army brigade command post in November as well as amphibious combat drills, one in August and another in December.

People's Daily, 10 March 2005

US Secretary of State to visit China

United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will visit to China March 20 and 21 as guest of Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, announced Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan Thursday. During her first China tour since becoming the top US diplomat in January, Rice will exchange views with Chinese leaders and Li on bilateral ties and issues of common concern, according to Kong at a regular press conference. The six-party talks about the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue will be discussed by Rice and Chinese officials, Kong noted.

People's Daily, 11 March 2005

KMT delegates to visit mainland starting Mar. 25

Chen Zichuang, executive director of the Taiwan Business Association (HK), said on Wednesday that Kuomintang vice chairman Jiang Bingkun would head a senior Kuomintang delegation to pay a visit to the Chinese mainland from March 25 to 29. The visit will include paying homage to Dr. Sun Yat-sen's Mausoleum and attending ceremonies in memory of the 72 Martyrs at Huanghuagang.

China Daily, 11 March 2005

Tung Chee-hwa resigns as HK chief executive

HONG KONG: Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa announced yesterday that he has officially submitted his resignation to Beijing citing health problems. At a press conference in Hong Kong, Tung, two years into his second term in office, said he had tendered his resignation just one hour before making his decision public.

People's Daily, 12 March 2005

Mainland refutes Taiwan separatists' attacks on Anti-Secession Law

A senior mainland official in charge of Taiwan affairs talked to journalists here Friday about what he called a "vicious and tarnishing" attacks made by a few "Taiwan independence" separatists on the proposed Anti-Secession Law. Chen Yunlin, director of the Taiwan Work Office of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the director of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, said that the Anti-Secession Law enacted by the National People's Congress (NPC) "gives full

expression to our consistent position of doing our utmost efforts with maximum sincerity for a peaceful reunification and, at the same time, demonstrate the common will of the entire Chinese people to safeguard China's state sovereignty and territorial integrity while never allowing the 'Taiwan independence', thus winning universal agreement and support of the Chinese from home and abroad."

People's Daily, 13 March 2005

Hu Jintao elected chairman of state Central Military Commission

Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China and Chinese president, was elected chairman of the state Central Military Commission (CMC) Sunday. Hu, now 62, succeeded Jiang Zemin as chairman of the CMC of the Communist Party of China (CPC) last September. Hu assumed the post of vice-chairmanship of the CPC Central Military Commission in 1999. He was directly involved in the making of a series of major decisions regarding army building.

People's Daily, 14 March 2005

Chinese Premier to visit India soon

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao announced Monday that he will pay a visit to India soon at the invitation of his Indian counterpart. At a press conference in the Great Hall of the People in downtown Beijing Monday morning, the premier said that as the two most populous nations in the world, China and India are not rivals but friends, and that both countries shall work together to tap the potential of bilateral cooperation and find a "fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable plan" to solve their border disputes.

People's Daily, 14 March 2005

Hu Jintao urges army to perform "historical mission"

Chinese President and new state military chief Hu Jintao Sunday urged the country's armed forces to earnestly perform their historical mission in the new century and safeguard China's state sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interests. "We must continuously enhance our sense of political responsibility, and always place the task of defending national sovereignty, security and territorial integrity and safeguarding the interests of national development above anything else," said Hu Sunday afternoon at a plenary meeting of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) delegation to the ongoing annual full session of the 10th National People's Congress (NPC), the top legislature, in Beijing.

People's Daily, 14 March 2005

China's parliament adopts Anti-Secession Law

China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), ratified the Anti-Secession Law with an overwhelming vote of 2,896 to nil here Monday, setting a legal framework to prevent Taiwan's secession from China and to promote peaceful national reunification. Chinese President Hu Jintao signed a presidential order for the immediate promulgation of the law at Monday's session. The law became effective upon promulgation.

People's Daily, 15 March 2005

DPRK Premier to visit China

At the invitation of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Premier Pak Bong Ju of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will pay an official good-will visit to China from March 22 to 27, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao announced at a regular briefing Tuesday.

China Daily, 16 March 2005

Rice: US doesn't have a posture against China

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday that the United States doesn't have "a posture against China", but Washington is concerned about China's military modernization. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said on Monday in Beijing that China's military build-up can by no means be compared with the United States, which has the world's best-armed army and its military bases strewn over several continents.

China Daily, 16 March 2005

Back words with action, Dalai told

China yesterday called on the Dalai Lama to renounce "Tibetan independence" and stop separatist activities if he really wants to improve relations with Beijing. The central government's attitude towards the Dalai Lama is to listen to his words while watching his action, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao during a weekly news briefing. Liu's comment came in response to the Dalai Lama's recent statement in an interview, admitting Tibet is a part of the People's Republic of China.

China Daily, 16 March 2005

China: US misreads Taiwan law

China said yesterday that its anti-secession law had been misunderstood by the United States. "They don't fully understand the significance of this law," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said. Washington on Monday said the law "does not serve the cause of peace and stability" in the region. White House press secretary Scott McClellan said the law "runs counter to recent progress in cross-strait relations."

People's Daily, 16 March 2005

China willing to cooperate with nations in South China Sea region: FM spokesman

China is willing to continue its pragmatic cooperation with countries in South China Sea region and make it "a sea of friendship

and cooperation," said China's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Liu Jianchao Tuesday. "Oil companies from China, the Philippines and Vietnam signed a landmark agreement in Manila on Monday," Liu said at a regular press conference in Beijing. In a joint statement, the three parties held that the agreement showed their willingness to explore the reserve of petroleum resources within the area agreed by them. But it would not undermine the basic positions held by the governments of the relevant countries in the South China Sea.

People's Daily, 17 March 2005

Further standardization of PLA calls for cutting 200,000 troops before 2005

The year 2005 is an important year for the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) to fulfill its task of "cutting 200,000 troops before 2005", PLA Daily editorial said on March 17. A rectification campaign will be launched against various temporary or unauthorized army units, according to a notice issued by the PLA General Staff Headquarters and approved by the Central Military Commission (CMC).

People's Daily, 17 March 2005

Russian army chief kicks off China visit

Russian Chief of General Staff Yury Baluyevsky arrived in Beijing Thursday morning for a four-day China visit, the first outgoing trip since he took the current post last July. As China and Russia will conduct their first-ever joint military exercise later this year, Baluyevsky's visit will help deepen the understanding and cooperation between the two militaries, some observers noted.

People's Daily, 17 March 2005

China to build first 1,000 megawatt-level homemade nuclear power station

China Guangdong Nuclear Power Group signed contracts Wednesday with Chinese nuclear plant designers and equipment manufacturers to build the Lingao II project, the country's first 1,000 megawatt-level, domestic-built nuclear power plant. Lingao II nuclear power station will be the third commercial nuclear power plant in South China's Guangdong Province, where China's first Daya Bay nuclear power plant began operation in 1991.

People's Daily, 18 March 2005

FM spokesman: Rice's China tour expected successful

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said in Beijing Thursday China expects a "successful" visit by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, starting this weekend. Chinese leaders and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing are due to meet with Rice, who will pay a two-day visit to China starting on March 20.

People's Daily, 18 March 2005

China, ASEAN to improve co-op on epidemic prevention

Health officials from China and countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Thursday proposed to set up a regional disease monitoring network for post-disaster epidemic prevention. In a letter to the symposium, Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi said that China would continue to engage in international exchange and cooperation in the area of public health to improve regional capacity of disaster response and epidemic prevention.

People's Daily, 18 March 2005

Planned Russia-China military exercise not directed at any third country: army chief

Yury Baluyevsky vowed to develop a closer military relationship with that country's largest neighbour. Baluyevsky arrived Beijing Thursday morning for a four-day visit, as plans are laid for the first joint military exercises between the two countries. It is Baluyevsky's first trip abroad since he took up the post last July. The Russian general said developing a strategic co-operative partnership with China is one of Russia's priorities.

China Daily, 18 March 2005

US won't rap China on human rights

The White House says the US government has decided against proposing a UN resolution critical of China's human rights policy. Officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said US representatives have advised other delegations of the 53-nation UN Human Rights Commission of this decision. The White House says despite the United States decision not to introduce the resolution in Geneva, the Bush administration is still very critical of China's position on human rights.

People's Daily, 19 March 2005

Chinese premier talks military cooperation with Russia army chief

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and visiting Russian army chief discussed Sino-Russian relationship and the cooperation between the two armed forces in Beijing Friday. The meeting with Premier Wen was the high note in Russian Chief of General Staff Yury Baluyevsky's trip to Beijing. It followed talks with senior Chinese military officers on a joint military exercise to be held later this year. Both Wen and Baluyevsky agree that China-Russia relations are at the best ever stage as the countries have removed all possible obstacles to the relationship.

People's Daily, 20 March 2005

US State Secretary Rice arrives in Beijing for visit

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice arrived in Beijing Sunday afternoon, kicking off her first China trip since she took office in January. During her stay, Rice is expected to confer with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao, Vice

Premier Wu Yi and State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan, and hold talks with Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, her Chinese host.

China Daily, 21 March 2005

Rice concludes visit in Beijing

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice concluded her 24-hour visit in Beijing and left Beijing for home Monday afternoon. At a news briefing before departure, Rice said during her meetings here, her Chinese host agreed to expand cooperation between the United States and China, and this is "essential to the interests of both countries particularly as China is a state of major transformation".

China Daily, 21 March 2005

Rice: US observes one-China policy (Hu Xiao).

Talks with President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao yesterday made a good start. Rice said the US Government's position on pursuing the one-China policy and abiding by the three US-China joint communiques will not change, according to a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman. She said the United States is ready to join hands with China in exploring new fields for co-operation.

People's Daily, 21 March 2005

President Hu hopes US sees "harms" of "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces"

Chinese President Hu Jintao told visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice that he hoped the United States would "see clearly the nature and harms of 'Taiwan independence' secessionist forces and their activities." Hu said he hoped the United States "would honor the commitments that US President George W. Bush reiterated repeatedly on adhering to the one-China policy, observing the three Sino-US joint communiques and opposing 'Taiwan independence.'"

People's Daily, 21 March 2005

Hu Jintao calls for early resumption of six-party talks

China is willing to work with all concerned parties, including the United States, to resume at an early date the six-party talks on the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, President Hu Jintao said Sunday. In a meeting with visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Hu said China, while insisting that Korean Peninsula should be nuclear weapons-free, is devoting itself to solving the nuclear issue through the six-party talks, and to safeguarding peace and stability there.

People's Daily, 21 March 2005

China, US to achieve mutual benefit in trade cooperation, Chinese Premier says

China and the United States should take each other's concerns into consideration and handle well disputes and conflicts in trade cooperation to achieve mutual benefit and win-win situation, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Sunday. He said the economic and trade cooperation is an important part of China-US relations and the two sides should further improve current bilateral coordination mechanism based on principles of equality, mutual benefit and development.

People's Daily, 22 March 2005

US willing to boost cooperation, reduce differences with China: Rice

During the past 24 hours, Chinese leaders met respectively with visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and both sides voiced willingness to increase cooperation and to reduce differences on issues such as Taiwan and DPRK nuclear weapons. "The United States hopes to see a confident and prosperous China and is ready to join hands with China in exploring new fields of cooperation and boosting relations," Rice said in her meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao.

People's Daily 22 March 2005

DPRK premier begins visit to China

Premier Pak Bong Ju of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) arrived in Beijing Tuesday morning, starting his first official good-will visit to China after taking office in 2003. As guest of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Pak is scheduled to visit Shanghai, Shenyang and Anshan besides Beijing, according to diplomatic sources. Analysts here believe that the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsular nuclear issue and economic cooperation between China and DPRK will be high on Pak's agenda during the visit.

People's Daily, 22 March 2005

Chinese FM to visit three Asian countries

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing will visit Nepal, Maldives and Afghanistan from March 31 to April 4, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao announced Tuesday at a regular press conference. Li will also attend the Afghanistan Development Forum held in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, according to the spokesman.

China Daily, 22 March 2005

EU urged to lift 'outdated' arms embargo

The Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao Tuesday urged the EU to make the decision to lift the embargo on arms sales to China as soon as possible. "The arms embargo is political discrimination and is outdated," said Liu. It has been reported that the EU planned to lift the ban by the end of June, but is likely to delay the plan after some people trying to link it to China's passing of the Anti-Secession Law this month.

People's Daily, 23 March 2005

Six-party talks "a realistic choice" to resolve Korean Peninsula nuclear issue: Chinese premier

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said Tuesday that the six-party talks offered "a realistic choice" to peacefully resolve the Korean nuclear issue through dialogue. He urged all sides to show flexibility, sincerity and patience. Proceeding from objective and fair stance, China will continue to actively promote the talks and make unremitting efforts for the realization of a lasting peace in northeast Asia.

China Daily, 23 March 2005

Pak: DPRK ready to return to nuclear talks

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is ready to return to the negotiating table to resume nuclear talks if the conditions are right, visiting DPRK Premier Pak Bong Ju said Tuesday. "DPRK's stance of maintaining a nuclear-free peninsula as well as to resolve the nuclear issue through peaceful means and talks remains unchanged," said Pak at a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wen Jiabao.

China Daily, 23 March 2005

China, DPRK vow to further ties

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and his DPRK counterpart Pak Bong Ju vowed to further the countries' "friendly cooperative ties," including economic cooperation and coordination on major issues, during talks on Tuesday. Relations between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have seen "sound progress" with the direct care from the two countries' leaders, Wen told Pak in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

People's Daily, 24 March 2005

China appoints new ambassador to US

Zhou Wenzhong, former vice foreign minister of China, has been appointed China's ambassador to the United States, said Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao Thursday at a regular press conference. Previously, the State Council, or China's cabinet, appointed Yang Jiechi, the former Chinese ambassador to the United States, as vice foreign minister. Zhou began to serve in China's Foreign Ministry in 1970 and was appointed vice foreign minister in May 2003.

People's Daily, 24 March 2005

Spokesman: no breakthrough achieved on when to restart six-party talks

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Thursday that no breakthrough had been made on the restart of the six-party talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue during the China visit by the premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). "But China believes relevant talks and exchanges are conducive to the process of the six-party talks," spokesman Liu Jianchao said in response to a question at a regular press conference.

People's Daily, 24 March 2005

Assembly of China's advanced trainer started

The L15 advanced trainer aircraft China independently designed and owned its intellectual property right, which has met the level of the world's advanced fighter planes, recently made its debut in Hongdu Aviation Industry Group in Nanchang, capital of south China's Jiangxi Province. Currently the trainer airplane has officially entered the full-scale assembly period.

People's Daily, 25 March 2005

China, Japan hold security consultation

Deputy Chief of the General Staff of Chinese People's Liberation Army Xiong Guangkai held Thursday in Beijing a security consultation with Moriya Takemasa, permanent vice-minister of Defense Agency of Japan. The two sides exchanged views in depth on issues of shared concern including international and regional security situation, defense policy, bilateral relations and Sino-Japanese defense exchanges.

People's Daily, 25 March 2005

FM spokesman: any unilateral action taken Japan on Diaoyu Islands is unlawful and invalid

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said Thursday that any unilateral action taken by Japan on the Diaoyu Islands are "unlawful and invalid." China "firmly opposes" such moves, which seriously infringes China's territorial sovereignty, Liu told a regular press conference. It is reported that some Japanese members of the Ishigaki assembly in Okinawa Prefecture proposed to enact an ordinance on so-called "Senkaku Day".

People's Daily, 25 March 2005

Cross-Straits relations threatened by protest

Cross-Straits relations may worsen if secessionist forces in Taiwan challenge the newly-passed Anti-Secession Law, leading mainland researchers warned yesterday in Beijing and elsewhere. They cautioned the Taiwan leadership against the provocative remarks and actions which are anticipated at this weekend's planned anti-secession bill protest on the island.

People's Daily, 26 March 2005

China, Thailand vow to enhance judicial cooperation

Jia Chunwang, procurator-general of China's Supreme People's Procuratorate, met here Friday with Thai Attorney-General Kampree Kaocharern and his party, vowing to further judicial cooperation. Jia briefed the guests on China's judicial system and its reform plan. He said China hoped to learn from and further cooperate with other countries, especially ASEAN countries, to crack down cross-border crime.

People's Daily, 26 March 2005

China, Serbia agree to enhance party relations

Senior officials of the Chinese Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) on Friday in Beijing agreed to improve exchange in party relations. Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, told Ivica Dacic, president of the Main Board of the SPS that the CPC is willing to improve friendly exchange and cooperation with the SPS in an effort to secure a healthy, stable and comprehensive development of the relations between the two countries.

People's Daily, 27 March 2005

Vigilance urged against secessionists creating new tension across Taiwan Straits

Xinhua News Agency published a commentary Saturday urging vigilance against "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces creating new tension across Taiwan Straits. The commentary says, "Taiwan independence" secessionist forces and the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) initiated a march in Taipei to protest against the Anti-Secession Law adopted by China's National People's Congress on March 14. DPP and the extreme "Taiwan independence" secessionists have been malevolently distorting the principles of the law to misguide the Taiwan people and instigate antagonism and create new tension across the Taiwan Straits.

People's Daily, 28 March 2005

KMT vice chairman to visit mainland for recalling past, doing business

P.K. Chiang, vice chairman of the Kuomintang (KMT), said here Sunday that he will lead a 34-member KMT delegation to visit the Chinese mainland for the purposes of recalling the past and doing business. The cross-straits tension in recent five years has "affected the economy of Taiwan," Chiang said, adding he believed that friction between the two sides should not continue and there must be a way for reconciliation.

People's Daily, 28 March 2005

DPRK premier concludes China visit

Premier of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Pak Bong Ju left Shenyang Sunday for his country, concluding his six-day official goodwill visit to China. During his stay in Shenyang, capital city of northeast China's Liaoning Province, Pak expressed his appreciation for the achievements made by China in the construction of socialist modernization, hoping to further consolidate and promote the ties between the DPRK and China.

People's Daily, 28 March 2005

Japan, China row heats up over embargo, UN seat

Japan fanned the blaze of a raging row with China on Friday, by saying the lifting of the EU arms embargo on China would be a "big problem" for Asian stability. Japan is wooing world leaders for a favorable consideration of its bid for a permanent seat at the United Nations Security Council. On Thursday, more than one million people, mostly Chinese, signed their names at the sina.com site to voice their opposition to Japan's eligibility. Chinese Government now faces daunting pressure to be tough with Japan, analysts said.

People's Daily, 28 March 2005

China-Bangladesh direct airline to be discussed during Premier's S.Asia tour

Establishing a direct airline between Dhaka and Kunming will be conferred during Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's imminent visit to Bangladesh, said Bangladeshi ambassador to China Ashfaqur Rahman in Beijing Sunday. The airline from Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh, to Kunming, capital city of southwest China's Yunnan province, will be the first direct air link between the two countries.

People's Daily, 29 March 2005

Blue Ridge of US 7th Fleet makes first visit to Zhanjiang

Blue Ridge of the Seventh Fleet of the United States, led by Capt. J. Stephen Maynard, arrived at Zhanjiang port in South China's Guangdong Province, on the afternoon of March 28, kicking off its three-day goodwill visit to the South China Sea Fleet of China's navy.

People's Daily, 29 March 2005

Experts across the Straits hold "Sun Yat-sen Thought" Symposium

While attending "The Eighth Academic Symposium of Sun Yat-sen and Modern China" held recently, experts on Sun Yat-sen Thought across the Straits and from the US and Japan unanimously believed that peaceful and healthy Cross-Strait relations is the common wish of the people both in mainland and Taiwan.

People's Daily, 30 March 2005

Japan should see China's military expenditure growth "objectively": FM spokesman

Japan should view the growth of China's military expenditure "objectively" and not "unreasonably" connect the growth with the arms embargo, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said in Beijing Tuesday. Liu made the remarks in response to a question concerning the report issued by the Japanese Defense Agency. The report voiced worries about the two-digits growth of China's military spending in recent years and connected the growth with the country's quest for an early end of the European Union's arms embargo.

People's Daily, 30 March 2005

China appreciates France, Germany's back-up on arms ban

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Liu Jianchao, said in Beijing Tuesday at a news conference that China appreciates France and Germany's stance for an early end of the European Union's arms embargo. In response to a question about Jacques Chirac's Japan visit, he said the French president said in a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi Sunday that the decision to lift the ban is political and France will not revoke it.

People's Daily, 30 March 2005

China denounces US accusation of China's human rights, FM spokesman

"The United States should stop using human rights as an excuse to interfere into other countries' internal affairs and pay more attention to its own human rights problems," Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said Wednesday. Liu said the American side should change its wrong practice of confrontation on human rights issues.

People's Daily, 30 March 2005

KMT leader: Taiwan people seek peace

People from both sides of the Taiwan Straits will benefit from closer economic ties, Chiang Pin-kun, vice-chairman of the Taiwan-based Chinese Kuomintang Party (KMT), said Tuesday. Chiang, who arrived in Nanjing Tuesday, said Taiwan businesses and investors in the mainland will help the economic development in the Yangtze River Delta.

People's Daily, 31 March 2005

Chinese State Councilor meets Indian Foreign Secretary

Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan met Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran in Beijing Wednesday. The two countries should seize the opportunity to assure the success of Premier Wen's upcoming visit in order to push forward the Sino-Indian constructive partnership of cooperation with practical actions, Tang said, noting that it will also contribute more to peace, stability and prosperity in Asia and the world..

People's Daily, 31 March 2005

China hopes to maintain friendly military exchanges with ROK

China hopes to maintain friendly military exchanges with the Republic of Korea (ROK), increase mutual trust in a bid to promote the all-round and healthy development of Sino-ROK relations, Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan told his ROK counterpart Yoon Kwang-ung Wednesday.

People's Daily, 31 March 2005

Chinese FM, Vice FM meet Indian Foreign Secretary

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo, Chinese special representative for Sino-Indian boundary questions, met Thursday respectively with Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran who is here to attend the 15th round of talks of the joint Sino-Indian working group on border disputes.

People's Daily, 31 March 2005

China opposes US, Japan's "passive attitude" toward EU removing of arms embargo

China again criticized the opposition of the United States and Japan to the lifting of the European Union's weapons embargo on the country. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said Thursday that the "passive attitude" of the United States and Japan toward the Europe Union's removing of arms embargo does not conform to the interests of Sino-EU relations and at the same time it is groundless.