

China Daily, 1 May 2005

"Taiwan independence" enters blind alley

Diehard advocate of "Taiwan independence" Lee Teng-hui is extremely upset these days. He cannot stand another blow on "Taiwan independence", or any signs of improvement in relations across the Taiwan Straits, or the mainstream call in the island province for better cross-Straits ties. So, this long-time "troublemaker" – as he is known in the international community – has jumped out again to blast Kuomintang (KMT) Chairman Lien Chan and People First Party (PFP) Chairman James Soong for their ongoing or scheduled visits to the mainland, and to brazenly call the Taiwan issue "an international issue".

China Daily, 1 May 2005

China challenges US IPR allegations

China said it has "always worked hard" to protect copyrights, defending itself against a US decision to put it on a blacklist of countries allegedly guilty of "rampant" copyright abuses. "The Chinese government has all along attached importance to the protection of intellectual property rights," said foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang. The US Trade Representative's office, unveiling an annual report on protection of IPR Friday, said China was being put on a "Priority Watch List" of 14 countries and warned that WTO action could follow.

China Daily, 2 May 2005

DPRK apparently test-fired missile: US

A senior White House official said Sunday that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) had apparently test-fired a short-range missile. "It appears that there was a test of a short-range missile by the North Koreans and it landed in the Sea of Japan. We're not surprised by this. The North Koreans have tested their missiles before. They've had some failures," White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card said in an interview with CNN's "Late Edition". Reports of the missile test came days after the director of the US Defense Intelligence Agency, Vice Admiral Lowell Jacoby, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that the DPRK was believed to have the capability to arm a missile with a nuclear device, and one day before representatives of 189 nations meet at the United Nations to review the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

China Daily, 2 May 2005

Presidents Hu, Putin to meet in Moscow

Chinese President Hu Jintao is scheduled to meet his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a celebration marking Russia's victory in the World War II in Moscow next month, said Chinese diplomats. "The two state leaders will discuss major international and regional issues of both concern and how to further bilateral ties," Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hui told a news briefing in Beijing on Saturday. On the sidelines of the celebration, Hu Jintao will also meet French President Jacques Chirac, President Roh Moo-hyun of the Republic of Korea, President Saparmurad Atayevich Niyazov of Turkmenistan and Romanian President Traian Basescu.

China Daily, 2 May 2005

Japan must honour its word on TW: Comment

In the five-point proposal on the development of Sino-Japanese ties, made by President Hu Jintao, China expressed the hope that Japan would translate into concrete actions its commitments to the one-China policy and pledge of not supporting "Taiwan Independence." At a recent summit meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in Jakarta, Hu put forward the proposal, whose third point stresses that the Taiwan question must be correctly handled as it is a prerequisite for pushing forward the Sino-Japanese ties.

People's Daily, 3 May 2005

KMT Chairman concludes "journey of peace"

Visiting Chinese Kuomintang (KMT) party Chairman Lien Chan said in Shanghai Tuesday his mainland tour is "pleasant, smooth and successful", and thanked the mainland side for their hospitality. Lien gave a brief speech Tuesday afternoon at the airport in Shanghai, the last stop of his eight-day "journey of peace" that also brought him to Nanjing, Beijing and Xi'an.

People's Daily, 3 May 2005

Clear messages of cross-Straits affinity

China's mainland made clear gestures of affinity with its island province Taiwan on Tuesday with promises to present Taiwan compatriots a pair of giant pandas, remove a ban for mainland residents to travel to the island and open its market wider to fruits produced in Taiwan. The Chinese mainland has in recent years drafted policies and rules to protect the legitimate rights of the Taiwan compatriots, simplified procedures and is currently working to develop into a regular practice the direct cross-Straits charter flights which are now conducted on festivals and holidays.

China Daily, 4 May 2005

US-China summits' high stakes

U.S. President George W. Bush and Chinese President Hu Jintao are expected to hold a series of high-level meetings later this year, opportunities to defuse disagreements over the valuation of China's currency, U.S. trade deficit and how to deal with North Korea, the BusinessWeek Online reported. Bush and Hu will meet briefly this month at the Moscow celebration of the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. And, a source familiar with Bush administration reveals when Hu comes to the U.S. in September for the opening of the UN General Assembly in New York, he'll travel to Washington for a formal state visit. Hu will return the favor in November, hosting Bush for a bilateral summit in Beijing when the U.S. President is in the region for

a meeting of leaders of the annual APEC forum in Busan, South Korea.

China Daily, 4 May 2005

In one-China frame talks may cover 'any issue' (Cao Desheng)

The Chinese mainland is ready to talk about everything, even the "missile" issue, with Taiwan, but only under the one-China principle, a senior mainland official said yesterday. Wang Zaixi, deputy director of the Taiwan Work Office of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks at a news conference organized by the State Council Information Office in Beijing after Lien Chan, chairman of Taiwan's main opposition party Kuomintang (KMT), returned to Taiwan. The possibility of discussing the matter has been underscored by the press communique issued last week by the CPC and the KMT during Lien's visit.

People's Daily, 4 May 2005

China appeals for progress in promoting NPT goals

The three goals of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) must be promoted in a comprehensive and balance manner, said Zhang Yan, Head of the Chinese Delegation to 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), on Tuesday. "In light of the latest developments, challenges and problems in international security, it is urgent for the international community to take more pragmatic and concrete steps to preserve and strengthen the universality, effectiveness and authority of the NPT," Zhang said in the general debate at the 2005 NPT Review Conference at the UN headquarters in New York.

People's Daily, 4 May 2005

Lien: Taiwan cannot afford to miss chance in mainland

The Kuomintang (KMT) Party of China Chairman Lien Chan said Tuesday that Taiwan's best chance to achieve another "economic miracle" lies in the mainland. "Taiwan achieved an economic miracle in the past decades and is now sprinting toward another economic miracle," Lien told mainland media before ending his historic eight-day mainland tour. "The mainland is a chance Taiwan cannot afford to miss, no matter who is in control," he said.

China Daily, 4 May 2005

China to assure Europe on textile exports

China sought to assure France and EU that it was taking concrete steps to stem a surge in textile exports to Europe and predicted that the pace of such shipments would ease between now and July. Beijing "hopes that the increase in its textile exports takes place in a moderate way," Chinese Trade Minister Bo Xilai said in Paris amid fears in the EU that its textile industry is being harmed by a surge in Chinese products that followed an end to global textile import quotas on January 1.

China Daily, 5 May 2005

EU: No trade war with China over textiles

PARIS - The European Union's top trade negotiator has dismissed the possibility of a trade war with China over surging Chinese textile imports and rejected "precipitate" EU action against Beijing. "There is no question of any diplomatic break or any sort of trade war between Europe and China," EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said here Thursday after a meeting with Chinese Trade Minister Bo Xilai. The EU executive commission last week launched an investigation into recent sharp increases in Chinese imports into EU countries that followed the abolition of a global quota system on January 1. The procedure, under World Trade Organization regulations, could lead to the imposition of temporary curbs on nine categories of Chinese textile imports. Bo stressed that China had been "very prudent" in managing the flow of EU-bound textile products and had adopted 10 measures that had already led to a "considerable" slowdown in the growth of such exports to Europe in March.

People's Daily, 5 May 2005

Taiwan PFP chairman expects to promote cross-straits cooperation

James C. Y. Soong, chairman of People First Party (PFP), said he expects his forthcoming visit to the Chinese mainland to promote the rejuvenation of China and enable people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits to gain mutual benefit and cooperation. At a press conference held Wednesday in Taipei, Soong said he will adhere to the position of one China, the "1992 consensus" and opposition to "Taiwan Independence." He said he hoped his visit would benefit the stability of the Taiwan Straits and reach more detailed consensus with the mainland on the basis of the Chinese Kuomintang Party Chairman Lien Chan's recent visit to the mainland.

China Daily, 6 May 2005

Country 'shocked' by Japan's Taiwan stance

China expressed shock at Japanese Foreign Minister Machimura Nobutaka's recent comments about Taiwan, which Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said interfere with China's internal affairs. In a recent speech delivered in New York, Machimura talked about making Taiwan a common strategic target for Japan and the United States, saying it did not have any disagreement with Japan's Taiwan policy so far. He said this could not be taken as an expansion of Japan's defence line to Taiwan because the island features in the Japan-US security treaty. Kong said: "China is shocked" by the comments, which he said "interfere in China's internal affairs." China has "made solemn representations and expressed strong protests" to the Japanese side, he said.

People's Daily, 6 May 2005

PFP chairman reiterates stance against "Taiwan Independence"

Chairman James CY Soong of the People First Party (PFP) reiterated his party's unwavering stances of opposing "Taiwan Independence" upon his arrival Thursday at Xianyang International Airport of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, the first leg of his nine-day visit. With 33 seats in Taiwan's "Legislature", PFP plays a crucial role in deciding the political future of Taiwan as both Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party and Kuomintang tend to seek its support to get their propositions approved. Calling himself embarking on "a trip of seeking the same roots of the Chinese people and building a bridge across the Straits for the future", Soong and his delegation were honored with a red-carpet welcome from both the Taiwan Work Office of the CPC Central Committee and the Shaanxi local government.

People's Daily, 6 May 2005

China to promote all-round strategic partnership with EU

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui said in a recent article that the relations between China and the European Union (EU) has been on the track of stable development as the two sides have reached consensus to devote to the promotion of the strategic partnership. In an article marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic links between China and EU, Zhang said under the background of complicated and ever changing situation of the current world, further development of Sino-European relations is not only in the fundamental interests of both sides, but also conducive to world peace, stability and development.

People's Daily, 6 May 2005

Chinese, US presidents talk over phone

Chinese President Hu Jintao and US President George W. Bush had a phone conversation Thursday evening, according to sources with Chinese Foreign Ministry. On the recent exchanges across the Taiwan Straits, Hu stressed that the proper handling of the Taiwan issue remains the key to the healthy growth of China-US relations. China hopes the US side to adopt a constructive attitude in support of the improvement and development of relations across the Taiwan Straits and supports the cross-Straits situation to march toward peace and stability, Hu said. Bush reiterated that the US government adheres to the one-China policy, emphasizing that the stance remains unchanged.

People's Daily, 7 May 2005

Senior CPC official calls for dialogue between China, Japan

A senior official of Communist Party of China (CPC) called on Friday for more efforts to enhance dialogue and exchanges between China and Japan to push forward bilateral relations. Current Sino-Japanese relations are at a crossroads," said Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, while meeting with Yamazaki Taku, assistant to Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi. "The two countries should enhance dialogue and exchanges in various fields and make joint efforts to push forward bilateral relations in a healthy and stable manner so as to benefit both peoples in a real sense," said Wang.

China Daily, 7 May 2005

President's Russian trip to fortify partnership (Sun Shangwu)

President Hu Jintao will stand shoulder to shoulder with world leaders on Monday to mark the 60th anniversary of the Soviet victory over Nazi Germany. Hu arrives in Moscow on Sunday for a visit which is also expected to boost the Sino-Russian strategic partnership, foreign affairs officials said on Friday. "The two leaders will exchange views on bilateral ties as well as international and regional issues of common concern," said Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hui. Li refused to go into detail about the trip, but Xu Tao, an expert with the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, told China Daily energy resources will top the agenda.

China Daily, 8 May 2005

China rejects request to cut off N. Korea oil

China rejected a U.S. envoy's proposal to cut off North Korea's oil supply as a way to pressure N. Korea government to return to disarmament talks, The Washington Post reported on Saturday. Chinese officials rebuffed the U.S. idea, claiming it would damage their pipeline, the newspaper said citing unnamed U.S. officials. In a meeting in Beijing on April 26, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill raised the suggestion of a "technical" interruption of fuel. But Chinese official Yang Xiyu complained the Americans were focused on too narrow a range of tools for China to influence Pyongyang, according to The Washington Post.

China Daily, 8 May 2005

Japan speaks highly of Hu's proposal on ties

A senior Japanese official said yesterday that Japan attaches importance to its relations with Asian countries, China in particular, and spoke highly of President Hu Jintao's proposal on promoting Sino-Japanese ties. "Only by keeping sound relations with other countries across the world, especially neighbouring countries, can Japan subsist, develop and maintain prosperity," said Yamazaki Taku, assistant to the Japanese prime minister, as quoted by a Foreign Ministry official. Japan will continue to adhere to the three cornerstone political documents it signed with China, stick to the one-China policy and properly handle the history issue, he said during a meeting with Vice-Premier Huang Ju in Beijing.

China Daily, 8 May 2005

Soong: Descendants of Cathay should never forget roots

Back on his native soil after a lapse of 56 years, visiting People First Party (PFP) Chairman James CY Soong said Sunday "descendants of Cathay must never forget their roots" and people along the Taiwan Straits should join hands to bring more

glory to the Chinese nation. "I'm a native from Hunan, a proud Hunanese fond of eating hot pepper, a dignified Chinese and also a Taiwanese that loves Taiwan, " Soong said upon his arrival at Huanghua Airport in Changsha, capital of central-south China's Hunan Province, Sunday afternoon.

China Daily, 8 May 2005

EU seeks to end textile tension

An EU commission delegation is due to arrive Beijing this week to find a solution to the textile issue, says EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson. Mandelson believes the current friction on textiles between the two economies will not lead to "any sort of diplomatic break or trade war between the European Union and China." "I'm not going to take any action that is precipitate, that is reactionary, that is going to turn the clock back on textile imports," he said. Mandelson acknowledged that measures adopted by China this year had helped to slow down the growth rate of its textile exports to the European Union.

China Daily, 9 May 2005

Direct election of grass roots trade union leaders burgeons

One of China's largest steel companies, Panzhihua Iron & Steel Group Company in southwest China's Sichuan province, has decided to let its trade union members directly elect their chairman, replacing the nomination procedure. East China's Shanghai Telecom trade unions in four substations and 1,200 grass roots trade unions in central China's Shannxi province also announced they would conduct direct chairman elections recently. Differing from the past elections of trade union chairmen, the organization's top leaders who used to be nominated by the trade union committee, the direct election of chairmen refers to elections directly conducted in grass roots trade unions' member conferences or member representatives' conferences.

China Daily, 10 May 2005

President Hu meets world leaders for talks (Sun Shangwu)

Visiting President Hu Jintao held separate meetings with several leaders following the ceremony to mark the 60th anniversary of victory over Nazi Germany. He met Russian President Vladimir Putin, Romanian President Traian Basescu and French President Jacques Chirac yesterday. Each touched upon issues ranging from bilateral relations as well as regional and international affairs of common concern. On Sunday, he also met President Roh Moo-hyun of the Republic of Korea (ROK) and President Saparmurat Atayevich Niyazov of Turkmenistan. Hu said China hoped all parties concerned should make joint efforts to restart the stalled six-party talks on nuclear issues on Korean Peninsula.

China Daily, 11 May 2005

'Taiwan independence' a dead alley: Soong

Visiting Chairman of People First Party James CY Soong reiterated his persistent stance in Beijing Wednesday that his party is resolutely opposed to forces for "Taiwan independence," which is a dead alley for peace and stability across the Taiwan Straits. Soong made the remark when addressing the faculty of Beijing-based Tsinghua University televised live. Soong called on people on the mainland not to take the "Taiwan consciousness" upheld by the Taiwan people the same as "Taiwan independence." Soong slashed the efforts of a small handful of secessionists to take themselves as Japanese rather than Taiwanese as "casting aside both roots and essence."

China Daily, 11 May 2005

Zoellick: Policy to contain China's influence 'foolish'

SINGAPORE - The United States is intent on deepening economic and political ties with Southeast Asia but not by trying to contain China's rising influence in the region, US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick said. On the last leg of a six-nation tour of Southeast Asia, Zoellick said he had also been reassured the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was committed to stronger economic ties with the United States. Zoellick said discussions held with leaders during his trip showed Southeast Asia wanted to continue to have strong economic ties with the United States, which remains the region's major export destination. However he also said the United States had no intention of trying to contain China's growing presence in Southeast Asia.

People's Daily, 11 May 2005

China firmly opposes EU's linking of arms ban- lifting with human rights

Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said in Beijing at a Tuesday press conference that China firmly opposes the European Union's linking of lifting the arms ban on China with the human right issue. Liu made the remark in response to the EU representative's remark at the Asia Europe Meeting 7th Foreign Ministers' Meeting that it will be difficult to lift the arms ban soon unless there is obvious progress in the country's human right situation. Liu said China has made great effort to improve the human rights of its people in past years and "deeply" understands there are still problems.

People's Daily, 11 May 2005

China would be pleased if US, DPRK have direct contact

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said Tuesday that China will be "pleased" if the United States and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) have direct contact in any form. "China is in support of any proposals, measures and steps that are conducive to achieving a nuclear-weapon-free Korean Peninsula, to easing the tension there and to the early resumption of the six-party talks," Liu told a routine press conference. However, he added, the conditions required for the direct contact between DPRK and the US depend on the two parties themselves instead of the Chinese side.

People's Daily, 11 May 2005

Patience, mutual understanding lead to cross-Straits common prosperity: Soong

The harmonious living and common prosperity across the Taiwan Straits require deepening mutual understanding of the people on both sides, visiting chairman James CY Soong of the People First Party (PFP) in Taiwan said Wednesday morning in a speech at the Qinghua University. Both sides can start from removing misunderstanding to reaching understanding, from understanding to dissolving differences, and eventually to the long-standing pacification, he said. Soong said that the cross-Straits relations have achieved world-shaking changes over the past month. "Only by putting people's interests in prior position can we find a solution to the cross-Straits prosperity," he said.

The New York Times, 11 May 2005

China Rules Out Using Sanctions to Pressure North Korea (Joseph Khan and David E. Sanger)

BEIJING, May 10 - China on Tuesday ruled out applying economic or political sanctions to pressure North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons program, appearing to undercut a crucial element of the Bush administration's evolving North Korea strategy. Beijing's apparent unwillingness to go along with Mr. Bush's backup plan to squeeze North Korea takes away the crucial pressure point that Mr. Bush's aides have been counting on. It also suggests that the strategy of threatening to go to the United Nations Security Council - which Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has begun to discuss - could fail.

The Guardian, 12 May 2005

Tiananmen inmates linked to EU arms embargo (Jonathan Watts)

China should release those of its citizens imprisoned since the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown if it wants the European Union to end its arms ban, a senior EU delegation told their hosts in Beijing yesterday. The request for an amnesty, one of four areas in which the EU is seeking better human rights, raises the bar for lifting the 16-year embargo, making a change unlikely this year. The linkage is embarrassing for Beijing's communist leaders, who see removal of the "discriminatory" ban as a central goal of its improved relations with Europe. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, the EU commissioner for external relations, maintained that the June target was still reachable if both sides made concessions, but put the onus on China.

The People's Daily, 12 May 2005

China, EU should handle relations from "strategic, long-term perspective": Wen

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told senior EU diplomats in Beijing Wednesday that China and the European Union should handle their 30-year-long relations from "a strategic and long-term perspective" and improve coordination in major international issues. In a meeting with the European Union "Troika" foreign ministers, Wen said he hoped both China and the EU would strive to improve political mutual trust and expand cooperation in economics and trade. Topics discussed by the two sides were said to cover EU's 16-year-long arms embargo to China, festering textile trade disputes and the Taiwan question. The Chinese Premier said China and the EU are two major forces in maintaining world peace and promoting development, who both uphold multilateralism, advocate cultural diversity and strive for a fair and orderly international economic environment.

The China Daily, 12 May 2005

EU funds project to help Tibetans (Cui Ning)

Providing the motorbikes for doctors in Panam County, 250 kilometres southwest of Lhasa in the Tibet Autonomous Region, is only a small part of the Panam Rural Development Project conducted between China and the European Union (EU), according to the EU-China News which is published by the EU Delegation to China. The Panam project, which started in 1991 and ends this December, has focused on improving education, health and rural water supplies. Yi Xiaolin, an officer from the EU delegation responsible for the Panam project, told China Daily. Thanks to the Panam project, scientists have helped local farmers develop solar stoves which can be used for cooking and fuel, freeing up the manure for use on the fields.

The People's Daily, 12 May 2005

Kissinger: China, US face challenge of "creative coexistence"

Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger said Wednesday in Beijing that China and the United States now face the challenge of "creative coexistence," but that the development of US-China relations is in the common interest of the two nations. In his speech Wednesday, Kissinger said that US-China relations are in a good state thanks to joint efforts by both nations. He said he is "very confident" about the future development of bilateral ties. He said no single nation has enough power or wisdom to solve every problem of the world, and that China and the U.S. should seek coexistence "in an cooperative attitude," for the common interests of the two nations.

The International Herald Tribune, 12 May 2005

Taiwan officer is accused of selling secrets to China

TAIPEI A Taiwan military intelligence officer has been arrested for allegedly selling defense secrets to China, the Defense Ministry said Wednesday. "We are investigating Chuang Po-hsin, a major at the intelligence unit of the electronic information development division, for suspicion of leaking defense information," said a Defense Ministry spokesman, Liou Chih-jein. Chuang was arrested by the military police on Tuesday. His division is in charge of electronic surveillance of China, and the major was suspected of stealing information that the division had collected about China's military activities and technological research, said the division chief, Lieutenant General Lee Hsiang-cho.

The New York Times, 13 May 2005

China Says U.S. Impeded North Korea Arms Talks (Joseph Kahn)

BEIJING, May 12 - A senior Chinese diplomat on Thursday accused the Bush administration of undermining efforts to revive negotiations with the North Korean government and said there was "no solid evidence" that North Korea was preparing to test

a nuclear weapon. The comments by Yang Xiyu, a senior Foreign Ministry official and China's top official on the North Korean nuclear problem, were noteworthy because the Chinese authorities very rarely speak to journalists about the issue. The comments reflect growing frustration in Beijing with the Bush administration. Even as the White House presses China to find a solution to the nuclear issue, Chinese officials say, it has hurled insults at North Korea and given its leaders excuses to stay away from the bargaining table.

The China Daily, 13 May 2005

Beijing offers Taiwan more conveniences

Chinese mainland Friday pledged to offer more conveniences to Taiwan compatriots by facilitating their cross-Straits trip, study and employment on the mainland. This is another gesture of affinity of easing tensions across the Taiwan Straits, following mainland's promises to present Taiwan a pair of giant pandas, lift the ban for the mainland residents to travel to the island and open its market wider to Taiwan's farm products.

The People's Daily, 13 May 2005

PFP chairman vows to strive for "three direct links"

Visiting Chairman James CY Soong of the People First Party (PFP) said in Beijing Thursday that his party would join efforts with the Kuomintang (KMT) Party of China, another major opposition party in Taiwan, to strive for "three direct links" between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland. In a meeting with the mainland press, Soong said that both PFP and KMT would exercise supervision and influence over Taiwan authorities and "care for" the issue of "three direct links", namely direct mail service, trade, air and shipping services, across the Taiwan Straits, which was the matter of the greatest concern for Taiwan people.

Taipei Times, 14 May 2005

No talks without sovereignty: Chen

President Chen Shui-bian said yesterday that he will hold talks with China only on condition that he can protect Taiwan's national sovereignty and the interests of the 23 million people of Taiwan. Chen, who made the remarks in an exclusive interview with Formosa TV, also questioned the meaning of a visit to China that might demand that the nation's leadership accept some conditions set by Beijing. "China did not make any concessions," he said. "[The formulation] would make Taiwan a special administrative region of China, a part of the People's Republic of China." Taiwan will negotiate with China if Beijing does not raise any conditions or premises, Chen said, noting, however, that China insists on its "one China" principle, while Taiwan firmly stands by peace, democracy and equality. Chen said China's "Anti-Secession" Law goes against the principles of peace, democracy and equality and has jeopardized the cross-strait status quo since its enactment in March.

People's Daily, 14 May 2005

China, US preparing to exchange presidents' visits

China and the United States are preparing to exchange presidents' visits within the year, according to a press release from China's Foreign Ministry issued Friday. The release said Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing discussed the issue with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on the phone Friday night. "They agreed to make good preparations for the two heads of state to visit each other within the year," the release said, adding that "efforts will be made to make sure the visits are successful." The two also discussed other issues of common concern, the release said.

People's Daily, 14 May 2005

Mainland-Taiwan undersea tunnel planned

An undersea expressway to Taiwan is among the idea of digging five tunnels to link islands and major coastal cities in 20-30 years time. Undersea railways would link Dalian, Northeast China's Liaoning Province with Yantai in East China's Shandong Province, and the Leizhou Peninsula south of Guangdong with the island province of Hainan. Road tunnels would link Shanghai with Ningbo in East China's Zhejiang Province, and Zhuhai in South China's Guangdong Province with Hong Kong and Macao. Another road tunnel would leave the mainland for Taiwan in East China's Fujian Province. "It is unlikely that construction of any of the five can start before 2010. But around 2020, some of them could be launched," Qian Qihu, a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, told China Daily on Friday.

China Daily, 14 May 2005

US re-imposes quotas on Chinese clothing

The Bush administration is re-imposing quotas on three categories of clothing imports from China, responding to complaints from domestic producers that a surge of Chinese imports was threatening thousands of U.S. jobs. The administration action will impose limits on the amount of cotton trousers, cotton knit shirts and underwear that China can ship to this country. American retailers say that will drive up prices for U.S. consumers. In announcing the decision Friday, US Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said a government investigation had found that a surge in shipments from China since global quotas were eliminated on Jan. 1 was disrupting the domestic market.

The People's Daily, 15 May 2005

China, Japan conclude first strategic talks

China and Japan agreed to maintain the dialogue process after concluding their first strategic talks in Beijing Friday, a press release from China's Foreign Ministry said Friday night. "The two sides agreed that the two-day dialogue was positive and helpful," the ministry said in the release, without giving any details. Chinese vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo and Japan's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Shotaro Yachi hosted the talks. On Saturday morning, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing met with Yachi, the ministry said.

International Herald Tribune, 16 May 2005

China assails U.S. textile quotas (Chris Buckley)

BEIJING China responded angrily on Sunday to the new limits that the United States placed on its clothing exports, and manufacturers here called for tit-for-tat restrictions. The reactions followed the announcement on Friday by the U.S. Department of Commerce that it would impose new quotas on Chinese-made garments. The U.S. quotas, which would limit increases in Chinese imports of the affected garments to 7.5 percent a year, were a "betrayal of the fundamental spirit of trade liberalization espoused by the WTO" and would "seriously damage the confidence of Chinese businesses and people in the international trade environment since China joined WTO," Chong Quan, a spokesman for the Commerce Ministry in China, said in response to Washington's decision, referring to the World Trade Organization.

The New York Times, 16 May 2005

Taiwan vote hard to read, analysts say (Keith Bradsher)

Elections in Taiwan for delegates to an obscure constitutional assembly drew such a low turnout that they provide little clues to how the general public on the island feels about a month of breakthroughs in relations with China, political analysts said Sunday. Only 23.4 percent of eligible voters cast ballots on Saturday, compared with a turnout of 57.6 percent in legislative elections last December and 82 percent in presidential elections in March 2004. The low turnout makes it very hard to use the vote to gauge public sentiment about visits to Beijing in the past three weeks by two opposition leaders: Lien Chan, the chairman of the Nationalist Party, and James Soong, the chairman of the smaller People First Party.

The People's Daily, 16 May 2005

Japan, China to meet over disputed East China Sea

Japan and China are set to hold talks later this month on a dispute over the exploration of gas fields in the East China Sea, according to Kyodo news agency. The report quoted Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura as saying that officials from the two countries would meet in Beijing on May 30 and 31. But Japanese foreign ministry officials said they could not immediately confirm the report. Both Japan and China claim the gas deposits, which they hope to use to power their huge economies. Japan has protested China's exploration of the gas fields, alleging the activities extend into Tokyo's exclusive economic zone. But Beijing has refused to halt them, saying its explorations are within its zone.

The People's Daily, 16 May 2005

NE China protests Japanese court for unfair ruling on 1932 massacre

All social strata from northeast China's Liaoning province protest a Japanese court's rejection on a damages suit filed by three Chinese survivors of the 1932 massacre, which is known as the Pingdingshan Tragedy. The Tokyo High Court on Friday upheld a lower court ruling, acknowledging that the tragedy caused by intruding Japanese army in Pingdingshan, a village in Fushun city of Liaoning province, indeed took place, but rejecting a damages suit by three survivors.

The Hindu, 17 May 2005

China, Pakistan for consensus on U.N. (B. Muralidhar Reddy)

ISLAMABAD: China is maintaining "close contact" with Pakistan and other friendly countries in a bid to develop consensus on the United Nations reforms. Pakistan's official news agency, Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), quoting a spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry Kong Quan said that China holds regular consultation with the Government of Pakistan on important issues of global interest. Pakistan is opposed to expansion of the U.N. Security Council on the ground that it would only lead to creation of more centres of privilege. Islamabad favours "comprehensive" U.N. reforms," the spokesman said.

The People's Daily, 17 May 2005

China demands broad consensus in UN reform

China proposed broad consensus be reached on the United Nations reform by deepening negotiations on controversial issues, said Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan in Beijing Monday. Tang warned the lack of consensus could hinder the reform of other issues as well as the preparation for the UN summit slated for September this year. Tang made the remarks while meeting with Ali Alatas, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's special envoy. Alatas, also former Indonesia's foreign minister, is here for a two-day visit to coordinate the views of Asian countries with respect to the Secretary General's report on the proposed UN reform.

The China Daily, 17 May 2005

Chiang: Momentum key to cross-Straits ties (Hu Meidong and Li Dapeng)

FUZHOU: The mainland and Taiwan should continue the trend of improving mutual relations after the visits of Kuomintang leader Lien Chan and People First Party Chairman James Soong, Chiang Hsiao-yen, the son of former Taiwan "president" Chiang Ching-kuo, told reporters yesterday. Chiang said Lien's and Soong's visits to the mainland were important to mainland-Taiwan relations. The large number of Taiwan business people expanding their businesses on the mainland in recent years is another reason the exchanges across the Taiwan Straits should be further strengthened, Chiang said. Chiang also said he hoped the direct flight, scheduled for the next Lunar New Year, would not be stopped. Further, he wished regular air and sea transport between Taiwan and the mainland could be restored soon.

International Herald Tribune, 18 May 2005

U.S. and EU turn up the heat on China (Graham Bowley and Paul Meller)

BRUSSELS Peter Mandelson, the European Union's trade commissioner, on Tuesday called for China to curb exports of two important textile products immediately, amid startling evidence that surging exports from the world's most powerful emerging economy are severely undermining the European textile industry. After months of treading softly on the issue, the EU has

taken a sharply tougher line that has important political overtones, coming shortly before the referendum on the EU's new constitutional treaty in France on May 29.

The Associated Press, 18 May 2005

Beijing says Taiwan issue is key to ties with Vatican

BEIJING China said Tuesday it was sincere in its efforts to establish formal relations with the Vatican after a 50-year break, but Beijing insisted the Holy See consider Taiwan a part of China. Both China and the Vatican have expressed interest in recent weeks in forming diplomatic relations. China forced its Roman Catholics to cut ties with the pope in 1951 and refuses to have any contact with governments that have official relations with Taiwan, which the mainland claims as part of its territory. The Vatican is the only European government that has official relations with Taiwan.

The China Daily, 18 May 2005

China opposes 4-nation resolution on UNSC

China on Tuesday said the draft resolution circulated by Germany, Japan, Brazil and India on the UN Security Council expansion will be "detrimental" to the process of UN reform. "To take such a move hastily will only intensify contradictions," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan, citing that great divergence remains among UN member countries. Germany, Japan, Brazil and India, known as the G4, on Monday circulated a draft resolution, proposing to give the four countries permanent seats in the Security Council along with two African countries. "There is still a very large gap between the positions of many countries and the core content of the draft resolution," Kong told a regular news conference. He said China hopes all relevant parties can start from the overall and long-term interests of the U.N. and its member countries, follow the stipulations and spirit of the U.N. Charter and carry out extensive and in-depth consultations, so as to push for a common consensus among all countries.

The People's Daily, 18 May 2005

Chinese vice premier Wu Yi to meet Japanese PM

Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi is expected to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Shoichi Nakagawa during her visit to Japan, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said at a routine news conference Tuesday. Wu arrived in Japan this afternoon for a seven-day working visit to the country. According to Kong, Wu is scheduled to attend a forum on urban development in Nagoya on May 18 and the opening ceremony of China Day held at the Aichi Expo 2005. She will also be present at celebrations to mark the 50th founding anniversary of a Japan-China trade center and give a speech at a seminar to be held by Japan Economic News.

The Hindu, 18 May 2005

China astonished at Indian reports of border violation

BEIJING: China on Tuesday expressed astonishment at Indian media reports alleging that its troops intruded into Indian territory last week, with a senior official expressing the hope that both Beijing and New Delhi could find a mutually acceptable solution to the boundary dispute based on the political guidelines reached last month. "I feel astonished at your question because of some mixed information. I don't think that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) will enter Indian territory," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told reporters. He was asked about a report, which appeared in the Internet edition of an Indian daily. The report said a Chinese Army patrol allegedly intruded deep into Indian territory and stayed there for close to 24 hours.

The China Daily, 19 May 2005

China slams US over textiles, denies yuan manipulation

China slammed the United States and European Union for "unfair" and "protectionist" actions to counter its booming textile exports while dismissing claims it manipulated its currency to gain an unfair trade advantage. Commerce Minister Bo Xilai blasted developed countries for arguing for global standards on free trade when they enjoyed absolute advantages but then placing restrictions when their interests were threatened.

The People's Daily, 19 May 2005

China to further help ethnic minorities with small population

A new five-year plan adopted Wednesday will help support ethnic minorities with small population, according to a Chinese cabinet meeting chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao. The State Council said poverty remains an "outstanding issue" for the 22 Chinese ethnic minorities with a population less than 100,000, despite the progress made since the China's reform and opening up in the late 1970s. To help them lead a better life, all relevant governments and departments must "give top priority" to alleviating the poverty of these ethnic minorities, the State Council said.

The International Herald Tribune, 19 May 2005

China cancels rights forum

BEIJING China has canceled an international conference on human rights, the rule of law and democracy just days before it was scheduled to convene in Beijing this week, disappointing scholars who had hoped the event would help spur political openness in the one-party state. The three-day conference had been scheduled to begin Thursday, but several participants said they were notified in the past two days that the event would not be held. No reason was cited, these participants said, and there was no word on whether the event would be rescheduled. Topics for the conference canceled this week included labor rights, village-level elections, constitutional law and the judicial system.

The People's Daily, 20 May 2005

China urges Japanese leaders to take "real actions" of remorse for the past

China Thursday urged that Japanese leaders should "put their words into real actions" to show their remorse for Japan's history of aggression. China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan cited the shrine visits by Japanese leaders as one of the most difficult issues in current China-Japan political relations, saying that the issue reflects what the Japanese government thinks about Japan's history of aggression against other Asian countries.

The China Daily, 20 May 2005

China criticizes new US textile quotas

China on Thursday criticized new U.S. quotas imposed to control surging imports of Chinese textiles and said it might respond by taking action through the World Trade Organization. China faces pressure from the United States, the European Union and other producers to restrain its textile exports, which have soared since a global quota system ended on January 1. The Commerce Ministry expressed "firm opposition and strong displeasure" to two sets of U.S. quotas, imposed in the past week following complaints that Chinese imports were hurting American companies.

Taipei Times, 20 May 2005

EU arms-sales ban will not be 'lifted'

The 25-nation EU is abandoning, for now, a plan to lift its 15-year-old embargo on weapons sales to China, a senior German legislator said. "It will not be lifted," said Volker Ruehe, chairman of the foreign affairs committee in the German parliament, on Wednesday. He said the reason was China's recent adoption of the "Anti-Secession" Law threatening military action against Taiwan. "It would send the wrong signal," said Ruehe, who was in Washington primarily to urge the Bush administration to endorse a proposal for permanent seats on the UN Security Council for Germany and five other countries.

International Herald Tribune, 21 May 2005

Beijing moves to avoid curb on textiles (David Barboza and Keith Bradsher)

BEIJING Hoping to ease growing trade frictions with the United States and Europe, China said Friday that it would raise tariffs sharply on many of its textile and apparel exports. The move comes as Beijing is under increasing international pressure to revalue its currency and to slow the surge of textile and apparel products into the United States and Europe that occurred in the first quarter of this year. Initial reaction was muted, with EU and U.S. officials saying they wanted to examine the details.

International Herald Tribune, 21 May 2005

China opening door to Taiwan

BEIJING China planned on Friday to lift a decades-old ban on mainland tourists visiting Taiwan, state media reported. The move that could further ease tension after visits to China by two of the island's opposition leaders. China has had tight restrictions on its people's visiting Taiwan since 1949 when the Nationalists under Chiang Kai-shek fled to the island at the end of the Chinese civil war. A limited number of mainlanders have been able to travel there on business. Ultimately, it is up to the Taiwan government under President Chen Shui-bian to decide if the floodgates are opened. Taiwan has its own tough rules restricting mainland visitors.

BBC News, 23 May 2005

EU wants talks on China textiles

The European Union may impose limits on Chinese textiles like T-shirts after a huge surge in imports. The move, agreed by the EU's textile committee, comes amid escalating anger in the EU and the United States over Chinese textiles flooding markets. The EU now wants to launch formal consultations with China under World Trade Organisation rules. China recently said it would raise export tariffs in 74 categories to address concerns of trading partners. Bilateral consultations about the dispute will be next on the agenda. On Tuesday evening, EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson will meet China's special textiles negotiator Gao Hucheng. Under World Trade Organisation rules, the EU could impose import limits within 15 days of the formal start of negotiations if China fails to curb its exports.

The People's Daily, 23 May 2005

Chinese vice PM calls for united efforts for Asian boom

Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Yi on Monday called on Asian nations to take on responsibility for achieving development and prosperity in the region by bringing forward targets and priorities. It is the historic time for Asia to attain peace and development, despite numerous challenges ahead, Wu Yi said at a lecture sponsored by the Nihon Keizai Shimbun Inc. To that end, Wu brought forward five proposals: first, building up the Asia awareness and reinforcing cooperation. Second, boosting political mutual trust and taking consideration of concerns of each other. Third, updating security concept to maintain peace and stability, which means replacing the Cold War thinking with fresh security views featuring mutual trust and benefit, equality and cooperation. Fourth, pushing forward with all-out cooperation spearheaded by the one in economy and trade. Fifth, tolerating diversity of civilizations.

The China Daily, 24 May 2005

China chides Japan leaders' remarks

China is extremely dissatisfied with remarks repeatedly made by Japanese leaders on visiting a controversial war shrine which do not help improve bilateral relations, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Kong Quan said Monday. "To our regret, during Vice Premier Wu Yi's stay in Japan, Japanese leaders repeatedly made remarks on visiting the Yasukuni shrine that go against the efforts to improve Sino-Japanese relations," Kong Quan said, "China is extremely unsatisfied with it."

The New York Times, 24 May 2005

Chinese Official Backs Out of a Meeting With Japan's Premier (James Brooke)

TOKYO, May 23 - A vice premier from China, Wu Yi, abruptly canceled a scheduled meeting on Monday with Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, flying home a few hours early "to handle important urgent official duties," according to a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman. In protocol-conscious Japan, the cancellation is being treated as a clear snub, in that Ms. Wu, who initially requested the meeting, ranks lower than Mr. Koizumi. Although Chinese officials did not give a reason, it seemed possible that Ms. Wu was told to return early to deal with a new outbreak of bird flu in the western province of Qinghai.

The China Daily, 25 May 2005

Pentagon report: China an emerging rival

A Pentagon report on China's military is to warn the United States that it should take more seriously the possibility that China might emerge as a strategic rival to the US, a senior US government official said. A Financial Times report said the Pentagon is preparing to release the report, which has generated controversy in the Bush administration because of earlier drafts that concerned National Security Council officials by painting what they saw as an overly antagonistic picture of China, according to two people with knowledge of the report. There were also concerns that the report could complicate US efforts to work with China to encourage North Korea to return to the negotiating table over its nuclear programme.

The New York Times, 25 May 2005

China Backs Uzbek, Splitting With U.S. on Crackdown (C. J. Chivers)

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan, May 24 - The government of China offered unequivocal support on Tuesday for President Islam A. Karimov of Uzbekistan, who is facing international criticism for the crackdown against a prison break and antigovernment rally in the northeastern city of Andijon earlier this month. With essential facts about the violence still in dispute, China made clear that it would stand beside the authoritarian government of Mr. Karimov, who was to begin a three-day visit with Chinese leaders on Wednesday.

The People's Daily, 25 May 2005

Chinese president meets ROK political party leader

Chinese President Hu Jintao said in Beijing Tuesday China is ready to work with the Republic of Korea (ROK) to promote the comprehensive and cooperative partnership. Hu told Park Geun-hye, chairwoman of the Grand National Party, that the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Chinese government attached importance to its relations with the ROK, and will increase exchanges and cooperation at the party-to-party and other levels for a stable growth of the comprehensive and cooperative partnership.

International Herald Tribune, 25 May 2005

China-Japan feud erupts in a rage (Joseph Kahn and Chris Buckley)

BEIJING China on Tuesday blamed possible visits to a war shrine by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan for a new flare-up in the two countries' relations, after a senior Chinese official abruptly cut short a fence-mending trip to Japan on Monday. China was "extremely dissatisfied" that, during an official weeklong visit to Japan by Deputy Prime Minister Wu Yi, Japanese political leaders had made suggestions about possible visits to the Yasukuni war shrine by Koizumi, Kong Quan, a spokesman for China's Foreign Ministry, said Tuesday. "Clearly, in these circumstances there wasn't the necessary atmosphere for a meeting between the two leaders," Kong told a media briefing in Beijing.

The People's Daily, 26 May 2005

Chinese chief of general staff meets Indian defense minister

Visiting Chinese Chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army Liang Guanglie on Wednesday held talks with Indian Defense Minister Pranab Mukherjee on the cooperation between the two armies. Liang said the cooperation between the armies of the two countries has been developed steadily which has brought concrete interest to the two peoples. The relationship between the defense departments and armies of the two countries has kept a good momentum. The two sides should make this good relations compatible to the cooperative partnership facing peace and prosperity between the two countries. Mukerjee said Liang's visit is another important high-level contact between the two countries after the official visit of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in April.

The China Daily, 26 May 2005

EU sets deadline on resolving textile dispute

The European Union on Wednesday set an end-of-May deadline for China to resolve a textile dispute through informal talks or face possible restrictive measures at the World Trade Organization. The EU head office decided to give its approval to continue informal talks with Chinese negotiators until May 31, noting progress in talks Tuesday, officials said. The EU claims its textile industry has been seriously hurt by the opening of its market to Chinese exports on Jan. 1, losing production and employment. The United States already has imposed limits on Chinese exports.

The People's Daily, 27 May 2005

China, India troops to train jointly

The armies of India and China plan to hold unprecedented joint counter-terrorism and peacekeeping training programmes, the Indian army chief said on Thursday. General Joginder Jaswant Singh said the plans had been discussed with visiting Chinese chief of general staff, General Liang Guanglie, who began a six-day tour on Monday. Military ties between the two Asian giants have vastly improved and their soldiers have gone on joint mountaineering expeditions, played volleyball matches, exchanged

gifts and shared meals on the frontier, Singh said. "The momentum given by the leaders of our two countries is being enhanced further by the two militaries," he told reporters, referring to the upswing in diplomatic ties between the world's two most populous countries.

The People's Daily, 27 May 2005

Talks only way to East China Sea row: FM spokesman

China and Japan should resort to dialogue to solve their problem on the disputed area of the East China Sea, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said Thursday in Beijing. The two countries are scheduled to hold a new round of talks on the disputed area in the near future, Kong said. The talks have become the center of attention as the Sino-Japanese relations sour because of Japanese leader's remarks on the visit to Yasukuni Shrine. Kong said at the ministry's regular news briefing that China does not want current differences to hamper the upcoming talks. He also criticized Japan for giving oil and gas exploration rights in the disputed area to Japanese companies.

The China Daily, 27 May 2005

Drive to help minorities out of poverty

The Chinese government has pledged to initiate another round of poverty alleviation reforms to help the country's 22 smallest ethnic groups out of poverty within five years. A total of 640 remote and underdeveloped ethnic villages will benefit from the campaign, according to a plan lately approved by the State Council, or the Chinese cabinet. "As the main battlefield of the upcoming poverty relief campaign, these villages will experience efforts from both the central and local governments," said the Plan on Supporting the Development of Less-Population Ethnic Groups (2005 to 2010), which is supposed to come into effect later this year.

The People's Daily, 28 May 2005

China opposes US defense bill for involving Taiwan issue

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said Friday that China "firmly opposes" a United States defense bill that contains provisions on Taiwan. "The China-concerned provisions in the US defense authorization bill for fiscal year 2006 severely violate the three Sino-US joint communiques and the one-China policy the US government has reiterated many times," said Kong. The US House of Representatives voted late Wednesday to approve a 491-billion-dollar defense authorization bill for the fiscal year 2006, which starts on Oct. 1. The bill contains provisions for high-level military educational exchanges between the United States and Taiwan. "We firmly oppose them and have made solemn representations to the US side," Kong said.

The People's Daily, 28 May 2005

China opens weapon production to private, foreign-funded businesses

China has granted permission to private enterprises and foreign-funded enterprises to participate in the development and production of weapons, according to a new policy issued Friday. The regulations on issuing licenses for the development and production of weapons, issued by the Commission of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense, classify weapon development and production into two categories. Business, in the first category, involves core technology and equipment, remains under tight state control. The second category, which involves sub-systems and special auxiliary products, is open to the society.

The People's Daily, 28 May 2005

China condemns Japanese politicians' remarks of absolving WWII war criminals from guilty

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said Friday that China condemns the rhetoric of two Japanese officials who claimed that the crimes of World War II Japanese war criminals have been absolved. "The Chinese government and people are indignant at their remarks and express strong condemnation," he said. Masahiro Morioka, parliamentary secretary for health, labor and welfare, and Kyuma Fumio, chairman of the Policy Research Council of Junichiro Koizumi's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, said Tuesday the Class-A war criminals are no longer regarded as criminals in Japan.

The China Daily, 28 May 2005

China tries to prod US to lift quotas

BEIJING - China said Friday that its own tariffs imposed in an effort to restrain surging exports won't apply to goods already affected by foreign controls, an apparent attempt to prod Washington to lift textile import quotas. China announced a sharp increase in export tariffs last week in an effort to avert a trade war with the United States and Europe, where imports of Chinese textiles have soared since a global quota system ended on Jan. 1. The announcement appeared to be an effort to persuade Washington to let China use its own measures to rein in the export surge.

The China Daily, 29 May 2005

EU safeguard measures strongly opposed

Ministry of Commerce spokesman Chong Quan yesterday stated the country's opposition to the European Commission's decision to launch safeguard measures on two categories of Chinese textiles. "This procedure has hurt Chinese textile manufacturers' rights granted by global trade integration and has sent a wrong signal of trade protectionism to the European textile industry," he said. Chong stressed that the Chinese Government expected to resolve the existing trade disputes through negotiation with the European side. The European Union (EU) put its argument to the World Trade Organization (WTO) last Friday and asked China to adopt new measures to control its exports of T-shirts and flax yarn to European countries. However, the step does not mean an end to negotiations, nor that the EU will take immediate action against Chinese textiles.

The China Daily, 29 May 2005

Japan off base at East China Sea gas issue

Officials of China National Offshore Oil Corp. on Saturday criticized Japan's claims as one-sided and unscientific in the dispute over the gas field in the East China Sea. The remarks came ahead of a two-day meeting on the issue that starts Monday in Beijing. "China has been extremely cautious in its exploration in disputed waters," Zhao Liguo, manager of the legal department in China National Offshore Oil, said in a speech at a symposium in Bunkyo Ward, Tokyo. The gas field straddles the two countries' economic exclusion zones, as defined by Tokyo. Tokyo maintains the boundary should be the median line between the two countries, while China says that its EEZ extends along its continental shelf, to areas near Okinawa Prefecture. The dispute centers on Japan's assertion that Chinese drilling would siphon off gas reserves from Japan's side.

The People's Daily, 29 May 2005

Mainland tourists may visit Taiwan soon

The "mainland committee" of the Taiwan Authorities recently said they will allow mainland tourists to visit the island province on an experimental base, according to Taiwan-based media. At first, a number of mainland cities will be selected as candidate areas whose residents will be allowed to make the visit in Taiwan. Fujian Province, neighboring Taiwan across the straits, is excluded from the candidate, for the time being, due to a "high escape rate" of its visitors. The committee plans to accept 1,000 mainland tourists a day. The two sides may begin talks on the issue within this year, an official with the committee said Friday.

International Herald Tribune, 30 May 2005

China lifts a curtain (Howard W. French)

SHANTOU, China Nothing but the faint sound of birds nesting on surrounding hilltops can be heard inside this new mountaintop site - part museum, part monument - that is the first public commemoration of one of the darkest chapters in China's recent past. Inside the circular pavilion that is the site's centerpiece, the walls are lined with gray tablets, each starkly engraved with images depicting the Cultural Revolution, China's decade-long descent into madness that began in the mid-1960s. It has taken 29 years for anyone in China to mount a public exhibit on the period of state-sponsored terror and turmoil that swept this country from 1966 to 1976. And it is telling that it has happened here, on the outskirts of this out-of-the-way city in the northeastern corner of Guangdong Province, far from the public eye.

The New York Times, 31 May 2005

China Says Hong Kong Journalist It Holds Is a Spy (Joseph Kahn)

BEIJING, Tuesday, May 31 - China on Tuesday accused a prominent reporter for a Singaporean newspaper of spying for foreign intelligence agencies, making its first official comment on the matter more than a month after the reporter was detained by security officials. "Ching admitted that in recent years he engaged in intelligence gathering activities on the mainland on instructions from foreign intelligence agencies and accepted huge amounts of spying fees," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "Currently, relevant departments are investigating his spying activities," the statement said. It did not offer any specifics about the charges or make clear on behalf of which country he was suspected of spying.

The Indian Express, 31 May 2005

Natwar heads for trilateral talks with Russia, China (Dadan Upadhyay)

MOSCOW, MAY 30: Indian Foreign Minister K. Natwar Singh will participate in trilateral talks with his Russian and Chinese counterparts Sergei Lavrov and Li Zhavoxin, respectively, in Russia's far east city of Vladivostok, on June 2. The talks between the three Foreign Ministers, hosted by Russia, in a 'standalone' format for the first time, are expected to focus on urgent international issues, regional security and stability, especially in the Asia-Pacific region; UN Security Council reforms; and cooperation between Russia, India and China in the power industry and trade, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alexeyev said.

Taipei Times, 31 May 2005

Chen calls on US to sign trade accord (Huang Tai-lin)

President Chen Shui-bian yesterday called on the US government to sign a free trade agreement (FTA) with Taiwan in order to safeguard Taiwan's economic security and maintain Asia-Pacific regional peace and stability amid China's attempts to edge Taiwan out of the economic ring. Chen made the remarks yesterday while receiving US Senator John Rockefeller, a West Virginia Democrat, at the Presidential Office.