

China Daily, 1 October 2004

Premier pledges national unity, further reforms

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao pledged to reunify the mainland with Taiwan, vowing to contain forces intent on independence for the island to ensure the sacred goal of national unity. In a speech to mark Friday's 55th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic, Wen said China would pursue its basic policy of peaceful reunification with Taiwan. "The sacred goal of complete national reunification must be achieved. It shall be achieved in the end," he said to long and loud applause. Beijing would "firmly oppose and contain the separatist forces in Taiwan and unswervingly safeguard China's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said in a speech to the top leadership and hundreds of guests.

China Daily, 1 October 2004

China displays new nuclear reactor

China showed off its first new generation of reactor on Beijing's northern outskirts Thursday in an effort to demonstrate not only its safety and reliability but its progress in overcoming its chronic energy shortage. The high-temperature gas-cooled reactor, designed at prestigious Tsinghua University in Beijing, was on display at a location near the Great Wall, roughly 40 km north of downtown Beijing. More than 60 atomic energy experts from over 30 countries watched the safety operation, in which the reactor successfully cooled down after the control stick was pulled out.

eTaiwan News, 1 October 2004

Direct links can be a first step in building trust, say scholars (Wang Chung-ming)

Both Taiwan and China should see the issue of cross-strait direct transportation links as the initial step to creating mutual trust between each other, ahead of the concerns for regional peace, local scholars suggested yesterday. Addressing a forum hosted by the Democratic Progressive Party's Department of Chinese Affairs, which examines ways Taiwan can establish a peace framework for cross-strait relations, Chao Chien-min, a Chinese affairs expert...observed that Beijing's stance on the three direct links seems to have eased recently. Jia Qinglin, Hu's assistant on Taiwan policy, reaffirmed Hu's statement as a guideline of China's Taiwan policy in the future. Chao said.

China Daily, 1 October 2004

China urges ASEM to adopt needed reforms (Hu Xiao)

China is maintaining that the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) should adopt reforms to bolster its effectiveness, Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang said. "We hope to talk about the institutionalization of ASEM and the renewal of its working mechanisms at the coming meeting," Shen said Thursday, one week before Premier Wen Jiabao's Viet Nam tour to attend the Fifth ASEM Summit October 8 to 9. ASEM 5 will mark its greatest enlargement since its foundation in 1996. It is expected to admit the three remaining ASEAN countries (Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar) and the 10 new EU member countries (Hungary, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta).

China Daily, 1 October 2004

Companies protest against US sanctions

Two Chinese companies, the China New Era Group and China Xinshidai Company, issued a statement on Thursday, protesting sanctions by the United States government. The US government imposed sanctions on Sept. 21, 2004 against China Xinshidai Company and China New Era Group, alleging that it spread WMD-capable missile technology to some country, which is "totally groundless", the statement said. The China Xinshidai Company is a state-owned enterprise legally registered and operated in China. "We reserve our right to resort to legal action when necessary" it said.

People's Daily, 1 October 2004

Common interests between China and the US isn't decreasing: Official

The common interests between China and the United States is not decreasing, but increasing; the importance of the Sino-US relations is not weakening, but rising; the prospect of Sino-US cooperation is not diminishing, but expanding, stresses Yang Jiechi, Chinese Ambassador to the United States at a National Day reception held by the Chinese Embassy Sept 28 in Washington. The two countries maintain good development this year; the high-level exchange between China and the US is frequent, and close negotiation and cooperation is maintained in important international and regional issues such as anti-terrorism.

People's Daily, 1 October 2004

Chinese FM reiterates China's firm opposition to arms sales to Taiwan

Visiting Chinese foreign minister Li Zhaoxing stressed Thursday in Washington that China is firmly opposed to the sales of weapons by any foreign country to Taiwan, which is a part of China. Addressing a joint press conference with US Secretary of State Colin Powell, Li said "the Chinese government and the people attach great importance to the reaffirmations made by the US... to the one-China policy..." "At the same time, I wish to point out that in any country its domestic law should not go above its international commitments," he said.

eTaiwan News, 2 October 2004

Taiwan will buy arms despite PRC, says Chen (Wang Chung-ming)

President Chen Shui-bian said yesterday that China's long-held stance of presenting Taiwan's efforts to work toward democratic development as steps toward independence has now hardened into an ideology which relies on information which is far from fact. Chen related that Taiwan's planned weapon purchase from the United States, participation in international

organizations and events, the issue of the national title abbreviation, and the upcoming revamping of the Constitution are absolutely not steps toward Taiwan independence. "We will not give up the weapon purchase plan just because China accuses Taiwan of seeking independence," Chen said.

People's Daily, 2 October 2004

Assistant FM on Wen's visit to Vietnam

Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang says Premier Wen Jiabao's visit to Vietnam will expand bilateral cooperation in many fields. During his visit from October 6 to 7, Wen Jiabao will exchange views with Vietnamese leaders on bilateral cooperation as well as regional and international issues of common concern. The two countries will also issue a joint communique and sign related documents on business and trade cooperation. Shen Guofang revealed that the two countries are sitting at the negotiation table in an effort to solve disputes on the South China Sea. Chinese Premier will also attend the fifth Asia-Europe Summit in Hanoi from October 8 to 9, with the theme centered on Asia-Europe Partnership.

People's Daily, 2 October 2004

Chinese leaders join National Day celebrations

1 October: Party and state leaders joined 200,000 local people to attend National Day celebrations held in five parks of Beijing Friday morning, to mark the 55th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC). At 9:00 am, Hu Jintao, Wu Bangguo, Wen Jiabao, Jia Qinglin, Zeng Qinghong, Huang Ju, Wu Guanzheng, Li Changchun and Luo Gan appeared in the Zhongshan Park, the Working People's Cultural Palace, the Beihai Park, the Temple of Heaven, and the China Museum of Ethnic Culture, where jubilant people were gathering.

eTaiwan News, 2 October 2004

Protests mar China nation day

Hong Kong's best-known activist protested yesterday against Beijing's Tiananmen Square "murderers" then used his new status as legislator-elect to carry his message about the 1989 crackdown right inside an official reception for China's National Day. "Long live democracy," Leung Kwok-hung shouted inside a civic center packed with Hong Kong and mainland dignitaries who were solemnly marking the 55th anniversary of the People's Republic of China. Decked out in a T-shirt and torn headband scrawled with political slogans, Leung wasn't able to get close enough to Hong Kong's leader, Tung Chee-hwa, or Beijing's top local representative, Gao Siren, to speak with them.

China Daily, 3 October 2004

India tightens security around Chinese embassy

The Indian government has stepped up security at the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi over fears that extremists linked to al-Qaeda could be looking for soft targets. Indian officials and diplomats say Pakistan is also taking steps to protect Chinese officials. The officials were commenting on a report in The Times of India that the Chinese government has for the first time, asked India to tighten security, not just around the Chinese Embassy in the city, but also around all its establishments in the country. According to The Times of India report, in its letter to New Delhi, Beijing voiced concerns over attacks by the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement activists.

China Daily, 3 October 2004

For peace, Indian troops mark China festival

In a historical move, an Indian Army team crossed the border to visit a Chinese town in Tibet to mark China's 55th national day. During the two-hour stay on October 1, the Indian soldiers were entertained by Chinese cultural troupes with songs and dances. Following some consultation, 50 Indian troops, some with their family members, travelled to the remote outpost on Southwest China's Himalayan border with Arunachal Pradesh state. On his return, the Indian officer leading the troops, Brigadier Vikram Raghavan told reporters: "We want to be friends and even the Chinese side shares such a strong feeling.

China Daily, 3 October 2004

Sino-Russian oil pipeline pending

Sino-Russian economic and trade relations are expected to drive into the fast lane in the near future, as the neighbouring nations try to enhance energy co-operation and improve the bilateral trade environment, suggest analysts. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao last Friday said the nations agreed to enhance co-operation on oil and gas issues, even though the Russian Government did not announce its final decision on the oil pipeline route. Wen said Russian leaders promised to select the pipeline's route, in the Far East, based on a feasibility study, and that they will consider running the pipeline into China, regardless of the route selected. The countries did agree, however, to increase oil trade by rail.

China Daily, 3 October 2004

China has no immediate plan to join G7

China, which for the first time joined a meeting of top officials from the Group of Seven countries this week, has no immediate plans to enter the rich nations' club, its finance minister said on Saturday. "We have no immediate plans to join the G7," Finance Minister Jin Renqing told a small group of Chinese reporters. "We are here to promote mutual understanding, our ability to participate in the world's economic affairs and our interests," he said, adding that China was interested in continuing the high-level dialogue. Jin added that Beijing attended the G7 gathering because of its rising economic power, a comment that appeared aimed at dispelling speculation China was invited only because Western powers wanted to lecture it on currency matters.

China Daily, 3 October 2004

Singapore issues stern warning to Taiwan

Singaporean Foreign Ministry has issued a statement warning Taiwan authorities must not belittle Singapore, and avoid using 'vulgar words' to hurt others. Taiwan's self-claimed "Foreign Minister" Mark Chen described the Southeast Asian city-state Singapore 'a tiny nation no bigger than dried nasal mucus'. It said that Singapore and many other countries continue to worry the independence-leaning policy and act pursued by the Taiwan authorities, which, if not corrected, will inevitably trigger a war with the Chinese mainland, and danger the stability and prosperity of the whole Asian-Pacific region. Singaporean Foreign Minister George Yeo criticized Taiwan during his address to the recent UN General Assembly, reiterating its strong disapproval of Taiwan authorities, which drew wrath from Mark Chen.

China Daily, 4 October 2004

Beijing calls on G7 to help poor countries

Washington: Chinese Minister of Finance Jin Renqing has called on the world's developed countries to step up their aid provision to poorer nations. In a written statement presented to the 70th meeting of the Joint Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Jin said developing countries need adequate financial support from developed countries to support their structural reform efforts, and that this is essential to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, a target set by the United Nations. Jin and Zhou attended a dinner with their G7 counterparts over the weekend, discussing topics including oil prices, the economic outlook and currency. "We have long said that we will represent not only ours, but other developing countries' interests," Zhou said.

People's Daily, 4 October 2004

CPC delegation leaves for three African countries

3 October: A delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC) headed by Zhang Dejiang, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and secretary of Guangdong provincial committee of the CPC left Guangzhou on October 2 for a goodwill visit to South Africa, Egypt and Algeria. The CPC delegation is invited by the African National Congress of South Africa, the National Democratic Party of Egypt and the government of Algeria.

eTaiwan News, 4 October 2004

Taiwan plans to test-fire cruise missile, paper reports

Taiwan is to test-fire a cruise missile which could hit the eastern Chinese city of Shanghai, it was reported yesterday, after Premier Yu Shyi-kun threatened to retaliate should China attack the island. The military-controlled Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology plans to test-fire before year-end the weaponry refitted from the indigenous "Hsiung Feng" anti-ship missile, Taipei's Apple Daily said. Mass production could begin in 2006, it said. With a range of 900 miles, the missile could hit the Chinese cities of Shanghai and Nanjing.

eTaiwan News, 4 October 2004

EU urged to keep arms sale embargo for China (William Foreman)

Taiwan is getting jittery about a new push within the European Union to lift a 15-year embargo on weapons sales to China - the communist giant that's been threatening to attack this tiny democratic island. The Taiwanese argue that dropping the ban would shake up the delicate military balance in Asia and increase the threat of war with Taiwan, a conflict that could drag in America and spark a Japanese military buildup.

People's Daily, 5 October 2004

Beijing to host Sino-French air show

Preparations are underway at Beijing Nanyuan Airport for the first Sino-French aerial stunt show on October 7. The Chinese parachuting team has already arrived and putting the final touches preparations. Technicians have already examined the four Y-5 airplanes to ensure their safety, and the Chinese parachutists are still completing drills ahead of the big day. The aerobatics show is being held up as yet another example of the strong friendship between China and France.

China Daily, 5 October 2004

Qinghai-Tibet glaciers shrinking

Arrival of a new Ice Age predicted in "The Day After Tomorrow" may no longer be fictitious, say global scientists as they uncover more and more evidence of a changing world environment. Such information was discovered recently in western China's Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, where age-old glaciers are shrinking at an unprecedentedly fast pace. A group of 20 scientists from China and the United States drew this conclusion after they jointly conducted a month-long expedition in the Himalayas and the Gangdise mountains in southern Tibet. China's chief glaciologist Yao Tandong said that in the past 40 years, Asian glaciers in areas at high latitudes centring on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau have been waning by an average of 7 per cent annually.

China Daily, 5 October 2004

Chirac expresses willingness to cooperate with China

French President Jacques Chirac said his country is willing to further strengthen cooperation with China, his spokesman told reporters on Monday. Chirac has expressed his belief that China's development is an opportunity for the economic growth and job increase in France, Jerome Bonnafont said. Bonnafont said Chirac is expected to kick off his Asian tour on Tuesday, when he will fly to Vietnam to pay a state visit and attend an Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit in Hanoi. On Friday, Chirac will

start a five-day state visit to China.

People's Daily, 5 October 2004

Hu Jintao congratulates Indonesia's new president

Chinese President Hu Jintao has sent a congratulatory message to Indonesia's newly elected president, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono. The Chinese president also said China will carry out all-round cooperation with Indonesia and advance their good-neighborly ties.

eTaiwan News, 5 October 2004

Chen pitches for closer ties with neighbor

President Chen Shui-bian said yesterday there is ample room for Taiwan and Japan to cooperate in forging a comprehensive Asian security mechanism or promoting Asia-Pacific economic development. Chen made the remarks while meeting with a group of Taiwan and Japanese scholars attending the 2004 Taiwan-Japan Forum on Asia-Pacific Regional Security Issues, which opened in Taipei a day earlier. During the meeting, Chen lamented that mainland China has consistently attempted to exclude Taiwan from regional security cooperative mechanisms and economic dialogue frameworks. As a matter of fact, Chen said, Taiwan's participation in those fields would contribute greatly to regional economic prosperity and peaceful dialogue.

eTaiwan News, 5 October 2004

Arms deal necessary to defend Taiwan, says defense ministry (Tajjing Wu)

The Ministry of National Defense presented a report to the Democratic Progressive Party's legislative caucus yesterday in a bid to accelerate the process of approving a special NT\$610.8 billion arms procurement budget. The special arms budget includes funding for eight diesel-electric submarines, twelve P-3C Orion submarine-hunting aircraft and six batteries of PAC-3 missile launchers including 388 Patriot missiles. According to Democratic Progressive Party Legislator Lee Wen-chung, the DPP legislative caucus is willing to pass this special military budget during this legislative session, and even before the year-end legislative elections.

Taipei Times, 6 October 2004

Washington says no need to rethink 'one China' policy (Melody Chen)

US government said it has no plans to alter its "one China" policy in response to senior presidential advisor Koo Kwang-ming's full-page advertisements in US and Taiwanese newspapers which urged the US to reconsider the policy. Koo's advertisement, entitled "US adherence to one China policy only benefits communist dictators: Let Taiwan speak out for a lasting peace," appeared in the Washington Post and the New York Times on Monday and in the Taipei Times yesterday.

China Daily, 6 October 2004

Country makes strides in space technology

China's focus on space exploration is leading to more ambitious projects backed by improved technology. On October 15, 2003, China surprised the world by sending its first astronaut Yang Liwei into space aboard the Shenzhou-V spacecraft atop a CZ-2F launch vehicle. The model of the carrier rocket CZ-2F and its launch pad recently erected in Tian'anmen Square in central Beijing has quickly become an attraction for local residents and tourists. Yang's flight made China only the third country to put a man in space, following the former Soviet Union and the United States.

China Daily, 6 October 2004

Sino-EU trade witnessing rapid growth

The European Union (EU) is set to become China's biggest investment and trading partner, according to figures released by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce and the nation's Customs. This prediction comes as the Sino-EU trade volume maintains a growth rate of over 30 per cent. Sino-EU trade hit US\$111.64 billion in the first eight months of this year, up 36.6 per cent year-on-year. The EU had invested in 1,522 projects in China from January to August this year with a contractual value of US\$4.46 billion, Ministry of Commerce figures indicate. The EU has introduced 1,393 items of technology into China in the first eight months with a contractual value of US\$3.65 billion.

China Daily, 6 October 2004

China hopes to host journalism conference (Jia Hepeng)

China will learn today whether it will hold its first international journalists' conference - the fifth World Conference of Science Journalists (WCSJ) - in 2006. The nation made its bid to host the gathering at the fourth WCSJ, currently taking place in Montreal, Canada. "China has the world's fastest developing science and technology and the one of the largest groups of science writers," said Zhao Zhongying, vice-president of the Chinese Society for Science and Technology Journalism. China is competing with Italy, Spain, Australia and Germany to hold the fifth WCSJ.

People's Daily, 6 October 2004

Chinese, DPRK leaders exchange greetings on anniversary of diplomatic ties

Leaders of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) exchanged congratulatory messages on Tuesday on the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

People's Daily, 6 October 2004

Chinese, East European leaders exchange greetings on anniversary of ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Wednesday exchanged congratulations with presidents of Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia to mark the 55th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations with the three countries.

People's Daily, 6 October 2004

Chinese, Norwegian leaders exchange greetings on anniversary of diplomatic ties

Chinese President Hu Jintao and Norwegian King Harald V exchanged greetings Tuesday to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

People's Daily, 6 October 2004

Commissioner's Office refutes US CECC's report on Hong Kong

The Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) said Tuesday that a US Congress' commission's HK related report is not true to the real situation in Hong Kong.

Taipei Times, 6 October 2004

US warns `repercussions' over arms budget failure (Lin Chieh-yu)

Advertising Washington yesterday warned there would be "repercussions" if Taiwan failed to approve a controversial NT\$618.8 (US\$18.2 billion) budget for defensive weaponry, officials said. In an interview with Taiwan's TVBS cable network, Richard Lawless, a deputy undersecretary at the US Defense Department, voiced concern about the special budget waiting for approval by the legislature.

China Daily, 7 October 2004

China's oil demand unlikely to decline

A surge in Chinese and Indian oil demand, which has helped push world prices to record highs, is not a passing phenomenon, analysts suggest. Government price adjustments have protected emerging Chinese consumers from the jump in international energy prices. China is also trying to rein in the economic overheating, and trying to avoid a hard landing that would hurt consumers and damage oil demand. JP Morgan has estimated China may have stocked as much as 285 million barrels of oil since early last year. Chinese officials have said work is going on to build the initial phase of a strategic oil stockpile, which could start to be filled within the next year.

China Daily, 7 October 2004

Wen extends neighbourly hand to Hanoi (Hu Qihua)

Hanoi: China will adhere to its neighbouring diplomacy of "building good-neighbourly relationships and partnerships" and will work with Asian countries to maintain regional stability and common prosperity, said Premier Wen Jiabao. Wen's statement was read out at the airport as he arrived in the capital city of Viet Nam, starting a two-day official visit. Wen will today meet his counterpart Phan Van Khai, President Tran Duc Luong, National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Van An and General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam Nong Duc Manh. In Hanoi, Wen will attend the Fifth ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting) Summit from Friday to Saturday.

China Daily, 7 October 2004

Country makes strides in space technology

China's focus on space exploration is leading to more ambitious projects backed by improved technology. On October 15, 2003, China surprised the world by sending its first astronaut Yang Liwei into space aboard the Shenzhou-V spacecraft atop a CZ-2F launch vehicle. To date, China has sent about 70 satellites, including those manufactured by foreign companies, into orbit. China is now focusing on more ambitious space programmes, including lunar probes and the establishment of space stations. Shortly after the successful manned flight last year, Zhang Qingwei, deputy general commander of China's manned spaceflight programme, announced plans to build a space laboratory and station in the next few decades.

China Daily, 7 October 2004

Hu hails ties with old friends

President Hu Jintao Wednesday exchanged congratulations with the presidents of Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia to mark 55 years of diplomatic relations. The two countries agreed to promote their relations to a partnership of co-operation, Hu said. In his message to Czech President Vaclav Klaus, Hu said Klaus' successful visit to China in April has boosted bilateral relations. In a message to Slovak President Ivan Gashparovic, Hu said better co-operation is the common wish of the two peoples and is in the interests of both countries.

People's Daily, 4 October 2004

Chirac hopes China visit to promote Sino-French partnership

French President Jacques Chirac has expressed the hope that his upcoming visit to China would further boost the Sino-French partnership so as to benefit the two peoples. "Our partnership is built on a shared view of the world, which is multipolar, respectful to international law and solidarity," said Chirac in a written interview on the eve of his visit beginning Friday. Chirac said the declaration signed during Chinese President Hu Jintao's visit to France last January showed "our common will to reinforce our political dialogue and build special ties in the fields of economy, industry and science and technology." He hailed

the all-around Sino-French strategic partnership initiated by him and China's former President Jiang Zemin in 1997.

eTaiwan News, 8 October 2004

Risk of conflict makes peace talks with China urgent, declares MAC (Wang Chung-ming)

PRC refusal to renounce use force against Taiwan seen overly aggressive. As the possibility of accidental cross-strait conflict cannot be ruled out, Taiwan and China should expedite negotiations on a peace framework in the interest of regional peace, Mainland Affairs Council Chairman Joseph Wu urged yesterday. Wu made the remarks at an Interior Affairs Committee meeting at the Legislative Yuan, yesterday. He reiterated President Chen Shui-bian's statement to a group of U.S. businessmen Wednesday that as long as Chen is president Taiwan would make no provocative moves toward China. ...Wu said, adding that "we believe the international community would not accept use of force by China against Taiwan."

China Daily, 8 October 2004

Hu, Bush discuss trade, Taiwan issue

China is willing to make concerted efforts with the United States and promote the Sino-US constructive and cooperative relations, said Chinese President Hu Jintao Thursday. Hu Jintao made the remark in a telephone conversation with US President George W. Bush. Bush said during the conversation that his country attaches great importance to US-China relations, reiterating that the US government would abide by one-China policy, observe the Three Communiques between the United States and China, and oppose any unilateral change to the straits status. The US stance on this issue will never change, Bush stressed. The two heads of state also exchanged views on other major issues of common concern.

China Daily, 8 October 2004

Wen urges Viet Nam to handle ties properly (Hu Qihua)

Wen told (Prime Minister Phan Van Khai) Khai that China highly valued friendly relations with Viet Nam, and urged both sides to properly deal with bilateral relations in the basic interests of both countries and peoples. The two leaders said that the enacting of the Beibu Bay Demarcation Agreement and the Beibu Bay Fishery Co-operation Agreement is a significant event in the two countries' relations, which creates conditions for building stability and peace in the Beibu Bay, and helps enhance their friendly and comprehensive ties.

China Daily, 8 October 2004

Beijing slams US report on human rights

China has slammed a US congressional report on human rights as interference in the internal affairs and urged Washington lawmakers to end their irresponsible remarks. The report issued in Washington, "ignores the facts and makes preposterous accusations on human rights, religion, Tibet, Hong Kong and other issues," foreign ministry spokesman Kong Quan said in a statement released late Wednesday. "We demand that the US side end its interference in China's internal affairs and take effective measure to eliminate the negative impact of the report."

China Daily, 8 October 2004

Annan: China plays important role in UN

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Wednesday that China, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, plays an important role in the world body. Annan said he would discuss with Chinese leaders issues like UN reform and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. He also wanted to express his thanks to China for its participation in UN peacekeeping operations. "And we will review other global development items on the UN agenda and discuss issues ranging from Iraq to Darfur (of Sudan)," he said.

People's Daily, 8 October 2004

Putin's visit to boost Sino-Russian ties: Russian official

The upcoming visit to China by Russian President Vladimir Putin will inject fresh fuel for the further development of the relations between Russia and China, said Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko at a press conference in Moscow on October 7. The spokesman said that Russia attaches great importance to developing relations with China. Russia hopes that the two sides, through the upcoming talks, realize fruitful achievement and reach a series of agreement on continuing the in-depth development of the bilateral relations.

Taipei Times, 8 October 2004

US accused of meddling in Taiwan's internal affairs (Caroline Hong)

A US defense official warning to Taiwan over the passage of a controversial arms bill was out of line, a local civic group charged yesterday, while criticizing the government for giving a weak and ineffective response to the incident. Calling the recent comments American "blackmail," the social group the Democratic Advancement Alliance held a press conference yesterday in response to Tuesday's comments by US Defense Department Deputy Undersecretary Richard Lawless that a failure to approve the controversial NT\$610.8 billion arms deal would send negative signals about Taiwan's attitude toward security and make Taiwan a burden on its allies.

Taipei Times, 8 October 2004

EU arms dealers gunning for Asia (Honigmann Hong)

The EU has agreed in principle to lift its embargo on the sale of arms to Libya, saying the ban should be lifted at the next

meeting of the union's foreign ministers, scheduled for Oct. 11 and Oct. 12 in Luxembourg. There is a wealth of evidence to suggest that the arms sales embargo on China is next in line to be lifted. If that really is the case, the arms procurement plan currently creating a great deal of debate in Taiwan may be expanded further.

China Daily, 9 October 2004

Two Chinese engineers kidnapped in Pakistan

Two Chinese engineers working at a hydro-electric power project in Pakistan have been kidnapped close to a tribal region where security forces have been hunting militants linked to al Qaeda, the Pakistani government said on Saturday. They were later rescued by security forces, according to latest information from the Chinese Embassy. "Yes, I confirm, two Chinese have been kidnapped, along with two Pakistani security personnel," Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told reporters, when asked about local news reports about the kidnapping in a region near the Afghan border.

Taipei Times, 9 October 2004

'Peace law' draft outlined (Caroline Hong)

PFP Chairman James Soong said the party would make its legislative proposal a focus of its candidates' campaigns for the December elections. The People First Party (PFP) announced yesterday that it will propose a draft law by the end of the month aimed at maintaining cross-strait peace. The only way to create prosperous and peaceful cross-strait relations is through cross-strait negotiations, Soong said, which is why the PFP would propose the law. "The law will be successful in promoting peace because it follows the spirit of [President] Chen Shui-bian's 2000 'Four noes and one without' proposal," Soong said.

China Daily, 9 October 2004

Chirac sees opportunity in China's surge

French President Jacques Chirac pledged to make France a natural trade partner for China and on Saturday and to sought to ease the fears over China's economic surge. Chirac arrived in Chengdu, capital of southwestern Sichuan province, on Friday evening, kicking off a five-day state visit in which trade and a 15-year-old arms embargo against China are likely to be high on the agenda. "To those people in Europe and France who ask about the consequences of (China's economic) rise ... I say that the development of China is an opportunity for our growth and our jobs. And France must take this opportunity," he said in a speech.

People's Daily, 9 October 2004

Chirac's visit sure to boost Sino-French strategic partnership, says Chinese vice president

French President Jacques Chirac's China visit is sure to boost Sino-French all-round strategic partnership, Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong said Saturday in Chengdu.

China Daily, 9 October 2004

Russia denies cutting oil exports to China

Russia has not frozen oil exports to China, but rather has increased it, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Alexander Yakovenko said at a press briefing in Moscow on Thursday. Yakovenko said without elaborating that Russia will "continue working with its Chinese partners" in oil exporting "on the basis of a joint plan for promoting bilateral energy cooperation," Itar-Tass reported. Yukos, Russia's sole direct supplier to the Chinese market, stopped all rail deliveries to the state-run China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC) late September, saying it was unable to pay transport fees and other export costs. But it said it would continue deliveries to another Chinese oil company, Sinopec.

eTaiwan News, 9 October 2004

Chen vows to satisfy all on National Day

President Chen Shui-bian reiterated yesterday that the speech he will give on Taiwan's National Day tomorrow will "make everyone satisfied." Chen said his National Day address will focus on national unity in Taiwan, peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, social stability and economic prosperity. The president also expressed his hope that the speech, which he said he has been constantly revising, will help build confidence among the people of Taiwan toward the country's future and reduce tensions and hostility across the Taiwan Strait so that relations between Taiwan and China can be "normalized."

Taipei Times, 9 October 2004

Unification gaffe brings US denial (Charles Snyder)

Agence France-Presse got it wrong in a story about a conversation between George W. Bush and the Chinese president, leading to denials that US policy has changed. The White House has denied President George W. Bush told Chinese President Hu Jintao that the US supports reunification of Taiwan with China, saying a report to that effect was a mistake on the part of the French news agency that reported the story. "The desk screwed it up," National Security Council spokesman Sean McCormack told the Taipei Times, referring to the editorial desk of Agence France-Presse (AFP). McCormack said AFP had later issued a correction deleting the reference to reunification.

China Daily, 10 October 2004

New law to govern defense-related patents

China published a newly-written statute on patents for defense-related technology Saturday, as part of the governments

commitment to step up protection of intellectual rights in this field. The new Statute on Defense Patents was jointly signed by Premier Wen Jiabao and Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China Jiang Zemin on Sept. 17. The new statute includes five articles and 36 clauses covering all issues involving the application, examination and approval of defense patents. One of the main differences in the new law is that special agencies will now be designated to help with the application for defense-related patents.

People's Daily, 10 October 2004

China lodges "solemn representations" to US on Taiwan issue

China has lodged "solemn representations" to the United States for allowing the Formosan Association of Public Affairs to host a seminar on Capitol Hill on Taiwan's constitution making, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said Saturday. Kong said in a press release that despite China's firm objections, the United States allowed a few Taiwan independence organizations to host the seminar on Taiwan constitutional reform and "allowed Lee Teng-hui, a chief 'Taiwan independence' separatist, to spread separatist remarks" on the occasion.

China Daily, 10 October 2004

Wen offers 4 proposals to deepen partnership

China is willing to actively join international efforts to guarantee energy resources and explore new sources. Premier Wen Jiabao made the remarks at the Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), which closed over the weekend as oil futures finished above US\$53 a barrel in New York. Saving energy, he said, is a top priority. In addition, Wen also put forward four proposals to further strengthen comprehensive Asia-Europe co-operation to contribute to world peace, development and progress. Three documents concerning political, economic and cultural co-operation were unanimously adopted by the leaders at the summit. The summit also informed that the sixth ASEM would be held in Helsinki, Finland, on September 14-15, 2006.

People's Daily, 10 October 2004

China's religious groups say US religious report distorts facts

Chinese religious organizations Saturday described a United States report on China's religious freedom as a "distortion of facts," saying that it meddled in China's internal affairs. Commenting on the annual report issued by the US State Department recently on international religious freedom, China's Taoist, Buddhist, Catholic, Christian and Muslim groups all referred to "the China part of the report" as the continued distortion of facts and slander of China's religious policies and situation of religious freedom, and interference in the country's internal affairs.

People's Daily, 10 October 2004

Relations with Mainland soured by Chen's inconsistent words: Paper

Commenting on Taiwan "President" Chen Shui-bian's announcement of an "important speech" scheduled on October 10, which will be "positive" and "constructive", Taiwan-based newspaper Central Daily pointed out Friday in an article that Chen's inconsistent words have created repeated suspicions and worn away the painstakingly built up thin trust and understanding across the Straits. Although the content of the speech still remains unknown, what worth attention is that... Is it based on long-term strategic thoughts...? The cross-Straits relations certainly have its complexity side, but compared with pinning hope on a certain person's speech, we'd rather, as said in an ad, "just do it!"

People's Daily, 11 October 2004

China, Australia to hold joint naval exercises

An Australian naval vessel arrived in Qingdao, a port city in east China's Shandong province, Sunday morning for a joint naval search-and-rescue exercise with the North China Sea Fleet of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy to be held on October 14. Chinese guided missile destroyer Harbin and the Australian frigate Anzac, led by Rowan Moffitt, chief of staff of Australian maritime headquarters, will be present in the drill. It is the first time for the two navies to conduct cooperation in the nontraditional security area. The Australian vessel, with a crew of 191 aboard, will stay in the port city for five days and hold a series of friendly, culture and sports activities.

People's Daily, 11 October 2004

Chinese, French leaders reach broad consensus

Visiting French President Jacques Chirac said Sunday in Beijing that he has had wide-range and in-depth talks and meetings with Chinese leaders and reached with them many important consensus. "The agreements will be fully implemented in the future cooperation between the two countries," said Chirac, who was paying his third visit to China as French president. After talks with President Hu Jintao and Vice President Zeng Qinghong, he met with China's top legislator Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen Jiabao in Beijing on Sunday. In meeting with Wen, both sides highlighted the fast-growing trade and economic ties between China and France.

People's Daily, 11 October 2004

China stands firm on exchange rate policy

China was resisting mounting pressure to revalue its currency or let it float because to do so would be irresponsible, a Hong Kong newspaper quoted Premier Wen Jiabao as saying Saturday. The Chinese yuan is effectively pegged at 8.28 to the U.S. dollar. The United States has publicly called on China to move more quickly toward a flexible currency regime, but the Chinese Government has made clear it will move at its own pace. China's currency reform goals were a stable currency and a flexible exchange rate which would reflect market supply and demand, Wen said.

People's Daily, 11 October 2004

China, France support Group-20 summit proposal in joint press communique

China and France both support convening a summit of the Group of Twenty nations, according to their joint press communique issued Sunday. The communique, issued when French President Jacques Chirac is paying a state visit to China, says that the two countries will jointly research issues including global economic governance, especially prior to the summit of the Group of Eight industrialized nations (G-8), sustainable development and dialogues with developing countries. The French side notices China's adherence to the five principles of peaceful coexistence, it says.

China Daily, 11 October 2004

Experts: Chen Shui-bian's call for talks is vague (Xing Zhigang)

Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian was accused Sunday of playing word games in his "national day" speech. Mainland researchers described his call for cross-Straits peace talks as "more symbolic than substantial." The researchers said Chen's peace overture was "too insincere and vague to be treated seriously by the mainland." At the "double-tenth" celebration ceremony to mark the founding of the "republic of China" in 1911, Chen said his government is willing to prepare for the resumption of cross-Straits negotiations on the basis of the 1992 meeting in Hong Kong. "If he continues to reject the consensus reached at the 1992 meeting as he did before, his proposal will be tantamount to nonsense and be of no use to help jump-start cross-Straits talks", (said Liu Guoshen, president of the Academy of Taiwan Research at Xiamen University).

China Daily, 11 October 2004

Hu, Chirac agree on Taiwan, arms embargo (Meng Yan)

When asked about the arms embargo on China, Chirac said it is "groundless and illogical." "I hope the embargo can be lifted in the coming months," he said. Chirac arrived in Beijing on Saturday to continue his five-day state visit to China. Before that he visited Chengdu, capital of Southwest China's Sichuan Province and met with Chinese Vice-President Zeng Qinghong there.

China Daily, 11 October 2004

Militants still hold Chinese hostages

Islamic militants are still holding two Chinese engineers they kidnapped in Pakistan and have threatened to kill them if attacked by security forces, a member of a team seeking the captives' release said on Sunday. The men are being held in South Waziristan, a tribal region bordering Afghanistan where security forces have been battling al Qaeda-linked militants since March, the source said. The source, who did not want to be identified, was part of a 21-member tribal committee led by local National Assembly member Maulana Mirajuddin who spent Sunday unsuccessfully negotiating for the release of the engineers, who were abducted early on Saturday. The Beijing government has urged Islamabad to do all it can to rescue the engineers and also called on it to increase security for their co-workers.

eTaiwan News, 11 October 2004

U.S. spokeswoman welcomes 'constructive message'

"We welcome the constructive message conveyed in President Chen's speech, which we believe offers some creative ideas for reducing tension and resuming the cross-strait dialogue," State Department spokeswoman Darla Jordan said. "We urge both Taiwan and the People's Republic of China to take this opportunity to engage in dialogue in order to resolve their differences peacefully. "We do not support Taiwan's independence and we oppose attempts by either side to unilaterally alter the status quo," she said.

eTaiwan News, 11 October 2004

China slams U.S. over arms sales, constitutional reform, says report

China has slammed the United States over its Taiwan policy in two strongly worded statements focusing on the sensitive issues of arms sales and constitutional reform on the island, state media said yesterday. Foreign ministry spokesman Kong Quan expressed China's "strong indignation" over a defense industry conference organized by the private U.S.-Taiwan Business Council in Arizona last week. "The United States persisted in holding this kind of conference with Taiwan, regardless of China's firm opposition," Kong said according to the Xinhua news agency. According to reports, U.S. Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Richard Lawless told the conference that Taiwan had to strengthen its defenses against a surprise invasion from China.

People's Daily, 12 October 2004

Pursuance of interests behind US "value care"

On October 6, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman sternly refuted the annual report of 2004 of the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China. He pointed out the report ignores the great achievements China has made in human rights and grossly interferes with other country's internal affairs in the name of human rights. Quite a little people have the innocent belief that they are doing us good even if it is considered as unworkable as to the way they deal with the problem. Behind the care exists profound pursuance of interests actually.

eTaiwan News, 12 October 2004

Beijing slams Chen's speech as 'insincere'

China's state-controlled media yesterday rejected the Taiwanese president's National Day call for peace talks with Beijing, saying it was "too insincere and vague to be treated seriously." In a speech Sunday marking the October 10 founding of the

Taiwan government, President Chen Shui-bian urged China to begin peace talks so the rivals can avoid war." Because we can't communicate, there's a lot of misunderstanding," Chen said.

China Daily, 12 October 2004

Annan applauds China's role in United Nations (Meng Yan & Jiang Zhuqing)

Visiting United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Monday that the UN would work with China to maintain world peace and security and promote co-operation and development. Annan made these remarks during talks with Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing. Li said the Chinese Government would continue to support the central role of the UN in international affairs. Annan and Li discussed the situation in Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan, reform of the United Nations and the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue as well as China's participation in UN peacekeeping missions. Annan is in Beijing on a five-day official visit, which started on Saturday. He will meet President Hu Jintao today.

China Daily, 12 October 2004

ASEAN sees trade potential with China

11 October: Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General Ong Keng Yong said on Monday that great potential and opportunities exist for a closer trade and investment relationship between ASEAN and China. Speaking at the Chinese business leaders summit, Ong stressed that China's rise should be seen as an economic opportunity rather than a threat. He praised China for helping to shape Asia's new economic structure, saying that, through its desire to have harmonious, peaceful and secure ties with ASEAN, China has set the ball rolling.

eTaiwan News, 12 October 2004

Cabinet hopes PRC will agree to charter talks (Dennis Engbarth)

Government, business leaders to meet soon to discuss detailed plan on cross-strait flights. The Cabinet issued an open invitation to Beijing to hold discussions in Taiwan, China or a third location on issues regarding opening direct charter flight cargo or passenger services across the Taiwan Strait yesterday. Premier Yu Shyi-kun personally convened an expanded special meeting of the Cabinet-level economic and financial policy subcommittee yesterday morning, including representatives of Taiwan's six major business groups and airlines, to discuss the proposal for discussions on such charter flights made by President Chen Shui-bian in his National Day Address Sunday.

People's Daily, 12 October 2004

Plan of Russian oil pipeline soon to be unveiled, Russian ambassador

Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit China from October 14 to 16. At a press conference held Sunday, Russian Ambassador to China Igor Rogachev said that Russia has decided to strengthen cooperation with China on large-scale projects to raise the level of economic coordination. He also revealed that the long brewing plan of Russia-China oil pipeline would be unveiled in a few months. Facing close questions from the press, Rogachev answered cleverly that why not wait for another few months for the final result since we have been waiting for ten years. According to agreements reached between high-ranking officials of the two militaries, Russia and China will conduct joint military drills next year, Sergei N. Goncharov, minister-counselor of the Russian Embassy in China, confirmed at the press conference.

People's Daily, 12 October 2004

China's human rights situation sees "positive trend", says EU

The European Union (EU) foreign ministers asserted on Monday in Luxembourg that the human rights situation in China has seen "positive trend". "From a long term perspective, a positive trend can be seen, with improvements in the rule of law and respect for economic rights and decline in the influence of the state on citizens' daily life," said a document on EU-China human right dialogue issued Monday by the ministers. "The EU will continue to raise human rights issues with China in bilateral and multilateral exchanges at all levels," said the document.

People's Daily, 13 October 2004

China committed to enhancing multi-lateral mechanism: Hu

Chinese President Hu Jintao said in Beijing on October 12 that China will, as always, commit itself to strengthening international multi-lateral mechanism with the United Nations at the core. At a meeting with visiting United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Hu said China will support the reform of the United Nations and an important role played by the United Nations and its secretary-general in international affairs. However, unstable and uncertain factors have increased remarkably. How to address the threats and challenges, safeguard world peace and promote common development constitute major tasks facing the international community, noted Hu. He said the United Nations, as the most authoritative inter-governmental organization with the widest representation, is an important stage for practicing multi-lateralism and strengthening international cooperation.

China Daily, 13 October 2004

China to lobby for 4th round six-party talks

Chinese ambassador on the Korean Peninsula affairs Ning Fukui will pay visits to the related countries for discussions on the fourth round of six-party nuclear talks, said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue in Beijing Tuesday at a regular press conference. Ning's visits are "a big step" toward resolving the DPRK nuclear issue through dialogue, said Zhang, adding China "has been keeping close contact with all relevant parties and done a great deal of persuasion and promotion work. "All relevant parties have reached consensus, fixed the goal of realizing a nuclear weapons-free peninsula and agreed to solve all

concerned problems through the mechanism of six-party talks," she said.

China Daily, 13 October 2004

US urged to abide by one-China principle

Following reaction by the US State Department to a speech by Taiwan's leader, China called on the United States to honour its commitment to the one-China policy. The foreign ministry again urged the United States yesterday to abide by the two countries' three joint communiques. "The United States should observe the one-China policy which has been reiterated by the US leaders," said foreign ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue, noting that the US side should honour its commitment to not support "Taiwan independence," stop arms sales to the island and cut official contacts and military ties with Taiwan to avoid sending the "wrong signal" to the Taiwan authorities. "Only by doing so can peace and stability across the Straits and the smooth development of Sino-US relations be maintained," Zhang said.

People's Daily, 13 October 2004

US plans to sell Taiwan harm missile

US Defense Department will sell Harm Missile to Taiwan, each of which costs nearly US\$ 300, 000. It is reported that when there is much discussion on US arms sales to Taiwan, Washington Times disclosed on October 8 that US Defense Department has recently notified Taiwan authorities of Washington's agreement to sell Harm Missile to Taiwan. As for another type of weapon-JDAM (Joint Directional Attacking Munition) demanded by Taiwan authorities, the matter remains to be decided. Though the Pentagon has consented to sell Harm Missile, the US defense official is worried whether the arms sales deal can be successfully made because they think there will still be many variables.

People's Daily, 13 October 2004

US textile industry calls for limits on imports from China

A coalition of US textile, apparel, fiber production and labor interests petitioned the Bush administration Tuesday for limits on imports from China. The ten threat-based safeguard petitions cover 15 of the 91 product categories on which US quotas will expire on January 1, 2005, it said. If CITA (Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements) approves a safeguard petition, the United States can limit Chinese exports in the safeguard categories to growth of only 7.5 percent above current levels next year. The limitations can be imposed for only one year at a time but US manufacturers can petition for them to be re-imposed for succeeding years through 2008, according to the coalition.

China Daily, 14 October 2004

One Chinese hostage in Pakistan killed, another freed

One of the Chinese engineers held hostage by militants in a Pakistani tribal region was killed and another was freed with injuries Thursday, Xinhua news agency quoted Chinese embassy sources as saying. The injured Chinese engineer is on the way to Islamabad, the capital for medical treatment, said Xinhua report. The raid was conducted on the midday at local time and the dead body is expected to be sent to Islamabad in the afternoon, Xinhua said. All five kidnappers, allegedly linked to al Qaeda, were killed in the operation, Pakistani Major-General Shaukat Sultan was quoted as saying.

China Daily, 14 October 2004

Chen's call for talks hides real intentions (Xing Zhigang)

13 October: Beijing firmly rejected Taiwan leader Chen Shui-bian's call for cross-Straits talks Wednesday, saying his intensified separatist activities have betrayed his peace overture. Zhang Mingqing, a spokesman for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, warned that Chen's obstinate pro-independence drive will bring the island catastrophe rather than stability and prosperity. He (Zhang) suggested that cross-Straits dialogue will not be resumed unless Taipei accepts an informal verbal agreement reached at the 1992 meeting that both sides of the Taiwan Straits adhere to the one-China principle.

China Daily, 14 October 2004

China ranks 46th of 104 economies - Report (Xu Binglan)

China ranks 46th out of 104 economies evaluated in the Geneva-based World Economic Forum's latest World Competitiveness Report, dropping two places from last year. A stable macroeconomic environment is China's main strength. But its deficiencies such as weak banks and low prevalence of advanced technology offset its advantages and gave the country its modest position, said Augusto Lopez-Claros, Chief Economist and Director of the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Programme.

China Daily, 14 October 2004

Sino-Russian trade heads for new highs (Yan Yang)

Increasing economic power and expanded trade co-operations will push bilateral trade between China and Russia to US\$20 billion this year, rising by nearly 30 per cent, analysts said. Li Gang, an expert from the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Co-operation, said the steady economic development in the two countries is the driving force for improved bilateral trade. Statistics from Chinese Customs show the trade volume between China and Russia jumped to US\$15.76 billion in 2003 from US\$5.72 billion in 1999 with an annual growth rate of 20 per cent. The number reached US\$12.87 billion in the first eight months of this year, up 35.4 per cent year-on-year, making China Russia's fourth biggest trade partner.

China Daily, 15 October 2004

China, Russia sign on borders, WTO entry (Meng Yan)

China and Russia completed the delimitation of their 4,300-kilometre-long borders Thursday, further consolidating their strategic partnership of co-operation. Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov Thursday signed the supplementary agreement on the eastern section of the boundary...following talks between President Hu Jintao and visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin. Together with the 1991 agreement on the eastern section of the border between China and the former Soviet Union and the 1994 agreement on the western section of the border between China and Russia, the newly signed agreement marked the clearance of dispute over the 4,300 kilometre border between the two countries. The statement dictates the newly signed agreement on border issues is a "balanced and reasonable" and "political win-win" solution, and should be "valued and fully affirmed"...a reliable guarantee for the long-term friendship and good-neighbourly co-operation between the peoples of the two countries, says the joint statement.

China Daily, 15 October 2004

Textile makers concerned at US petition

Chinese textile manufacturers said Thursday they are "highly concerned" by a petition posted by United States textile industry to limit Chinese textile products in the US market. The spokesman for the China National Textile Industry Council (CNTIC) said Thursday that Sino-US trade would be overshadowed and the entire Chinese textile industry and its normal export trade would be heavily affected if the US government approved the appeal. "What the US textile industry has done does not accord with the provisions of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the relevant commitments China had made," the CNTIC spokesman acknowledged.

People's Daily, 15 October 2004

'Taiwan independence' notice under the cover of 'peace': Commentary

On October 10, Chen Shuibian published his so-called "October 10 (double 10) speech". Flaunting "peace" and "good intention", he declared that "preparation be made for further talks" by the two sides of the Straits with the "1992 Hong Kong talks as the basis", to seek "eternal peace across the Taiwan Straits". But the "speech", with "one country on each side" as the keynote, confuses and negates the "92 Consensus", viciously attacks the Chinese mainland, incites hostility between the two sides, insists on arms purchase and deliberately creates antagonism between the two sides.

People's Daily, 16 October 2004

Russia-China regional cooperation to boost development of Euro-Asia continent: Putin

Russia-China regional cooperation will bring substantive benefits to both countries, Russian President said in Xi'an, on October 15. Visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin made the remarks while meeting with leaders of five northwest China provinces and autonomous regions. Putin said Russian local governments and businesses should take an active part in China's western region development, which will promote the development of Euro-Asia continent in various fields. Russia enjoys rich experience, advanced technology and quality personnel in oil and mineral exploration and delivery, said Putin, adding Russian machinery and equipment businesses should bid for China's big projects like Qinghai-Tibet Railway, hydropower stations in Sichuan and Yunnan, natural gas projects in western regions etc.

The New York Times, 16 October 2004

Siberia-China Pipeline Plan Remains in Talking Stage (Chris Buckley)

Beijing, 15 October: Russia and China failed to seal an agreement on the proposed Kovykta pipeline that would take gas from eastern Siberia to northern China. Instead, the two gas giants of the countries, Gazprom and China National Petroleum, signed a vague pact that left the pipeline's future uncertain. According to two Western energy executives close to the negotiations, officials at China National Petroleum were confident of Mr. Putin's approval, and President Hu Jintao of China raised the issue with him. Mr. Putin, however, remained coy, said the executives, speaking on condition of anonymity. "This shows that China can't have too high hopes for Russia to solve its energy needs," said He Jun, an analyst at the consultant group Anbound.

People's Daily, 16 October 2004

Retired army officers meritorious: President Hu

Chinese President and Chairman of the Central Military Commission Hu Jintao has exalted retired military officers as meritorious for the people and "valuable treasure" for the party, the nation and the Army. Hu...sent a letter to a teleconference held by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) to reward. Hu urged party committees and governments at all levels to give top priority retired army officers as part of the efforts to practice the "Important Thought of the "Three Represents." Xu Caihou, the newly-appointed CMC vice chairman and a member of the CPC Central Committee Secretariat, spoke at the meeting to call for greater efforts in taking care of the military retirees "under the new situation."

Taipei Times, 16 October 2004

China, India fight for African oil

Asian giants and economic rivals India and China are locked in battle to secure stakes in oil fields and blocks in the new energy haven of West Africa, officials and analysts here say."There is big, big competition going on between India and China for oil blocks in the region," says Narendra Taneja, an energy expert associated with the international oil and gas newspaper Upstream. Taneja points to a report in a recent Indian Express newspaper report bemoaning the fact that India had lost a lucrative deal in Angola early this month. According to Taneja, India's state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) had

almost closed with Shell, "but the Chinese evidently cut a deal with the Angolan government at the last minute," resulting in Sonangol exercising its pre-emption rights. This stymied Shell's move to sell its stake to ONGC, a deal that would have yielded about 5 million tonnes of crude oil daily for New Delhi from 2008 to 2009. An Indian official says the sale is "still open," but for Taneja it illustrates the intense Chinese-Indian competition.

China Daily, 17 October 2004

China marks anniversary of atomic bomb

Chinese scientists, army veterans and students Saturday marked the 40th anniversary of the explosion of the country's first atomic bomb. At a base in Malan, northwest China, where the government conducted nuclear experiments 40 years ago, Gen. Xu Ruichen, a retired army official of national defense, said that China's decision to develop atomic bomb was of great historical significance at the time when the county was in an adverse international environment. At Beijing-based Qinghua University, students were urged to learn from scientists who devoted themselves to the country's nuclear programs. Many of the Qinghua graduates participated in the country's first atomic bomb experiments. The Chinese government suspended its nuclear weapons program July 30, 1996.

China Daily, 17 October 2004

Powell to visit China next week

US Secretary of State Colin Powell will visit Japan, China and South Korea beginning from next week for talks on the nuclear issue of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the State Department said Saturday. Powell will hold discussions with senior officials in the three countries "on bilateral matters, regional security and stability, and issues such as the global war on terrorism, Iraq, North Korea and the six-party talks," the State Department said in a statement. Powell is to leave Washington for the three-nation tour on Friday, the statement said.

People's Daily, 17 October 2004

Vice president meets Walt Disney president

Chinese Vice President Zeng Qinghong met with Walt Disney President and Chief Operating Officer Robert A. Iger in the Great Hall of the People here Saturday. They discussed cultural and people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States in a friendly atmosphere.

People's Daily, 17 October 2004

Putin's Xi'an visit highlights Sino-Russia regional cooperation

Russian President Putin's China visit will inject "a new vitality" into the "continued, sound and stable" development of China-Russia strategic partnership of cooperation, said Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi in Xi'an Friday. Wu made the remarks while co-chairing a symposium with visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin on the expansion of China-Russia regional cooperation. With Russia's part in China's western region development discussed, this symposium shows the great importance China and Russia have attached to conducting pragmatic cooperation between the two countries, Wu said. This is Putin's third visit to China and also his first visit in his second presidential term.

eTaiwan News, 17 October 2004

U.S. still shows concern over local nuclear activity

There is growing concern about possible nuclear weapons' activity in Taiwan, a respected U.S. analyst said Friday, after a Taiwanese lawmaker asked in the Legislative Yuan if the government was conducting secret arms planning. David Albright, president of the Washington think tank Institute for Science and International Security, said that in U.S. circles "there is presently concern that Taiwan may be doing nuclear weapons planning now or thinking about it, particularly after the comment in the Taiwanese parliament." "He said that if Taiwan did something like that "its relationship with the United States would be threatened and then Taiwan would have no defense against China."

China Daily, 18 October 2004

US thwarts EU lifting arms ban on China

The United States warned the European Union (EU) against lifting the arms embargo on China, or the US's transfer of advanced national defense technologies to EU members will be affected. According to US defense official, if EU lifted its arm embargo against China, US will consider whether or not to continue the scientific and technological exchanges with EU, including the F-35 fighters being developed by US and eight EU members now. As for no consensus in EU right now, analyst believes that the unbanning is only a matter of time due to the inclination of EU leaders to establish strategic partnership with China and to balance US's stretch worldwide.

China Daily, 18 October 2004

Efforts underway to restart six-party talks (Guan Xiaofeng)

A flurry of diplomatic activities is taking place to restart the stalled talks on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. Kim Yong-nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), will pay an official visit to China today. Top Chinese leaders, including President Hu Jintao, top legislator Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen Jiabao, are scheduled to meet him and hold discussions on bilateral relations and other important topics of common concern. The Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is expected to be one of the most important. Kim Yong-nam's arrival will precede a visit by US Secretary of State Colin Powell to Japan, China and Republic of Korea (ROK), which begins on October 22. The DPRK nuclear issue and the six-party talks are expected to top the list of priorities of Powell's three-nation

tour after the fourth round of six-party talks mechanism stalled last month.

China Daily, 18 October 2004

Declassified papers cause academic stir (Wu Chong)

A window into the history of Sino-US relations has opened following the release of diplomatic documents. The archives, open for the first time to the Chinese public cover the period 1786 to 1944. Later this month Washington will release further declassified papers covering the years 1949 to 1976 - the most sensitive Cold War period. A senior official with the US Embassy Donald M. Bishop said the documents will enable Chinese scholars to gain a more complete picture of what happened. "Contemporary problems all have backgrounds. A better understanding of the history can help people make wiser decisions on today's questions," said Bishop with the embassy's press and cultural affairs office.

The Hindu, 18 October 2004

Tibet stands to gain more as part of China: Dalai Lama

New Delhi, 17 October: Seemingly reconciled to Tibet's status as a province of China, the Dalai Lama has said the region would get "a greater benefit" if it remained within the people's republic as long as its distinct culture was preserved. "Tibet is backward, it's a big land, quite rich in natural resources, but we completely lack the technology or expertise (to exploit them). So if we remain within China, we may get a greater benefit, provided it respects our culture and beautiful environment and gives us some kind of guarantee," he said in an interview to the Time magazine. "For us, (it would mean) more modernisation," he added. Conceding that China was in a "win-win" situation with regard to Tibet, he said "we're not suggesting separation, [but] that Tibet becomes more prosperous within China - and that it is also in the interests of the people of China to preserve our cultural heritage."

eTaiwan News, 18 October 2004

India, China bank on GM technology

Asian giants India and China are accelerating investment in biotechnology research to fight the odds in agriculture and feed their teeming millions, say scientists and officials. Scientists at a workshop in one of India's biggest gene research centers in Patancheru in southern Andhra Pradesh state said China and India accounted for more than half the developing world's expenditure on plant biotechnology. The shifts in China and India appear to be at odds with the widespread rejection of GM technology in many other countries, particularly in Europe. But critics including environmental group Greenpeace fear the environmental impact and worry GM foods may have long-term effects on health... biodiversity.

People's Daily, 19 October 2004

Pakistani president meets Chinese state councilor

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf met visiting Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan Monday in Islamabad. Tang conveyed President Hu Jintao's concern over the killing of the Chinese hostage in the recent past. Musharraf expressed his condolence...and pledged to beef up security measures... The two sides also vowed to strengthen bilateral relations and exchanged views on global and regional issues. Tang also met Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and Foreign Minister Khurshid Kasuri during his two-day official good-will visit to Pakistan which started Sunday. He left here later on Monday to continue his four-nation Asian tour, which will also take him to India, Malaysia and Thailand.

People's Daily, 19 October 2004

Chinese top legislator gives four-point proposal on Sino-DPRK relations

China's top legislator Wu Bangguo Monday put forward a four-point proposal to further the relationship between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The proposal includes: mutual respect and equality based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, maintaining high-level contacts for timely exchange of views on majors issues, promoting cooperation for the benefit of the two countries and peoples, and enhancing coordination in international and regional affairs to create a peaceful environmental. China is willing to work with the DPRK to further the friendly relations, Wu...said during talks with Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK. Wu welcomed Kim Yong Nam's visit, saying...The growing friendship has promoted the socialist cause in both countries, safeguarded their fundamental interests and contributed to regional peace and stability.

People's Daily, 19 October 2004

China launches first professional weather satellite

China launched its first professional meteorological satellite, Fengyun-2 batch 2 (FY2 O2), successfully with Long March carrier rocket 3A in Xichang satellite launching center at 9:20 am Tuesday.

People's Daily, 19 October 2004

Chinese paper calls for closer China-EU ties

China and the European Union (EU) should speed up their expansion of cooperation and communication channels, China's English-language newspaper China Daily said Tuesday. Since the late 1990s, China and the European Union (EU) have seen an accelerated development in ties. China's economic strength is rising and the EU has stepped up its moves towards integrating China with continuous adjustments to its China policy. The September 11 terrorist attacks in 2001 in the United States have brought the two influential players closer in the international community, thus injecting a new vitality into co-operation in various fields. Compared with other main international forces, China and EU members are free from troubling issues such as geopolitics and historical issues. The two share no fundamental conflicts on security or key national interests.

Xinhuanet, 20 October 2004

Track-laying completed on half of Qinghai-Tibet railway

Lhasa: Track-laying had been completed on 645 kilometers of the Qinghai-Tibet railway by October 18, accounting for 56 percent of the total length of the railway, sources with the railway construction headquarters announced on Tuesday. Construction on the 1,142-kilometer Qinghai-Tibet railway is moving steadily toward Damxung County in central Tibet, according to the railway construction headquarters based in Lhasa, the regional capital. The railway, the first to link Tibet with rest of China, is expected to reach Lhasa sometime next year and open to traffic in July 2007, Liu Xinke, ... under the Ministry of Railway, was quoted as saying by earlier reports. The Chinese government expects the project to boost Tibet's social and economic development, helping local residents improve their living standards. The railway entered into Tibet at Amdo County, some 440 kilometers from Lhasa in June this year. It ran into Nagqu, an important area in northern Tibet, in early October.

Xinhuanet, 20 October 2004

China may import nuclear reactors from US

Beijing: China may import the third generation of nuclear reactors AP-1000 from the United States to develop its new nuclear power plants for growing energy demand. China's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said China welcomed the US to cooperate on its nuclear plant projects but the purchase will depend on the actual needs of the Chinese enterprises, reported China Radio International. Nils Diaz, chairman of US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or NRC said the commission will soon vote on the export of AP-1000 reactor to China. Diaz also suggests US imposes no restriction on the export of this reactors and he is optimistic about the prospect of nuclear technology cooperation between the US and China.

Xinhuanet, 20 October 2004

Dalai Lama urged to stop splitting activities

Beijing: The Chinese government says only when the Dalai Lama publicly states that Tibet is part of China, will it have further talks with him. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue says the Chinese government insists that Dalai Lama should give up his position of "Tibet Independence". She says Dalai Lama should publicly state Tibet is an inalienable part of China, in the same way that Taiwan is an inalienable part of China. Zhang Qiyue says the Chinese government will not further talks with the Dalai Lama unless he makes this public statement.

eTaiwan News, 20 October 2004

Powell to prod PRC on talks with Taiwan

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell will prod Chinese leaders during a visit to Beijing to consider holding talks with Taiwan and allay concerns over U.S. arms sales to Taipei, the State Department said Monday. President Chen Shui-bian called for a dialogue with China in a national day speech earlier this month and it was angrily rejected by Beijing. China instead accused Chen of cheating public opinion and risking "great catastrophe" if he pushed for Taiwan independence. Powell was expected to tell Chinese leaders that the United States saw Chen's proposal "as an opportunity" and "we continue to encourage dialogue," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters ahead of Powell's October 25 visit as part of a North Asian tour covering South Korea and Japan as well.

People's Daily, 20 October 2004

President Hu applauds deep Sino-DPRK friendship

China is ready to strengthen the friendly, good-neighborly and cooperative relations with the Democratic People's Republic Korea (DPRK), Chinese President Hu Jintao said Tuesday. Hu made the remarks during a meeting with Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK, who arrived here Monday morning for an official goodwill visit to China. Both expressed the willingness to continue to work to rid the peninsula of nuclear weapons, seek peaceful solution to the issue through dialogues and maintain peace and stability of the peninsula. Hu said under the guidelines of carrying forward tradition, facing the future, being good neighbors and friends and strengthening cooperation, China will continue to step up exchanges and cooperation between the Communist Party of China and the Workers' Party of Korea, and between the two countries.

People's Daily, 20 October 2004

Ambassador Wang Yi on China's Japan policy

Chinese Ambassador to Japan Wang Yi held a press conference at the Japan Press Club on invitation Monday to elucidate the Chinese government's policy toward Japan and its principles and positions on questions such as history and Taiwan. Wang Yi stressed that the Chinese leadership and the Chinese government have always attached great importance to the China-Japan relations. In order to realize the healthy development of the China-Japan relations the both sides are hoped to "maintain one basis and advance three goals". The one basis is the political basis formed by three political documents such as the China-Japan Joint Statement, the core of which is Japan's expressing remorse for its war of invasion and sticking to the "One China" principle. Otherwise setbacks would emerge. More than 200 Japanese and foreign journalists and persons attended the meeting, reflecting the Japanese press' attention to the China-Japan relations.

People's Daily, 20 October 2004

China, Japan to hold talks on dispute over the East China Sea

China and Japan will hold talks next Monday in Beijing on the dispute over the East China Sea, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said Tuesday. Zhang revealed the news at a regular news briefing in Beijing, saying that Cui Tiankai, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Asian Affairs Department, will represent China, with Mitoji Yabunaka, head of

the Japanese Foreign Ministry's Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau, representing Japan. The two sides will exchange opinions on questions arising from the delimitation and exploration of natural resources in the East China Sea. There are disputes over the demarcation of the East China Sea, however, China is willing to look for an appropriate settlement through peaceful dialogue, Zhang added.

People's Daily, 20 October 2004

Economists: China's macro-control "successful"

A National Bureau of Statistics survey showed economists believe China's macro-economic control measures achieved further success as some overheated industries were effectively reined in the third quarter of this year. Fifty economists who answered questionnaires agreed that China's economic performance is "normalizing." Some 70 percent of them were "satisfied" with China's current economic situation, while another 22 percent said the economy was "sound."

People's Daily, 21 October 2004

Indian Prime Minister meets with Chinese State Councilor Tang

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh held talks with visiting Chinese State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan on Wednesday, and both spoke highly of the bilateral relations between China and India. Tang said...that China was ready to expand and deepen bilateral exchange and cooperation in various fields and to push forward the long-term and constructive and cooperative partnership relations to a new stage. Prime Minister Singh said friendly cooperation was conducive to both countries and was significant to the world's order. He also expressed his warm expectation of an early visit by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to India. During his three-day visit to India, Tang also met with Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh and National Security Advisor J.N. Dixit on the promotion of bilateral cooperation in all fields. Tang arrived here Monday night from Pakistan and left Wednesday night for Malaysia to continue his four-nation Asian tour.

eTaiwan News, 21 October 2004

Washington's vague messages may have helped cross-strait peace (George Gedda)

Only a very small number of places worldwide could degenerate into deadly warfare virtually overnight with serious international implications. One is the Taiwan Strait, across which China and Taiwan have eyed each other vigilantly for 55 years. And the Taiwan question, along with a lengthy list of other items, will be on the agenda of Secretary of State Colin Powell on Monday when he visits China as part of a three-nation tour of the region. There is growing uncertainty about where the China-Taiwan dispute is headed. President Chen Shui-bian...talks about a "sovereign" Taiwan and does not speak of..."one China," as do China and the United States. But would the United States really go to war over Taiwan? "The policy keeps both sides guessing and may have helped keep the peace. In the event of a conflict, U.S. involvement would be limited to air and naval forces.

People's Daily, 21 October 2004

Chinese market boosts world oil economy, experts

The Chinese market will play an important role in boosting the world petroleum economy, a senior official of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) said Wednesday. Speaking at the World Petroleum Congress (WPC) Youth Forum, Mohammad Alipour-Jeddi, head of the Petroleum Market Analysis Department of the OPEC, said rising international oil prices have drawn the world's attention to the limited supply of oil. While consumers want a stable supply, producers want a stable and promising market, he said. "And China could make such a market," he added. The globalization of the world economy starts from the globalization of the oil economy, and against the backdrop, the development of the Chinese market will no doubt create opportunities for the development of the world oil economy, said Zeng Xingqiu, chief geologist of Sinochem Corporation.

People's Daily, 21 October 2004

China strongly dissatisfied with Vietnam's oil-gas exploration bidding invitation

Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said in answering a reporter's question China is seriously concerned and strongly dissatisfied with PetroVietnam's unilaterally inviting public bidding on oil and gas exploration in some of the controversial waters of the South China Sea. Zhang Qiyue said as is known to all, China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and the adjacent waters. The above action by the Vietnamese side constitutes an infringement upon China's sovereign rights and maritime rights and interests...we hope that the Vietnamese side would correct its wrong conduct as soon as possible.

People's Daily, 21 October 2004

Putin's China visit leaves behind a chance for bilateral oil/gas cooperation

Although no concrete promise was made after his China visit, Putin did expressed his hope for Chinese enterprises to join Russia's oil/gas development, which is exactly what Chinese oil enterprises want. The agreement on strategic cooperation reached between China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC) and Russia's GASPROM, as well as China's pledge of huge investment in Russia, can be regarded as a substantial step forward. On October 14, CNPC and GASPROM signed an agreement on strategic cooperation. GASPROM, the world's largest natural gas producer and exporter, taps Russia's gas fields and condensate gas fields, and its output takes up over 95 percent of Russia's total.

People's Daily, 21 October 2004

French president meets with Chinese Defense Minister

French President Jacques Chirac received Wednesday Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan, wishing for development of dialogue and cooperation between Chinese and French Defense Ministries. Their meeting followed talks between Cao and French Defense Minister Michele Alliot-Marie on the eve over reinforcement of defense cooperation between the two countries. This meeting came 10 days after Chirac's state visit to China.

People's Daily, 21 October 2004

China urges peaceful use of outer space

Administrator of China National Space Administration, Sun Laiyan, told the UN General Assembly Wednesday that the objective of human exploration and development of outer space should be for its peaceful applications and for the benefit of people from all nations. "All countries should enjoy equal rights, and take an active part in exploration and peaceful uses of outer space," Sun told the 59th session of the UN assembly on the "Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space." "All activities in outer space should be conducive to international peace and security, and to human subsistence and development," he added.

People's Daily, 22 October 2004

Oil price hike has limited impact on Chinese economy, NBS

Soaring crude oil prices will have impact on both world and Chinese economies, but that on the latter seems quite limited presently, said Zheng Jingping, spokesman of the National Bureau of Statistics at a press conference held by the Information Office of the State Council on October 22. Crude oil is indeed a global concern, said Zheng, adding that in the first nine months of this year, China exported 4.3 million tons of crude oil valued at \$1 billion and imported 90 million tons with a value of \$23.6 billion. Estimates have shown that if the oil price is up \$10 a barrel and the hike lasts one year, China's consumer price index would grow 0.3 to 0.4 percentage points, he said. China imports a certain amount of oil, but it is also an oil producer, with an annual output of 170 million tons.

People's Daily, 22 October 2004

China, France to develop Linux platform

China's Ministry of Science and Technology and French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) plan to jointly develop software for Linux operating system. The two governmental departments will cooperate in developing a platform, based on Linux, able to be applied under various environments, such as personal computer, server and personal digital assistant. The system will support online service and communication application software. In the second quarter of 2004, China's market of platform software also witnessed a high growth rate, with an aggregate of 2.701 billion yuan, a year-on-year growth of 29.9 percent. In terms of the product mix.

Xinhuanet, 22 October 2004

Taiwan question key topic in Powell's China tour

China says the Taiwan question will be the key topic of the bilateral talks during US Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit to China. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue says the Taiwan question is the most important and sensitive issue in China and US relations. China urges the US to follow its pledge to stick to the "One China" policy...according to China Radio International. China calls on the US to stop all official relations with Taiwan and not to have any military contact with it, including weapons sales. She also says, as two major nations in the world and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, China and the US have many common topics to discuss and are both responsible for maintaining world peace.

Xinhuanet, 22 October 2004

China pours more money overseas

The Chinese mainland is not just a magnet for foreign direct investment (FDI), but is also increasingly a source of FDI. The China Outbound Investment Statistics Report, jointly issued by the Ministry of Commerce and the National Bureau of Statistics, gives an overview of the movement in the Chinese mainland. Following are excerpts from the report: The outbound FDI of Chinese mainland companies reached US\$2.85 billion last year, up 5.5 per cent year-on-year. The number brought the mainland's total overseas investment to US\$33.2 billion by the end of 2003. With its growing economic power increasingly driving it to target overseas markets for investment opportunities, the Chinese mainland is expected to become the world's fifth largest outward foreign direct investor this year, according to the UNCTAD 2004 forecast, displacing Japan.

People's Daily, 23 October 2004

Combating "East Turkistan" terrorism entails int'l cooperation: Chinese FM

"East Turkistan" terrorist forces pose a grave threat to security and stability in China and the whole region, and combating these forces is an important part of the international fight against terror, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said here Friday. Speaking at a meeting of foreign ministers at the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), Li said China expects to strengthen cooperation with other CICA member countries to combat "East Turkistan" insurgents. The fight against terrorism has a long way to go and entails strengthened international cooperation, Li added. Conventional and unconventional security threats, such as terrorism, separatism, extremism, regional conflict, arms and drug smuggling, still threaten peace in Asia, Li said. Li called on CICA members and other Asian countries to adopt a new security concept that is characterized by mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination and to abandon old concepts focussing on unilateral security.

People's Daily, 23 October 2004

Large Sino-foreign joint venture becomes user of cross-country gas

BASF-YPC Co., Ltd., has become a major user of natural gas supplied through China's cross-country natural gas transportation project, according to an agreement it signed with Petro China Co., Ltd., a leading oil and gas company listed in Shanghai, Hong Kong and New York. BASF-YPC is a 50-50 joint venture between BASF and China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec), established in 2000 with a total investment of more than 300 million US dollars. BASF, which is headquartered in Germany, is the largest foreign investor in China's chemical industry. It has so far set up 10 solely-owned companies and nine joint ventures in the country, with a total investment of about 600 million US dollars and more than 3,800 local employees.

eTaiwan News, 23 October 2004

Hong Kong prods PRC on timetable for democratic rule

A prominent pro-Beijing businessman recently appointed to Hong Kong's cabinet has urged China to release a timetable for introducing full democracy in the territory. A firm date from Beijing would end bitter political wrangling and uncertainty about Hong Kong's future because China has the final say over the city's political system, Executive Councillor Bernard Chan told local newspapers. "Of course I would say 2012 is the best because the sooner it comes the better. But it will be okay with me if you give me another date, but not something 30 years later," Chan was quoted as saying in *The Standard newspaper* yesterday. Political analysts believe it is the first time a Hong Kong cabinet member has publicly called on Beijing to set a timetable for full, direct elections in Hong Kong...

eTaiwan News, 23 October 2004

Taiwan shows off missile system to media for 1st time

Move seen as bid to push nation behind government plans to buy arms from U.S. Taiwan showed off its missile defense system to the media for the first time yesterday, but said it badly needed more advanced weaponry to counter a military threat from rival China. The defense ministry opened one of its three Patriot missile bases to reporters in a rare move apparently aimed at trying to win parliament's support for a controversial US\$18 billion special defense budget. "The missiles can be used to shoot down incoming enemy aircraft, ballistic and cruise missiles," General Ku Feng-tai, head of Taiwan's missile command, told reporters...it needed more advanced versions to match the increasing number of ballistic missile that China had targeted at the island. "The foremost threat from the Chinese communists is their some 600 ballistic missiles," said Admiral Chen Pang-chih, head of the political warfare bureau.

People's Daily, 24 October 2004

China needs energy-saving strategy

China continues to face an energy bottleneck in the second half of this year. Although the central authorities' cooling measures will hold back wild investment in some sectors and ease the energy situation, China still needs to tackle many problems and challenges in this sector. To resolve the current power shortages, many coal-fueled power generation projects have been launched, which will see the country's electricity generation capacity increase dramatically this year and next year. The big increase may risk outstretching coal production. Further rise in oil import prices will have an adverse impact on the Chinese economy. We should not be too optimistic about future coal production capacity. Active participation in global and regional energy co-operative organizations will help provide stable oil supply for the country.

People's Daily, 24 October 2004

Chinese top legislator to visit four African countries

Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), will pay an official good-will visit to Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Nigeria from Oct. 29 to Nov. 8. During the visit, Wu will meet with or hold talks with the four countries' presidents, vice presidents or speakers, and exchange views with them on bilateral relations, parliamentary exchanges and other issues of common concern. The visit aims to increase mutual understanding, enhance traditional friendship and expand mutually beneficial cooperation, sources with the NPC said Saturday.

People's Daily, 24 October 2004

China to launch first space solar telescope in 2008

China plans to launch the world's largest and most advanced space solar telescope (SST) into an orbit circling the earth in 2008, the state's leading astronomer said Friday. Via this telescope, said Ai Guoxiang, who heads the National Astronomical Observatories, Chinese scientists could engage in the study of...solar physical frontiers. The SST, with a caliber of one meter, will be carried into the 735-km-high earth synchronous orbit, Ai, also academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua. Experts estimate the total investment into the project at one billion yuan (around 120 million US dollars). They, however, say it worthy for improving technologies in remote sensing, global positioning and satellite data processing in China.

People's Daily, 24 October 2004

Chinese ambassador to Iraq arrives

Chinese new Ambassador to Iraq Yang Honglin arrives in Baghdad, capital of Iraq Oct. 22, 2004. Yang is the first Chinese ambassador to Iraq after the US-led war on Iraq was over in May 2003.

People's Daily, 24 October 2004

Communication between China's central authorities, HK legislators strengthened

Secretary for Constitutional Affairs of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), Stephen Lam, said here Saturday that "we will continue to promote communication between Central Authorities and Hong Kong legislators." After attending a youth summit on constitutional development Saturday, Lam said that "in the last few months, we have acted very positively to promote communication between the Central Authorities and various political parties and groups in Hong Kong." "...So, we would continue to act in this direction," Lam added.

People's Daily, 25 October 2004

Senior PLA officer leaves for US, Australia, New Zealand

Liang Guanglie, chief of general staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), left Beijing Sunday for official visit to the United States, Australia and New Zealand. Liang, also member of the Central Military Commission, was invited by the US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Richard Myers, Australian Chief Commander of the Defence Forces Peter Cosgrove, and New Zealand's Chief of the Defense Forces Bruce Ferguson. During his visit, Liang is expected to meet with government and military leaders of the three countries, and exchange views with them on international and regional security as well as other issues of common concern.

Xinhuanet, 25 October 2004

US opposes any action towards "Taiwan independence": Powell

US Secretary of State Colin Powell emphasized, during his China tour, that the United States will unswervingly pursue the one-China policy and oppose any action aiming at "Taiwan independence". Powell valued the positive role China has played in many crucial international issues including anti-terrorism and Darfur disputes. China's constructive role in anti-terrorism and Darfur issues has always been highly valued, he said. President Bush and the US Administration have placed great emphasis on the development of mutual benefit and cooperation, said Powell.

People's Daily, 25 October 2004

China is ready to meet challenges

The quota system that has controlled world textiles trade for over 40 years will come to an end in two more months to come. For a long time, the United States, Western Europe and other developed countries have instituted trade protectionism. In early March this year, textiles and garments industry organizations of the United States, Turkey and Mexico formed an alliance for fear that future world markets would be monopolized by China...But presently, cancellation of quota on January 1, 2005 has become a foregone conclusion. In late August this year, the report issued by the WTO economic research department points out that...China will not control the global textiles market...many developing countries can compare favorably with China in the aspect of labor cost, such as India, Pakistan, Turkey, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Poland. If the US government implements this procedure...the Chinese government to appeal to the disputes-settlement institution...The fundamental way out for coping with international trade protectionism is to vigorously transform the mode of growth and strive to optimize the export commodity mix.

People's Daily, 25 October 2004

US Secretary of State Colin Powell arrives in Beijing

US Secretary of State Colin Powell arrived here Sunday afternoon for a two-day visit to China. Colin Powell's visit to China is "very important" and can "advance Sino-US relations," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue earlier at a press conference. China expects "to have an extensive exchange of views" with the United States on Sino-US relations and other issues, such as the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and anti-terrorism, during Powell's visit, according to Zhang. ...in the interests of the two peoples and of vital importance for the maintenance of peace, stability and development in Asia and the world at large, she said.

People's Daily, 25 October 2004

China, Azerbaijan to boost bilateral ties

Azerbaijan President Geider Aliyev has met with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing to exchange views on bilateral ties and cooperation. Aliyev hailed the sound development of relationship between Azerbaijan and China and persistent mutual support to each other in international affairs and reiterated his country's adherence to one China policy, China Radio International reported Sunday. Aliyev also encouraged more Chinese companies to invest in his country and boost economic and trade cooperation between the two countries. On the same day, Li Zhaoxing also held separate talks with Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and Economic Development Minister Farhad Aliyev.

Xinhuanet, 26 October 2004

6 desert oilfields built in Xinjiang

Urumqi: China has built six oilfields in desert areas in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region with each having an annual output of 1 million tons. The oilfields are located at the Tarim Basin in northern Xinjiang and Junggar Basin in southern Xinjiang. An oilfield, named Hadexun, at the Tarim Basin turns out 1.5 million tons of crude oil a year, becoming the largest desert oilfield in China. The accumulated output of Lunnan, Tazhong and Cainan oilfields have surpassed 10 million tons. Operation of these oilfields raised the region's annual oil output from 7 million tons in 1990 to 21.41 million tons in 2003. Xinjiang is expected to replace northeast China as the new energy base of China. It will supply over one fifth of China's total oil by 2010, including an output of 35 million tons and an import of 10 million tons of crude oil from Kazakhstan.

People's Daily, 26 October 2004

China, US agree on six-party talks, Taiwan issue

China and the United States reached agreements on Monday that the six-party talks framework should be continued and one-China policy be followed ... Colin Powell made clear in Beijing the US stances on the two issues in meetings and talks with Chinese leaders. Chinese President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao met with Powell respectively, and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing held talks with him during Powell's stay in China. "What we agreed on today is the need for the six-party framework to continue," Powell told a press conference after his meeting with Hu. "We wish the US side would go further to adopt a flexible and practical attitude on the issue," said Li Zhaoxing in talks with Powell.

People's Daily, 26 October 2004

China expects \$1.1 trillion in trade volume this year, with a US\$10 billion surplus

Judging from the current trend, China expects a total trade volume reaching US\$1.1 trillion this year, a growth of 30 percent and with an estimated surplus near \$10 billion. The remark was made by Yi Xiaozhun, Assistant Minister of Commerce, at a working conference on the promotion of exports by enterprises run by private citizens held recently in Yiwu, Zhejiang Province ... some deep-rooted problems in trade development have not been fundamentally solved ... Yi stressed, and frictions on textile will become a prominent problem facing China's foreign trade next year. The extensive pattern of export growth is another factor affecting China's healthy trade development, and Chinese enterprises have suffered much due to the lack of independent intellectual property rights, especially those on core technologies. Besides, the country's competitiveness in export will also be weakened by soaring prices of energies and raw materials, as well as tight supply of coal, electricity and oil.

People's Daily, 26 October 2004

Premier Wen: China not to compromise on sovereignty, territorial integrity

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told visiting US Secretary of State Colin Powell in Beijing on October 25 that China will not compromise on issues concerning national sovereignty and territorial integrity. "China hopes the United States will keep its commitments, observe the three Sino-US joint communiqués and do more to promote the stability of the Taiwan Straits," Wen said. "Nobody in the world hopes to resolve the Taiwan issue peacefully more than we do," the premier said. "We will show the greatest sincerity and make the utmost efforts to seek a peaceful reunification, but absolutely will not allow the separation of Taiwan from the motherland." Wen added that China and the United States have made progress on cooperation in many fields, which benefits the peoples of the two countries and plays a positive role in safeguarding world peace and stability.

People's Daily, 26 October 2004

The 5th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition to kick off in Zhuhai

Exhibition have arrived at the Zhuhai Airport on Oct 24. The 5th China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition will be held in Zhuhai from Nov 1st to Nov 7th. A total of 32 countries and regions will take part in the Expo. Delegations from the UAE, Greece, Sweden, Finland, India, Iran will make their debut at the expo.

People's Daily, 26 October 2004

Senior Chinese military officer meets chief of staff of Lebanese army

A senior Chinese military officer said in Beijing Monday that the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) attaches great importance to developing relations with the Lebanese armed forces and is eager to promote bilateral exchange and cooperation in various fields. Xu Caihou, vice-chairman of the Chinese Central Military Commission, made the remark during a meeting with Ramzy Abou Hamzy, chief of staff of the Lebanese armed forces, and his party.

eTaiwan News, 26 October 2004

Indian official welcomes investors from Taiwan

Taiwan and India should expand trade and economic cooperation in a variety of fields, including the telecommunications and information technology (IT) industries, an Indian official said yesterday. Umesh Kumar, director of the commerce department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India, further said Taiwan businessmen investing overseas, known in Taiwan as "taishang," are welcome to invest in India. With a population of more than 1 billion, Kumar said, India is the world's second-largest market after mainland China. Moreover, India can serve as a springboard or a midpoint for taishang to tap into the European or Middle Eastern markets. Given these benefits, Kumar said, taishang should take immediate steps into India.

eTaiwan News, 26 October 2004

Taipower denies daily's report of missing nuclear fuel rods

State-run Taiwan Power Company (Taipower) denied yesterday a media report of missing nuclear fuel rods at its nuclear power plants, calling the story a far cry from the truth. According to a Taipower spokesman, no fuel rods at its three nuclear power plants are missing ... The spokesman ... stressed that the three nuclear power plants are constantly under strict scrutiny by the Taiwan and U. S. authorities and the International Atomic Energy Agency, although Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations. Uranium and plutonium are the main substances contained in a nuclear fuel rod, which is the source of nuclear energy in a reactor.

People's Daily, 27 October 2004

We don't support "Taiwan independence", Powell

There is only one China, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said, and this is still our firm policy. Taiwan is not an independent state, and therefore doesn't enjoy the sovereignty a state enjoys. "I reaffirm: we don't support 'Taiwan independence'". Powell

reportedly made the remark in an interview by Hong Kong-based Phoenix TV (25 October). Powell reiterated that the United States firmly supports the "One China" policy, and this is a clear-cut policy based on the US-China three joint communiqués. Talking about the US presidential election, Powell said that both George W. Bush and John Kerry understand the friendly ties with China.

Xinhuanet, 27 October 2004

Sino-Japanese talks on sea border advance: FM

Beijing: Talks between China and Japan over sea demarcation in the East China Sea on Monday were constructive, said China's Foreign Ministry. The talks in Beijing were meaningful and both sides showed sincerity and a constructive attitude, ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said Tuesday in Beijing. "We hold that a fair solution ...should be ... based on the United Nations (UN) Law of the Sea Convention," Zhang said. Japan has unilaterally demarcated a controversial exclusive economic zone along the median line. However, China holds the line is determined by the continental shelf on China's side ... However, the width of the East China Sea is less than 400 sea miles and the claims of the two sides overlapped and raised disputes.

People's Daily, 27 October 2004

US should not meddle in DPRK internal affairs

It is common that "asylum-seekers" from the DPRK have from time to time attempted to gain passage to the ROK via diplomatic compounds in China since 2002... US President George W. Bush signed a law last Monday to promote human rights in the country he branded as part of "an axis of evil," offering humanitarian aid to its citizens and refugees, and making them eligible for seeking asylum in the United States. The law, entitled "The North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004,"... Worse, the US bill on the North's human rights will make the already complicated issue of DPRK refugee more complicated.

People's Daily, 27 October 2004

US, China to reopen human rights dialogue, visa application to be simplified, Powell

26 October: US Secretary of State Colin Powell, who visited China on October 24 and 25, held a press conference in Beijing on Monday afternoon after meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao and other senior Chinese leaders. In less than 20 minutes Powell answered six questions concerning China-US relations, nuclear issue of the Korean Peninsula, human rights, Taiwan question and the US visa application. Powell expresses condolences on Chinese victims of terrorism. It is likely that the United States and China restart human rights dialogue in the near future... Powell hopes reopen of six-party talks as soon as possible. Powell reaffirms "One China" policy. Powell expects number of Chinese students in US to rise soon.

People's Daily, 27 October 2004

Chinese president to attend APEC leaders' meeting

Chinese President Hu Jintao will attend the informal economic leaders' meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), due to be held in Santiago, capital of Chile, between Nov. 20 and 21, said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue Tuesday. Hu will also visit some countries before and after the APEC meeting and the arrangement for these visits "are in the preparatory phase", said Zhang at regular press conference.

People's Daily, 27 October 2004

China joins Galileo program for civil purpose, FM spokeswoman

China joined the EU-sponsored Galileo program for civil navigation use instead of military purposes, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said Tuesday. Zhang made the remarks for refuting a recent Business Week's article that the program is for military purpose. According to Zhang, the Galileo program can expand and develop cooperation between China and the European Union in science and technology, trade and transport areas. China has always adopted an independent foreign policy of peace and the mutually beneficial cooperation between China and EU aims to promote common development and target no third party, she said. "We hope certain people to abandon the Cold War mentality," Zhang told a regular press conference. EU has signed cooperative agreements with Israel and China and carried out negotiations for cooperation with a number of other countries, including Russia, India, Brazil and Australia.

People's Daily, 27 October 2004

Plan to rebuild Silk Road in making

A new route could further strengthen ties and economic development in China, Central Asia and Europe. "We decided to help 're-weave' the Silk Road," said Wim Westerhuis, senior representative of the International Road Federation (IRF). According to Westerhuis, IRF envisages modern road links connecting the heart of China and the industrial centres of Western Europe. This ambitious plan has caught the attention of 12 countries including China, the Republic of Korea and some in Central Asia. Their ministers of communications started to discuss details of the plan during the Third International Silk Road Conference, being held from Tuesday to Thursday in Xi'an. The Xi'an Silk Road Conference also attracted financial organs, including the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and APEC and other international organizations.

eTaiwan News, 27 October 2004

India looks to expand relations with Taiwan

Chief economic advisers from two of the largest political parties in India have expressed the hope that Taiwan can pay more attention to the subcontinent ... Jairam Ramesh, a parliamentarian and chief economic adviser for the ruling Indian National Congress's Economic Committee, said that the economic reforms that started in India in the 1990s will remain unchanged despite the power transfer of political parties. Currently, foreigners in India are not allowed to invest in such sectors as the

petroleum, natural gas, railway, national defense, space and public health sectors. Two-way trade between Taiwan and India amounted to US\$1.2 billion last year. He said that India can provide Taiwan more resources ... areas of software, information technology, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and semiconductors ... tourism. He stressed that India is populous, and its population is expected to surpass that of China by 2030 or 2035.

People's Daily, 28 October 2004

Chinese, Pakistani legislatures to advance relationship

27 October: China's National People's Congress (NPC) will work with the National Assembly of Pakistan to push forward the relationship between the two countries, said Wu Bangguo, China's top legislator, Wednesday. Wu, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, told Chaudhry Amir Hussain, speaker of the Pakistani National Assembly, that the NPC and its Pakistani counterpart have maintained sound cooperation in the international parliamentary organizations, and the two sides should promote exchanges on law-making and supervision in the future. He said China and Pakistan are good neighbors, and ... friendship has been tested by time ... He said that the further promotion of Sino-Pakistani relations conforms to the fundamental interests of the two countries and peoples. "China is thankful for the support of Pakistan on the Taiwan, Tibet and human rights issues," he said.

People's Daily, 28 October 2004

Earth must resist US monopoly of space

According to the Business Week magazine, the US threatened to attack the Galileo network if it is used by alleged adversaries, such as terrorists. This is nothing but a US monopoly and sharply runs counter to the spirit of peaceful use of outer space and closer international space co-operation. It explicitly demonstrates, once again, the urgency for the rest of the world to have an independent satellite-based positioning and timing infrastructure to ruffle the dominance of the US amid mounting worries about its post-September 11 hegemony in the name of anti-terror. The intention to free the EU from its reliance on the US Global Positioning System (GPS) prompted the launch of Galileo ... is a political statement of European technological independence from the United States. The Pentagon should be fully mindful that the world will never accept "serfdom" in space by relying solely on US GPS.

People's Daily, 28 October 2004

Chinese legislature approves anti-terrorism agreement with Tajikistan

Chinese legislature Wednesday approved an agreement on fighting terrorism, separatism and extremism between China and Tajikistan, completing the document approval of bilateral agreements on the issue with four Central Asian Countries. Since last April, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) has approved the four agreements on fighting against terrorism, separatism and extremism, or "the three vices", between China and Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, respectively. China itself is a victim of terrorism. The "East Turkistan" terrorist group, which has plotted many attacks on Chinese diplomats, delegations and citizens, is one of the major threats to China in Central Asia, said Zhou Wenzhong, China's vice foreign minister when briefing the NPC Standing Committee deputies.

People's Daily, 28 October 2004

CPPCC chairman calls for sound, steady development of Sino-Japanese relations

27 October: Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, said he hoped people from both China and Japan will overcome difficulties to ensure sound and steady development of bilateral relations ... Jia made the remarks Wednesday at a meeting with Honorary President Gotoda Masaharu of the Japan-China Friendship Center. He said the Chinese government has always paid great attention to ... cooperation from a strategic height and long-term perspective. Gotoda said it is inevitable that ... have problems ... because they are neighbors. He said he is convinced that the current difficulties in bilateral relationship can be overcome.

People's Daily, 28 October 2004

China-DPRK friendly cooperation conducive to world peace: official

27 October: Lu Yongxiang, a senior Chinese leader, said Wednesday that the friendly cooperation between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) helps promote world peace. "Promoting China-DPRK friendly cooperation is significant in maintaining peace and stability in the Korean peninsula, the northeast Asia as well as the world," said Lu, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress. Lu made the remark in a meeting with a delegation ... Mun Jae Chol. The DPRK delegation was in China at the invitation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

People's Daily, 28 October 2004

Sino-British ties grow healthily: FM

During a meeting with British Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing says he hopes China and Britain can further push bilateral relations, China Radio International reported Wednesday. Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing hopes China and Britain can further push the healthy development of bilateral relations ... Li Zhaoxing said the two countries have decided to establish a comprehensive strategic partnership, which will bring Sino-British ties to a new high. Rammell reaffirms Britain's adherence to the one-China policy. The two ministers also exchanged views on UN reforms and the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula.

People's Daily, 28 October 2004

One-China policy key to talks with Taipei: Spokesman

Beijing Wednesday ruled out new talks with Taipei despite a call from US Secretary of State Colin Powell to reopen cross-Straits dialogue. Zhang Mingqing, spokesman with the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, said ... "What would we talk about if there was no (basis of the) one-China principle between both sides of the Taiwan Straits?" Zhang said at a regular news conference. "The mainland will never accept cross-Straits negotiations that are taken as state-to-state." The spokesman was responding to Powell's appeal for Beijing to respond to Chen's call for peace talks in his speech on October 10.

People's Daily, 28 October 2004

Powell seeks to score diplomatic points for Bush reelection: News analysis

27 October: At a key moment only a week away from the voting date of the US presidential election the US Secretary of State Powell made a "regular yet unusual" visit to Japan, China and ROK, which lasted from October 23 to 26. International opinion believes the sudden visit of the three Northeast Asian countries by Mr. Powell reflects the positions of China, Japan and the ROK in the US' diplomatic strategy. It is one of a few diplomatic efforts by the US government before the election, aimed at grasping the general direction of the US' Asia policy, advancing the US-China, US-Japan and US-ROK relations to a higher level after the US presidential election and gaining diplomatic points for Mr. Bush's reelection.

Xinhuanet, 28 October 2004

WTO to review China's trade policy every two years

Geneva, 27 October: The World Trade Organization (WTO) said Wednesday that China's trade policy will be reviewed every two years. "Trade policy reviews of the world's four largest traders are done in every two years, and China is now No. 4," a senior WTO official told reporters at the organization's headquarters. Trade policy review is a monitoring mechanism that the WTO uses to ensure transparency of its members' trade policies and practices. The WTO official disclosed that the first review of China's trade policy would be done in April 2006.

Xinhuanet, 28 October 2004

New oil resources found in Bohai Bay

Beijing: Kerr-McGee Corp., one of the world's biggest independent oil and gas exploration companies, announced Tuesday its eighth discovery in East China's Bohai Bay area, a "prolific oil basin" as the company describes. The discovery expanded Kerr-McGee's success in the Bohai Bay, where the company operated four blocks covering more than 688,00 hectares, said Dave Hager, senior vice president of oil and gas exploration and production. Kerr-McGee would submit an appraisal plan for the CFD 14-5 area to the Chinese Government, and the first appraisal well was expected to spud by the year end, the company said. "The Bohai Bay area continues to add value as a core exploration and production play for Kerr-McGee.

People's Daily, 29 October 2004

China-Japan oil race inevitable

The race for Russian pipeline and for oil in East China Sea, unveiled the "energy race" between China and Japan to the world. Analyst says the inevitability of the competition has long existed. Japan, an economic power poor in energy resources, has to depend on import for almost all energy resources: oil, coal and natural gas. Japan has been kept on edge by China's increasing oil demand in the past two years. China surpassed Japan to be the second oil importer in the world. Analyst points out the converging dependence on foreign supply, the same sources of oil and gas import, plus relativity in geopolitics and geoeconomics all inevitably lead to China-Japan competition in the international oil market, which will turn more fierce and cruel as China's four big oil companies go overseas.

People's Daily, 29 October 2004

Chinese leaders call for further development of IT industry

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Vice President Zeng Qinghong and Vice Premier Huang Ju called for more efforts to boost the country's information technology (IT) industry Wednesday evening while visiting an ongoing communications technology expo. "We should accelerate our pace of technology innovation, better our homegrown research and development ability and make painstaking efforts to tackle core technologies and enhance core competitiveness," said Wen. He said that the IT industry, as a basic, guiding and pillar industry of China's national economy, should play a significant role in China's modernization process and in building a well-off society. "We should both enhance cooperation with other countries and press our own advantages. "...We should also support elite Chinese companies to strive for shares of global markets," said Huang.

People's Daily, 29 October 2004

Chinese top legislator heads for four African countries

Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, left Beijing Friday morning for an official good-will visit to Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Nigeria. Wu's entourage includes his wife Zhang Ruizhen and other officials.

People's Daily, 29 October 2004

Beijing scholars: Powell's comment a sharp warning to Taiwan separatists

The US Secretary of State Mr. Powell made a rare comment in Beijing Monday that China's Taiwan is not a "sovereign state". The comment raised outside attention. Experts on the Taiwan question in Beijing believe Mr. Powell's comment has undoubtedly been the most well-meaning expression to Beijing since the Bush administration took office nearly four year ago. During the meeting he voluntarily explained to China the arms sales to Taiwan. "It indicates that the US government realized ... shows US' respect for China's core interest", said Chu Shulong, director of the Strategy Research Institute at Tsinghua

University ... (He) believes Mr. Powell's comment has no direct connection with the US election.

eTaiwan News, 29 October 2004

Official says U.S. clarification is 'helpful and positive' (Wang Chung-ming)

A Presidential Office spokesman yesterday applauded clarifications made by a United States State Department official on recent remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell. "This is consistent with President Chen Shui-bian's stance," James Huang, (Deputy Secretary-General to the President) added. "That the U.S. reaffirmed no change in its 'Six Assurances' to Taiwan has actually clarified Powell's earlier statement in which he said Taiwan as 'not an independent and sovereign nation,'" said Huang. However, Huang declined to say whether the government thinks Powell misspoke or was signaling a stronger policy.

People's Daily, 29 October 2004

China urges end of sanctions against Cuba

The 40-year-old sanctions imposed by the US against Cuba is illegal and inhuman, China's deputy representative to the UN Zhang Yishan told the UN General Assembly on Thursday. Addressing the assembly after voting for a resolution demanding an immediate end to the most unpopular sanction with 178 other countries Zhang said that the embargo and sanction have seriously "obstructed and constrained the Cuban people in their nation-building efforts to eradicate poverty, improve people's living standard, and promote economic and social development."

Xinhuanet, 29 October 2004

Defense minister back to Beijing from 4-nation visit

Beijing, 29 October: Chinese Minister of National Defense Cao Gangchuan returned Friday, concluding his official good-will visit to France, Belgium, Switzerland and Brazil. During his visit, Cao, also vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission and state councillor, had discussions with government or military leaders of the four countries. The leaders exchanged views and reached broad agreement on bilateral relations, the international situation and regional security. Cao also visited military units and colleges in the four countries.

People's Daily, 30 October 2004

Iran a natural partner for China in energy sector, says Iranian oil minister

Iran could be a natural partner for China particularly in energy, crude oil and natural gas sectors, visiting Iranian oil minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said in Beijing Friday. Zanganeh made the remark when addressing a seminar on Iran-China Opportunities in Energy Sector. According to statistics offered by the Iranian embassy in China, Iran's recoverable oil reserves now exceed 130 billion barrels and its natural gas reserves are assessed to be more than 28 trillion cubic meters. Iran, for its part, is prepared to invest in various parts of China's oil, gas and petrochemicals industries such as LNG-receiving terminals and related facilities, said Zanganeh.

People's Daily, 30 October 2004

Chinese president urges Pakistan to protect Chinese citizens

Chinese President Hu Jintao on Friday expressed the hope that Pakistan takes all necessary measures to beef up the protection of Chinese citizens there a ... In a meeting with Chaudhry Amir Hussain, speaker of the Pakistani National Assembly. Hussain thanked the Chinese engineers for their participation in Pakistan's economic construction, saying Pakistani would spare no effort and take every possible measure to guarantee the safety of Chinese citizens. The two countries reached consensus on developing bilateral relations in the new century during the China tour by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf last November, Hu said. "China-Pakistani friendship sets an example for countries with different social systems and cultural backgrounds," he said. Citing increasing mutually-beneficial cooperation in various fields, Hu said China values bilateral traditional friendship and persists in enhancing neighborly friendship between the two countries. Both the Pakistani ruling party and opposition party attach great importance to the friendship with China, said Hussain.

People's Daily, 30 October 2004

China says five-nation supervision group on disarmament contributes greatly to border security

The joint disarmament efforts made by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan have improved the security along China's 7,000-km-long border with the other four countries, a Chinese Foreign Ministry official said in Beijing Friday. The disarmament has also bolstered the relationship of the five nations and the development of regional cooperation, said Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Li Hui. Envoys from China, Russia, Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan-- the five members of a joint supervision group on disarmament - convened a meeting from Oct. 19 to 29 to commemorate the group's fifth anniversary. On Thursday, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo met delegates ... in Beijing to discuss military trust and the reduction of military forces in border areas, praising their work as "yielding fruitful results."

People's Daily, 30 October 2004

China's 'blue helmet' adds luster to world peace

...China has become increasingly active in its participation in and made ever-greater contribution to the UN peace-keeping action. Chinese permanent official to the UN told this reporter that China began participating in UN peace-keeping action in 1988 ... in April 1992, China formally organized the first "blue helmet" force to go to carry out tasks in Cambodia ... The Assistant Secretary-General said: We're very grateful ... China has rich human resources and very great economic strength, I hope China can send more peace-keeping forces and play still greater roles in the UN peace-keeping actions ... as China

grows stronger and become a world power, it is also devoted to elimination of regional conflicts and maintaining world stability ... China is playing an increasingly important role in international affairs, and this will exert major influence on the world in the 21st century.

People's Daily, 30 October 2004

5th China air show to open next week

Thirty-two countries and regions will participate the Fifth China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition, opening Nov. 1 in Zhuhai, a city in south China's Guangdong Province. Overseas aviation giants, such as Boeing and Airbus, are scheduled to attend the show. Organizers said aviation and space firms from the United States, France, Germany, Russia and Italy will take up more floor space than they used to. During the air show, five teams from Britain, France, Russia and China will demonstrate stunt flights. The China International Aviation and Aerospace Exhibition is a biennial event. The first was held in 1996, also in Zhuhai, one of China's five special economic zones.

People's Daily, 30 October 2004

China's steel export growth prompts hostile threat theory

According to China Iron and Steel Association (CISA) China's export of steel product and billet increased remarkably during the first 9 months compared with the same period last year. In particular, monthly aggregate export of steel products and billets for the first time exceeded import. These are figures that make western economic opinions nervous. Although only raw materials they have nevertheless been closely watched by the economic opinions in the west. The "theory of Chinese steel threat" is quietly raising head. "As a matter of fact China is far from being an 'external trade giant in iron and steel'. The expansion of its production capacity is to meet the strong demand of domestic industrialization. The international market has no reason to panic", said Luo Bingsheng rebuffing this kind of theory as purely speaking on hearsay evidence.

Xinhuanet, 30 October 2004

China-ASEAN FTA to help bring about Asia's economic integration (Zhang Yongxing)

SINGAPORE, Oct. 30: Singapore welcomes the establishment of China-ASEAN Free Trade Area (FTA), believing that it will help enhance economic cooperation and integration between ASEAN and China as well as Asia's economic integration, Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang told Xinhua lately in an exclusive interview. "The next big story for the world in the coming 10 years will really be the economic integration of Asia, and China-ASEAN Free Trade Area is a very important vehicle to bring about this economic integration," Lim said. Lim will lead a 120-member delegation to attend the first China-ASEAN Trade Fair, which is to be held in Nanning, capital of southwest China's Guangxi early next month.

The New York Times, 30 October 2004

Bush Agrees to Consider Textile Limits (ELIZABETH BECKER)

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29: On Friday, just days before the presidential election, the Bush administration agreed to consider a petition from a coalition of embattled textile manufacturers that would limit some imports from China. Last month, the manufacturers' coalition presented the petition to the administration, knowing that the deadline would fall just before voting in the tight presidential election. Members of the World Trade Organization agreed to the Jan. 1 deadline a decade ago but as the date nears, manufacturers in the United States and other textile-producing countries have been scrambling to protect their industries from competition from China. Analysts have predicted that China could capture as much as 70 percent of the American market over the next two years. Democratic lawmakers favor this approach and have pushed the administration to do more to help the people and communities left behind when their industries go bankrupt because of foreign competition.

People's Daily, 31 October 2004

Senior CPC leader calls for "advanced culture with advanced technologies"

China should make efforts to promote advanced culture with advanced technologies in the future, said a senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Friday evening when visiting a network culture expo. "We should encourage research and development of network-related cultural products featuring national, innovative and healthy contents so as to create a sound environment for the general public, youngsters in particular," he said. The strategy for the information industry should be integrated with that for the cultural industry, and the network industry should be guided to integrate with the content industry, he said.

People's Daily, 31 October 2004

China to launch Shenzhou VI

China will launch another manned spaceship next year, China Radio International reported Sunday. Two astronauts will take the Shenzhou VI spaceship for a five-day flight. China's first manned spaceship, the Shenzhou V, was launched in October last year with one Chinese astronaut aboard for a one-day flight. The astronaut on Shenzhou V did not enter the orbit module to use its life support facilities. The two Shenzhou VI astronauts will live in the orbit module during the flight and carry out scientific experiments.