

EAI U.S.-China Relations Statement Factsheet

January 2015:

Tunes from the Same Song Book; the New Year Brings Problems of Old

Patrick Thomsen
ASI Research Center

March 2015

January 2015: Tunes from the Same Song Book; the New Year Brings Problems of Old

TIME PERIOD: January 1 ~ January 31

MAIN ISSUES:1. **U.S. – China Bilateral Relations:** U.S. Concerned over Growing Global Chinese Influence

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 15, Foreign Policy Updates: 2015 Priorities ● January 20, Remarks by the President in State of the Union Address ● January 27, Daily Press Briefing ● January 29, Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the White House Press Briefing 	

2. **Economic Relations:** U.S. Continues Push for TPP; China Highlights Win-Win Cooperation

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 13, Remarks by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: Remarks to the Business Council for International Understanding ● January 15, Remarks by Assistant Secretary Charles H. Rivkin: Economic Diplomacy: How Business, Economic Ties and Trade Can Strengthen National Security ● January 21, Remarks by Ambassador Froman at the U.S. Conference of Mayors ● January 22, Remarks by Assistant Secretary Nisha Desai Bishwal: The New Silk Road Post-2014: Challenges and Opportunities ● January 29, Remarks by Assistant Secretary Charles H. Rivkin: Remarks at SelectUSA Summit Briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 21, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference

3. **Military and Security Relations:** U.S. Reaches out to Asian Allies, Wants to Build Better Cooperation with China; Chinese Focus Squarely on Terrorism, Continually Deny Involvement in Cyber Attacks

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 6, Interview with Secretary of State Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf ● January 13, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue Ministerial ● January 14, Media Availability with Secretary Hagel at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri ● January 15, Remarks by Secretary Hagel at a Troop Event, Fort Bliss, Texas ● January 22 Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Joint Press Availability with UK Foreign Secretary Hammond and Iraqi Prime Minister Abadi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 8, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● January 15, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● January 19, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● January 21, Special Address by H.E. Li Keqiang: Uphold Peace and Stability, Advance Structural Reform and Generate New Momentum for Development ● January 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● January 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 30, Department of Defense Press Briefing by Rear Adm. Kirby in the Pentagon Briefing Room ● January 31, Press Availability with Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks With Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird and Mexican Foreign Secretary Jose Antonio Meade 	
--	--

4. **Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues:** U.S. Talks Press Freedom, Human Trafficking and Human Rights Violations in China, Saudi Arabia, North Korea and Syria; China Still Concerned over Ebola, both Condemn the Events in France as an Attack on Freedom

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 7, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks on the Terrorist Attack in Paris ● January 8, Daily Press Briefing ● January 8, Statement on the Sentence of Saudi Human Rights Activist Raif Badawi ● January 14, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks With UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura After Their Meeting ● January 15, Foreign Policy Updates: 2015 Priorities ● January 20, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Journalists Security Conference ● January 20, Remarks by Ambassador David Pressman: Remarks at a United Nations General Assembly Session on Ebola ● January 21, Remarks by Assistant Secretary Anne C. Richard: U.S. Policies on Refugees and Migration Movements ● January 21, Remarks by Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues Robert R. King: Exchange of Views on the Human Rights Situation in North Korea ● January 29, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the White House Forum on Combatting Human Trafficking in Supply Chains ● January 30, Remarks by Ambassador David Pressman: Remarks at a Security Council Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● January 20, Statement by Ambassador Wang Min at the Informal Meeting on the Ebola Outbreak at the 69th Session of the General Assembly ● January 21, Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce

5. **Climate Change and Environmental Issues:** U.S. and China Reiterate their Commitment to Combating Climate Change

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 11, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Vibrant Gujarat Opening Ceremony ● January 11, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at Vibrant Gujarat Conclave ● January 16, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: NOAA Climate Study 2014 Reveals Hottest Year on Record 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 22, Premier Li Keqiang Holds Dialogue with Representatives of International Business Council of World Economic Forum



6. **Asia Pacific Issues:** Japan and Myanmar Get Special Mention from Both the U.S. and China as U.S. Engagement in the Region Continues; China Claims It is Willing to Engage in Dialogue to Deal with South China Sea Disputes in Promotion of Good ASEAN Relations

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 2, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: Myanmar's Independence Day ● January 5, Daily Press Briefing ● January 6, Daily Press Briefing ● January 11, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Vibrant Gujarat Opening Ceremony ● January 15, Daily Press Briefing ● January 19, Remarks by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: Remarks at the Mangrove Forum of the Philippine Foreign Service Institute ● January 21, U.S.-Philippines Bilateral Security Dialogue Press Conference ● January 30, Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the White House Press Briefing ● January 30, Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the White House Press Briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● January 22, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● January 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● January 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● January 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● January 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● January 30, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference

7. **Korean Peninsula:** North Korea Nuclear Issue Continues to be the Dominant Focus; U.S. Concerned over the Application of South Korea's National Security Laws Limiting Freedom of Expression; China Sends Birthday Greetings to Kim Jong-un, Talks Peace

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 6, Daily Press Briefing ● January 7, Daily Press Briefing ● January 9, Daily Press Briefing ● January 12, Daily Press Briefing ● January 13, Testimony by Special Representative for North Korean Policy Sung Kim: The North Korean Threat: Nuclear, Missiles and Cyber ● January 15, Foreign Policy Updates: 2015 Priorities ● January 15, Foreign Policy Updates: 2015 Priorities ● January 15, Daily Press Briefing ● January 28, Remarks by Special Representative for North Korean Policy Sung Kim at Iikura House, Tokyo ● January 30, Remarks by Special Representative for North Korean Policy Sung Kim to Reporters at the Westin Chaoyang Hotel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● January 6, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● January 9, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● January 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● January 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● January 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● January 30, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference

8. **Middle East and Africa Issues:** U.S. Focus on ISIL Continues, Concerns over Syria, Boko Haram and Swift to Shutdown Palestinian Attempts at Joining International Treaties; China Focuses on Peace and Building Stronger Relations with Africa



United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 8, Daily Press Briefing: Regarding Palestinian Efforts to Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court ● January 12, Remarks by Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at the University of Louisville McConnell Center ● January 15, Remarks by Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas O. Melia: Examining the Crisis in Syria: What Can Be Done? ● January 15, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks With Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov After Their Meeting ● January 16, Press Statement by Jeff Rathke: Statement on ICC Prosecutor's Decision ● January 23, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the World Economic Forum ● January 23, Joint Statement on South Sudan Peace Negotiations ● January 24, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: ISIL Murder of Japanese Hostage Haruna Yukawa ● January 26, Assistant Secretary Linda Thomas-Greenfield Travels to the African Union Summit and Ethiopia ● January 27, Testimony by Antony J. Blinken: Perspectives on the Strategic Necessity of Iran Sanctions ● January 30, Media Note: Joint Statement on the U.S.-Angola Strategic Partnership Dialogue ● January 31, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: ISIL Murder of Japanese Journalist Kenji Goto 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 11, Records of Foreign Minister Wang Yi's Interview with CCTV Africa ● January 11, Records of Foreign Minister Wang Yi's Interview with CCTV Africa ● January 11, Records of Foreign Minister Wang Yi's Interview with CCTV Africa ● January 16, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● January 28, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference

9. **Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes:** Flag Raising Ceremony at Taiwan's U.S. Office Draws Chinese Concern; U.S. Protest at Chinese Plans to Declare New Air Routes over the Taiwan Strait, Encourages Better Relations between China and the Dalai Lama, Claims It is Neutral in South China Sea Disputes

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 6, Daily Press Briefing ● January 7, Daily Press Briefing ● January 14, Daily Press Briefing ● January 15, Foreign Policy Updates: 2015 Priorities ● January 23, Remarks by Assistant Secretary Puneet Talwar: The U.S.-Vietnam Relationship: Advancing Peace and Prosperity in 2015 ● January 24, Press Availability with Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: Roundtable with Malaysian Media ● January 26, Remarks by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: Remarks at the Institute of Security and International Studies ● January 27, Daily Press Briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● January 7, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● January 15, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference



Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. Concerned over Growing Global Chinese Influence

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 15, 2015 – Foreign Policy Updates: 2015 Priorities (State Department) Quote: “When it comes to China, we have a whole host of issues this year that we need to work on together, whether it’s following up on the progress we made in the climate talks last year, where we announced an agreement to move the ball forward on climate and addressing climate change; whether it’s Iran or North Korea or any of the issues that we work together on as members of the Security Council; but also just in general those are places where we’re really going to need to work together quite a bit. So I think those will probably be top priorities as well. And then, of course, there’s the issue of cyber, which we talked about a lot at the end of last year, of course, and how we can more closely work together on that.” ● January 20, 2015 - Remarks by the President in State of the Union Address (White House) Quote: “Twenty-first century businesses, including small businesses, need to sell more American products overseas. Today, our businesses export more than ever, and exporters tend to pay their workers higher wages. But as we speak, China wants to write the rules for the world’s fastest-growing region. That would put our workers and our businesses at a disadvantage. Why would we let that happen? We should write those rules. We should level the playing field. That’s why I’m asking both parties to give me trade promotion authority to protect American workers, with strong new trade deals from Asia to Europe that aren’t just free, but are also fair. It’s the right thing to do.” ● January 27 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “Ambassador and Undersecretary for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman is in Beijing for consultations the 27th and the 28th. Yesterday she met with senior government officials and scholars to discuss a wide range of bilateral and regional issues, including the P5+1 negotiations with Iran and the situation in the Middle East. She also met with members of civil society for a roundtable discussion.” 	



- **January 29, 2015 – Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the White House Press Briefing ([White House Press Briefings](#))**

Quote: “The President does not believe it’s in our best interest to not engage with other Asian countries as it relates to international commerce. That if we essentially cede that ground to the Chinese, that they will enter into broader agreements with other countries in the Asia Pacific region that actually lower labor standards, that lower environmental standards, and actually make it harder for American businesses to compete and to get access to those overseas markets. So it’s not just that we’re going to reach an agreement that is in the best interest of American workers. It’s that failing to reach an agreement and essentially sort of withdrawing from the region would have a negative impact on the American middle class and on American workers and on American businesses.”



Issue 2 – Economic Relations: U.S. Continues Push for TPP; China Highlights Win-Win Cooperation

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 13, 2015 – Remarks by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: Remarks to the Business Council for International Understanding. (State Department) Quote:“America’s prosperity and Asia’s prosperity are inseparable [...] our shared prosperity and shared security are just as tightly linked [...] The most important thing we can do for U.S.-Asia relations this year, for both prosperity and security, is completing the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement [...] Our diplomacy with China has allowed us to expand the areas where we work together, while managing our clear differences. And that diplomacy over many years, including bringing China into the WTO, has supported China’s economic rise, enabling trade and increased exports to China [...] We need TPP to strengthen growth and create jobs and to advance our values and show that our ongoing commitment to the region extends beyond security [...] TPP will take us to the next level, driving labor reforms and reducing its economic dependence on China.” ● January 15, 2015 – Remarks by Assistant Secretary Charles H. Rivkin: Economic Diplomacy: How Business, Economic Ties and Trade Can Strengthen National Security (State Department) Quote: “Beyond our efforts to make our economy stronger through these historic deals, we are actively negotiating a bilateral investment treaty with China. It is estimated that if China’s citizens were to consume American-made goods and services at the same rate as their neighbors in Japan currently do, our exports to China could grow to as much as \$700 billion a year.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 21, 2015– Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: China has been carrying out economic cooperation and trade with countries around the world, including the US, on the basis of mutual benefit and win-win to all. For the issues that might come up amid such cooperation, we will work them out by being candid and practical with each other in the spirit of win-win cooperation. We hope that all sides can make joint efforts to provide a fair, open and transparent environment for such cooperation, and contribute to the further improvement of global trade rules.”



- **January 21, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Froman at the U.S. Conference of Mayors** ([Speeches and Transcripts, Office of the United States Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “Take the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP, which is an agreement we’re negotiating with 11 other countries in the Asia-Pacific and includes 40% of the global economy. It will grow our exports by more than \$123 billion every year, according to one study, and support hundreds of thousands of additional well-paying jobs... Consider the Asia Pacific, where China is moving ahead with its own network of agreements: TPP will include the highest and most enforceable labor and environmental standards of any trade agreement; TPP – for the first time in any trade agreement – puts disciplines on state-owned enterprises and ensures a free and open Internet; TPP ensures that the 40 million Americans whose jobs are dependent on innovation, invention and creativity enjoy the fruits of their labor... The same can’t be said for China’s alternative.”

- **January 22, 2015 - Remarks by Assistant Secretary Nisha Desai Bishwal: The New Silk Road Post-2014: Challenges and Opportunities** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “China is developing what it is calling the Silk Road Economic Belt. Some paint our New Silk Road initiative as being in competition with China’s efforts, but in fact we welcome China’s constructive engagement and see a great deal of potential complementarity in our efforts. We would only urge China, as it pursues economic cooperation projects, to utilize global standards and best practices in order to ensure sustainable economic growth for the people of Central Asia.”

- **January 29, 2015 - Remarks by Assistant Secretary Charles H. Rivkin: Remarks at SelectUSA Summit Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The roundtable in Beijing went so well that President Obama has said that he intends to find new ways to interact with key business leaders from around the world. He recognizes that there is no good substitute for direct engagement [...] we recognize that foreign investment is not a zero sum game. It creates economic growth in both directions: the destination and the source countries. It’s a win-win situation for all parties [...] We are currently negotiating trade and investment agreements around the world, from the Asia Pacific to the European Union. We and USTR are actively negotiating a bilateral investment treaty with China, and we are hoping to have similar discussions with India.”



Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: U.S. Reaches out to Asian Allies, Wants to Build Better Cooperation with China; Chinese Focus Squarely on Terrorism, Continually Deny Involvement in Cyber Attacks

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 6, 2015 - Interview with Secretary of State Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf (The Situation Room) Quote: “Secretary Kerry spoke with his Chinese counterpart right after the Sony hack, the attack, to talk about the cyber-issue, among other things, because we know there's a significant threat in the world here and we know that China can play a more helpful role if they could do so [...] We've talked broadly with China about confronting these kinds of offensive cyberattacks. We know U.S. companies have been at the receiving end of them. We know the U.S. government has been at the receiving end of them. So we've talked to them about how we can work together more on this issue going forward.” ● January 13, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the U.S.-Pakistan Strategic Dialogue Ministerial (State Department) Quote: “I had the opportunity to meet with Pakistan’s civilian and military leadership, and there was strong consensus expressed about the importance of combating all forms of terrorism. Terror groups like the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban, the Haqqani Network, Lashkar-e Tayyiba, and other groups continue to pose a threat to Pakistan, to its neighbors, and to the United States.” ● January 14, 2015 - Media Availability with Secretary Hagel at Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri (Department of Defense) Quote: “Well, I think the long-range strike bomber is absolutely essential to keep our deterrent edge as we go in to the next 25 years. It is a critical yes for the Asia-Pacific rebalance. It reassures our allies, our partners. It gives us a continued reach and strategic capabilities, which is essential. We need to do it. We need to make the investments. We will have it in the budget. It's something that I have particularly put a priority on in the budgets and things that I've talked about with the Congress.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 8, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “We are profoundly shocked by the terrorist attack taking place in Paris, France on January 7. We strongly condemn that. The Chinese side mourns the victims and extends sincere sympathy to the bereaved families and the injured. The Chinese side resolutely opposes terrorism in all manifestations and supports the efforts by the French side to safeguard security of the country.” ● January 15, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Xin Jiang is truly faced with terrorist threats represented by the East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), which jeopardizes security and stability of China as well as the world. It is a common responsibility shared by the international community to fight terrorism, and we are willing to cooperate with relevant countries on counter-terrorism and jointly crack down on the ETIM.” ● January 19, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: According to German media, the documents disclosed by Edward Snowden showed that Chinese cyber spies stole key design information about the F-35 stealth fighter. What is China's response to that? A: The relevant accusation is baseless. On cyber security issue, we have been stressing that China is the victim of cyber attacks. Cyber security is a common challenge faced by all. China is willing to work with all countries to establish a cyber space that is peaceful, secure, open and cooperative. Cyber attacks are hard to trace back and are usually committed across borders. This complexity means that it is extremely difficult to identify the source of the attacks. I wonder if they can produce evidence to prop up such accusation and groundless attack. On the contrary, the materials disclosed by relevant person showed that some countries do not have good records to talk about when it comes to cyber attacks. We hope that instead of pointing fingers at other countries for no reason



- **January 15, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary Hagel at a Troop Event, Fort Bliss, Texas (Department of Defense)**

Quote: "First, I have -- in the two years I've served as secretary of defense, been to Asia-Pacific region six times. I've spent considerable time there to reflect, certainly, the seriousness and the commitment of that rebalance to the Asia Pacific. You think of what we have done over the last two, three, four years, to define that. Our new Marine relationship in Australia. The new relationships our rotational assignments and exercises in the Philippines and the new agreements that we have there. Our LCS assignments and ships in Singapore. Five of our seven treaty obligations are in the Asia Pacific. We'll continue to build with resources, capabilities, focus, Marines, especially, as we get the Marines back to their expeditionary roots, as we build that back up [...] So, we're not going to retreat from any part of the world, but clearly because the United States has been a Pacific power since the beginning of this country, and we have built much of our future around that relationship with that region of the world, as economies expand, as opportunities expand, for all countries. We have a lot of interest and will continue to have a lot of interest."

- **January 22, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Joint Press Availability with UK Foreign Secretary Hammond and Iraqi Prime Minister Abadi (State Department)**

Quote: "We all understand that Daesh, as it is commonly known in the Arab world, is not simply a Syrian problem. It's not an Iraqi problem. Daesh is a global problem, and it demands a coordinated, comprehensive, and enduring global response [...] The coalition came together around the joint statement that was issued out of the meeting in Brussels, and that outlines our multiple lines of effort that we are currently engaged in – providing security assistance, strengthening the capacity of Iraq to stand on its own, protecting our homelands, disrupting the flow of foreign fighters, draining Daesh's financial resources, providing humanitarian relief to victims, and ultimately defeating what Daesh represents, defeating Daesh as an idea, if it can be called that [...] And all the coalition partners are continuing to make vital contributions to this, and we mean all 60. Whether it's sheltering refugees, training, advising Iraqi troops on the front lines, or speaking out against Daesh's hateful, false ideology, we appreciate the contribution of every single member, each of whom has chosen one line of effort or another."

and cooking up stories, they should demonstrate a cooperative attitude."

- **January 21, 2015 - Special Address by H.E. Li Keqiang: Uphold Peace and Stability, Advance Structural Reform and Generate New Momentum for Development (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "To uphold peace and stability serves the interests of all people in the world. The world order established after World War II as well as generally recognized norms governing international relations must be maintained, not overturned. Otherwise, prosperity and development could be jeopardized. The Cold War and zero-sum mentalities must be abandoned. The "winner takes all" approach will not work. Regional hotspots and geopolitical conflicts must be resolved peacefully through political means. Terrorism, in all its manifestations, must be opposed. China remains committed to peaceful development and regional stability. And China has no intention to compete with other countries for supremacy. Peace in the world must be cherished the same as we cherish our eyes, so that the achievements and benefits of civilization, including reason and justice, will prevail."

- **January 23, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "China opposes all forms of terrorism and extremist actions directed at innocent civilians. We hope for the safe release of the hostages [...] China's position on opposing and combating all forms of terrorism is very clear. Terrorism is a common enemy faced by the international community, and has to be fought back with strengthened cooperation of the international community. China is willing to deepen practical cooperation with the international community in counter-terrorism and law enforcement. All countries should earnestly follow the No. 2178 resolution of the UN Security Council, jointly crack down on the cross-border movement of terrorists, and safeguard peace, security and stability of the region and the world."

- **January 26, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "The Chinese side is opposed to all forms of terrorism and extreme actions targeting innocent civilians. The Chinese side believes that the international community should step up cooperation and jointly rise up against the threat of terrorism in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter as well as other well-recognized basic norms governing international relations."



- **January 30, Department of Defense Press Briefing by Rear Adm. Kirby in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: "There's been no pause or disruption to military-to- military engagements between us and China. This is something we want to see continue. There's obviously issues to work out, here. But there's been no pause or disruption [...] You could imagine that we're going to be discussing a full range of defense relationship issues with our Chinese counterparts, as we often do. We want to continue to improve and increase transparency between us and China and the -- the Chinese military as much as possible, so that we can pare down the level of misunderstanding and improve trust and avoid what could be potentially dangerous incidents, as have occurred in the past, and more broadly, work towards a better, more collaborative relationship in China in the Asia-Pacific region [...] And obviously, it's hard to predict what the future's going to look like, but clearly what we seek with China is a -- is a productive, constructive defense relationship in the Asia-Pacific region. There's no reason why that shouldn't be a goal for both countries. It has to start with trust and transparency. And we believe that we're making some inroads in that regard, and we look forward to this meeting next week, and we hope that that continues to contribute to that."

- **January 31, Press Availability with Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks With Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird and Mexican Foreign Secretary Jose Antonio Meade** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "But obviously, there are bad actors in a number of different venues who are honing their skills in exploiting cyberspace. So we talked today about our cyber concerns. We have a working group going forward that will be focused on this. This will be a serious topic of consideration at almost every international meeting now. And we are very much seized of the importance of protecting that space for its appropriate uses, even as we also struggle, as we do, to protect privacy and to protect people's individual rights which are important to us. So it's a delicate balancing act, and we're working very, very hard to find the right way to thread the needle."



Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Talks Press Freedom, Human Trafficking and Human Rights Violations in China, Saudi Arabia, North Korea and Syria; China Still Concerned over Ebola, both Condemn the Events in France as an Attack on Freedom

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 7, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks on the Terrorist Attack in Paris (State Department) Quote: “I would like to say directly to the people of Paris and of all of France that each and every American stands with you today, not just in horror or in anger or in outrage for this vicious act of violence, though we stand with you in solidarity and in commitment both to the cause of confronting extremism and in the cause which the extremists fear so much and which has always united our two countries: freedom.” ● January 8, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “We consistently raise the treatment of journalists and ethnic and religious minorities with the Chinese Government at all levels. We’re deeply concerned by reports that family members of the Radio Free Asia journalist Shohret Hoshur continue to be harassed, including reports that his brothers have been imprisoned, apparently in retribution for his reporting. We urge Chinese authorities to cease harassment of his family and to treat them fairly and with dignity. We continually urge China to respect internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression.” ● January 8, 2015 - Statement on the Sentence of Saudi Human Rights Activist Raif Badawi (State Department) Quote: “The United States Government calls on Saudi authorities to cancel this brutal punishment and to review Badawi’s case and sentence. The United States strongly opposes laws, including apostasy laws, that restrict the exercise of these freedoms, and urges all countries to uphold these rights in practice.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 12, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “On January 9, Vice Foreign Minister Wang Chao visited the French Embassy to China, expressed condolences to the victims of the terrorist attack in Paris and extended sympathies to the bereaved families. Vice Foreign Minister Wang said that China is firmly against all forms of terrorism, and stands ready to rise to challenges and safeguard peace and stability of the two countries and the world together with the French side.” ● January 20, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador Wang Min at the Informal Meeting on the Ebola Outbreak at the 69th Session of the General Assembly (Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the UN) Quote: “The Chinese President Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders attach great importance to the Ebola outbreak...The Chinese government responded swiftly and...provided to the affected countries four batches of emergency assistance totaling 7.5 hundred million RMB, and the total number of the experts and medical staff sent by China to the affected countries has exceeded 700. Assistance provided by China is playing a key role...China will launch a China-Africa long-term plan on public health cooperation...This aid operation is the longest in duration, widest in scale, and the strongest in intensity of all aid operations undertaken by China so far in response to public health crises in other countries and regions. It testifies to the sincere friendship between China and Africa as well as China’s commitment to stand with Africa in times of crisis...China’s assistance will not stop as long as the Ebola epidemic continues to exist in Africa. China stands ready to join the international community in helping West African countries overcome the outbreak and win final victory in the fight against Ebola.”



- **January 14, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks With UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura After Their Meeting** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States is particularly concerned about the continued catastrophe that is unfolding in Syria where nearly three-quarters of the entire country are displaced people today. It is time for President Assad, the Assad regime to put their people first and to think about the consequences of their actions, which are attracting more and more terrorists to Syria, basically because of their efforts to remove Assad.”

- **January 15, 2015 – Foreign Policy Updates: 2015 Priorities** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The thing about freedom of speech is that we believe very strongly in this country that people should have the freedom to say what’s on their minds, even if it is something we find horrifically offensive, and that in this great sort of marketplace of ideas we all live in, that ultimately the ideas that adhere to universal rights of freedom of expression, of tolerance, of plurality will win out. And that that’s – and in that kind of atmosphere, there will be people who say things you vehemently disagree with and you find offensive. But we don’t want to get in the business of saying what’s okay and what’s not, because then where does the line stop?”

- **January 20, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Journalists Security Conference** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Under President Obama, we have made support for press freedom one of the recurring themes of United States foreign policy. Each day, American diplomats make known our backing in one place or another directly to government, directly to the public, but firmly, in all cases, our backing for the right of people to speak, publish, broadcast, blog, tweet, and otherwise express themselves openly and without fear and without retribution. And when journalists are unfairly detained, we always raise this issue in our meetings with foreign officials at every level, and that is true whether the journalist is an American such as Jason Rezaian, who is being held in Iran, or from some other country where the rights of journalists are violated all too often [...] The truth is that freedom of the press, whether symbolized by a pencil, a pen, a camera, or a microphone is under siege, purposefully. And that is because some people, some groups, and even some governments want to dictate the truth, want to define it, want to hide what we would know to be the truth.”

- **January 21, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “Since the beginning of 2014, the Ebola epidemic has broken out in some Western African countries one after another. The Chinese government has provided four rounds of humanitarian assistance with a total value of 750 million yuan, including providing prevention and control materials, emergency assistance in cash and food aid, sending medical corps and public health experts, assisting in building biology laboratories and therapeutic centers. Up to now, the four rounds of assistance have all been put in place [...] The Chinese government has donated US\$2 million to the World Health Organization and the African Union respectively and US\$6 million to the multi-partner trust fund of the United Nations against the Ebola. The donations have been to the account. The general coordinator of the multi-party trust fund of the United Nations against the Ebola said that China sets a good example for various countries and encouraged by China’s example, many developing countries have given money generously one after another, reflecting unity and mutual assistance of international community and ensuring that the mission of the United Nations orderly pushes forward the work in such aspects as medical aid, safe burial and logistics support [...] China actively explores and carries out cooperation with such countries as the United States, Britain and France in such fields as communication and coordination, information sharing, epidemic analysis, personnel training and materials transporting.”



- **January 20, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador David Pressman: Remarks at a United Nations General Assembly Session on Ebola** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “For our part, the United States has put forward an unprecedented emergency military deployment and contributed hundreds of civilian personnel and close to \$1 billion in humanitarian and medical assistance [...] As country-specific needs continue to evolve, the response must be aggressive and flexible to address dynamic challenges on the ground. We will also need to help the affected countries rebuild their health care systems and economies. This is not only a humanitarian imperative, but a necessity for global security – global health security – as well. Moreover, the United States will be working with countries around the world to reduce the threat of infectious diseases. Our commitment to do so under the Global Health Security Agenda, and in support of the World Health Organization International Health Regulations, has been redoubled since Ebola’s graphic demonstration that these measures are essential to global peace and security.”

- **January 21, 2015 – Remarks by Assistant Secretary Anne C. Richard: U.S. Policies on Refugees and Migration Movements** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Secretary Kerry and my other colleagues at the State Department are using all the tools we have to try to quell the violence. And on the humanitarian front, we are doing everything that we can to save civilians caught in the crossfire or forced to flee [...] The United States has worked with other governments, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to mount an unprecedented response. We are the world’s largest donor to humanitarian efforts [...] we use diplomacy and financial support to focus attention on those caught up in conflict, to protect and care for them, and uphold their human rights [...] Promoting more humane management of international migration is another urgent humanitarian issue for the United States.”



- **January 21, 2015 - Remarks by Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues Robert R. King: Exchange of Views on the Human Rights Situation in North Korea** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Our deep concern for human rights in North Korea and for the well-being of the North Korean people reflects the American commitment to the rule of law and respect for individual rights. Our country was founded on fundamental principles of human rights, and our support for these rights is an essential part of what defines the American people [...] The world will not, and cannot, close its eyes to what is happening in North Korea. Ultimately, we will judge the North not by its words, but by its actions—the concrete steps it takes to address the core concerns of the international community, from its nuclear program to its human rights violations. I believe we are in agreement that the D.P.R.K. must demonstrate respect for human rights in order to fully participate in the international community.”

- **January 29, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the White House Forum on Combatting Human Trafficking in Supply Chains** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “So if you dig deeper, you begin to see that modern slavery does not exist in a vacuum. It’s connected to many of our other foreign policy concerns, from environmental sustainability, to advancing the lives of women and girls, to combatting transnational organized crime. Wherever we find poverty and lack of opportunity, wherever rule of law is weak, wherever corruption is most ingrained, and where minorities are abused, where populations cannot count on the protections of government or rule of law, we find not just vulnerability to trafficking but zones of impunity where traffickers can prey on their victims.”



- **January 30, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador David Pressman: Remarks at a Security Council Open Debate on the Protection of Civilians** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “In the face of this kind of destabilizing cruelty and grotesque violence, this Council has mandated peacekeeping missions in places like the DRC with the very difficult and very important work of protecting civilians. Indeed, 98% of UN troops now serve in missions with mandates to protect civilians [...] UN peacekeeping missions must do better when they are given a mandate to protect civilians in desperate need of protection. And that means, we must, at a minimum, work to improve early warning systems, especially for sexual violence, to help peacekeepers identify potential threats and take preventative action. Continued shortfalls staffing critical peacekeeping missions in South Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic have left civilians, and particularly women and girls, vulnerable.”



Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. and China Reiterate their Commitment to Combating Climate Change

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 11, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Vibrant Gujarat Opening Ceremony (State Department) Quote: “Global climate change is already violently affecting communities not just across India but around the world. It is disrupting commerce, development, and economic growth. It’s costing farmers crops. It’s costing insurance companies unbelievable payouts. It’s raising the cost of doing business, and believe me, if it continues down the current trend-line, we will see climate refugees fighting each other for water and seeking food and new opportunity [...] The fact is that a solution to climate change is already here. It’s called energy policy. Sustainable energy policy. And in a sustainable energy policy comes a whole set of benefits to our economy, something many countries of the world are screaming for today.” January 11, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at Vibrant Gujarat Conclave (State Department) Quote: “There are 18 countries that are deemed to be the biggest emitters of greenhouse gas. We are one of them. The United States is number two. We were number one. We have now been surpassed by China. Those 18 countries are sometimes the butt of some anger from very small nations in the world, Pacific Island nations, coastal nations, others, who are feeling the greatest brunt of climate change, but who contribute the least to it. What I want to emphasize to everybody here today is very simple: No single country [...] can solve this problem by itself, nor can those 18 major emitters solve the problem without the developing world, because the developing world now constitutes more than 50 percent of all the greenhouse gas emissions. That’s what we’ve come to.” January 16, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: NOAA Climate Study 2014 Reveals Hottest Year on Record (State Department) Quote: “What’s surprising is that anyone is surprised that 2014 was the hottest year on record. The science has been screaming at us for a long, long time. We’ve seen thirteen of the warmest years on record since 2000. Greenhouse gas emissions from human activity are at an all-time high, which we know leads to a warming planet. We’re seeing higher than ever occurrences of extreme weather events like catastrophic droughts, storm surges and torrential rain. These events are having devastating economic, security and health impacts across the planet. This report is just another sound in a steady drumbeat that is growing increasingly more urgent. So the question isn’t the science. The question isn’t the warning signs. The question is when and how the world will respond.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> January 22, 2015 - Premier Li Keqiang Holds Dialogue with Representatives of International Business Council of World Economic Forum (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “A wise man once said that mankind can hardly control the environment, but they can control their own actions. China has announced that it will cap its CO2 emissions around 2030 and increase the share of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption to around 20% by 2030. This requires persistent and even painstaking efforts as China, after all, is still a developing country with over 1.3 billion people [...] As a major developing country, China shoulders unshirkable responsibility in tackling climate change. We have been active in meeting the challenge and will fulfill our due international responsibility. We also maintain that the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities” should be upheld. China will do its best to achieve both environmental protection and development, pursue a green and low-carbon economy, and nurture the new growth driver of the environmental industry. This will give a strong boost to China’s economy.”



Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: Japan and Myanmar Get Special Mention from Both the U.S. and China as U.S. Engagement in the Region Continues; China Claims It is Willing to Engage in Dialogue to Deal with South China Sea Disputes in Promotion of Good ASEAN Relations

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 2, 2015 - Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: Myanmar's Independence Day (State Department) Quote: "It was affirming to see firsthand the deepening diplomatic, economic and cultural relationships between our two nations which some had once deemed impossible. The journey traveled thus far is itself the best evidence of how far we can travel together in the next journey going forward. I look forward to working with you to see those ties grow as Myanmar continues to open to the world." ● January 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: "As you know and we've stated many times from here, the apologies – our view is that the apologies extended by previous Prime Minister Murayama and former Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono marked important chapters in Japan's efforts to improve relations with its neighbors. As we've indicated many times, we encourage Japan to continue to work with its neighbors to resolve concerns over history in an amicable way through dialogue." ● January 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: "We welcome Prime Minister Abe's comments yesterday, including the positive message on history issues and Japan's postwar contributions to peace. We believe that strong and constructive relations between countries in the region promotes peace and stability and are in the interests of both the countries as well as the United States." ● January 11, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Vibrant Gujarat Opening Ceremony (State Department) Quote: "If we work together, with partners who are here and some who are not here today, I am convinced that the world's oldest democracy and the world's largest democracy can help to forge a new era of shared possibility and security for hundreds of millions of people in India, but indeed, across Asia, and across the world [...] India and the United States I think have a common responsibility, together with our other country partners, a common opportunity to prove that democracies can deliver for their citizens, and frankly, that by doing so that is when we are at our strongest. It is also when we're at our most secure." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 20, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "As a friendly neighbor, China hopes that north Myanmar can realize enduring peace at an early date, which will contribute to creating a favorable environment for Myanmar to achieve domestic stability and development, and reaching lasting peace and order in the China-Myanmar border areas. We hope relevant parties in Myanmar can work to reduce conflict and friction, remain committed to resolving differences through peace talks, and move forward the peace process in north Myanmar. In line with the will of the Myanmar side, China will continue to play a constructive role in promoting peace and dialogue on this issue, and jointly ensure peace and stability of the border areas." ● January 22, 2015– Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "As to the South China Sea issue [...] It is our long-standing position that disputes on territory and maritime rights and interests should be resolved in peaceful means through dialogue and consultation between countries concerned. Relevant parties should take concrete actions to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and jointly maintain peace and stability of the South China Sea region. Countries that are not a party to the disputes shall uphold an objective and fair position, say more things that will help build mutual trust and cooperation, do more things that will truly safeguard peace and stability of the region, and make less inflammatory remarks that may stir up trouble." ● January 26, 2015– Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "We have noted the visit by US President Obama to India. Both the US and India are countries of great influence in the Asia-Pacific. It is hoped that the development of US-India relations will help promote mutual trust and cooperation among countries in the region, and safeguard peace, stability and prosperity of the region as well."



- **January 15, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote: “U.S. and Japanese officials have both worked together, I would say, pretty extensively to sustain the presence of U.S. forces in Japan. We’ve talked a lot about the relocation of the Marine Corps air station, which will reduce our footprint in the most populated part of Okinawa and enable the return of a significant amount of land back to the people of Okinawa while continuing at the same time to sustain the U.S. military capabilities vital to the alliance and also to peace and security in the region. So look, these are meaningful results of many years of sustained work between the U.S. and Japan, really a critical step toward realizing our shared vision of a realignment of U.S. forces on Okinawa. [...] We’ve encouraged and we support Japan’s efforts to play a more proactive role in contributing to regional peace and security, including by re-examining its interpretation – the interpretation of its constitution relating to the right of collective self-defense. So obviously, that principle is recognized in the UN Charter. We’ve supported expanding the role of Japan’s self-defense forces within the framework of the alliance, specifically, and also appreciate Japan’s outreach to explain its security policies, including by sending its officials to foreign capitals in a very transparent manner.”

- **January 19, 2015 – Remarks by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: Remarks at the Mangrove Forum of the Philippine Foreign Service Institute (State Department)**

Quote: “America, our allies like the Philippines, Japan, South Korea, and Australia, and partners like ASEAN members, work throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Together, we have built and are maintaining an inclusive, sustainable regional architecture, which has provided stability and economic growth, helping lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty [...] ASEAN’s success shows the power of a region built on respect for rules. Beyond ASEAN, this regional architecture has facilitated the peaceful rise of China. The U.S. will continue to work with China to advance our shared prosperity, and our global work on challenges like climate change, pandemic disease, and supporting Afghanistan. At the same time, we will work to constructively manage our significant differences, such as in the South China Sea. And we will encourage China, as we encourage all countries, to respect universal values and international law.”

- **January 26, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “This year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression. It is a significant year to review the history and look forward into and map out the future. We follow closely what attitude the Japanese government and leaders adopt and what message they send when it comes to the history of aggression. Are they trying to deny or water down that part of history, and carrying on the negative assets? Or do they prefer to travel light by sincerely and profoundly reflecting upon the history of aggression? The international community is watching. We hope that the Japanese side can live up to the statement and commitment it has so far made on historical issues, pursue peaceful development with concrete actions, strive to win the trust of the international community and play a constructive role for regional peace and stability.”

- **January 27, 2015– Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: China is active in advocating, promoting and contributing to peace and stability of the region. We maintain that disputes in the South China Sea should be peacefully resolved through dialogue and consultation between countries directly concerned [...] If relevant countries do wish for peace and stability of the region, they should do and say more that are conducive to the enhancement of mutual trust and cooperation between countries in the region.”

- **January 29, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “ASEAN is a major force to promote East Asia cooperation and safeguard regional peace and development. The building of the ASEAN Community, the first sub-regional one in the region, will have a crucial and far-reaching influence over the integration process of the region. China supports the building of the ASEAN Community as well as ASEAN centrality in East Asia cooperation. Putting ASEAN on top of China's neighborhood diplomatic agenda, China will work together with ASEAN toward the goal of building a more closely-knit China-ASEAN community of common destiny, fully implement the 2+7 cooperation framework, enhance political mutual trust, deepen practical cooperation, and strive for new progress of the bilateral strategic partnership.”



- **January 21, 2015 - U.S.-Philippines Bilateral Security Dialogue Press Conference** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States government has been consistent and firm in calling on China to act in keeping with its commitments, act in keeping with international law, and act in keeping with the spirit of constructive engagement particularly with ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region. The behavior of China and the need to clarify its maritime and territorial claims in a manner that is consistent with international law including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea is a component of our ongoing diplomatic dialogue with Beijing. We have a huge interest in a stable, healthy, constructive bilateral relationship with China. We have an interest in good relations between China and China’s neighbors in the region including the Philippines. But behavior that raises tensions, behavior that raises questions about China’s intention, and behavior that would appear to be inconsistent with the principles that I enumerated work counter to those goals.”

- **January 30, 2015 – Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the White House Press Briefing** ([White House Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “There is significant risk associated with not engaging in this region of the world; that if the United States were to stand back and say, we’re not going to enter into any sort of economic agreements with countries in the Asia Pacific, it only serves to create an opening for China to step in and start writing the rules of the road in a way that is certainly not advantageous to American businesses and certainly not advantageous to American workers. In fact, it would put Americans businesses and American workers at a significant disadvantage if China were to go in and start writing the rules of engagement with a bunch of other countries in the Asia Pacific. That’s why the President believes it’s important for us to go into that situation and attempt to set a higher standard and to raise standards in a way that will level the playing field and create opportunities for American businesses to grow and thrive and open up access to markets in other countries.

- **January 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The situation in the South China Sea is stable. China maintains good-neighborly and friendly relations with ASEAN countries. We are willing to and able to jointly uphold peace and stability of the South China Sea. Countries outside the region should respect the endeavor of countries in the region to safeguard peace and stability, and refrain from sowing discord among other countries and creating tensions.”



- **January 30, 2015 – Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the White House Press Briefing** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “I can tell you that the administration policy that we have sought to pursue is to make sure that disputes that are arising in the South China Sea are resolved peacefully; that the South China Sea is a zone of commerce that’s critically important to the global economy. And ensuring that commerce can be conducted in that region of the world is in the clear interest of the largest economies in the world, including China, Japan and the United States. So we all have an interest in making sure that those disputes are resolved peacefully and in a way that will allow commerce to continue unimpeded in that region of the world.”



Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: North Korea Nuclear Issue Continues to be the Dominant Focus; U.S. Concerned over the Application of South Korea's National Security Laws Limiting Freedom of Expression; China Sends Birthday Greetings to Kim Jong-un, Talks Peace

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “North Korea’s ballistic missile launches and continued development of its ballistic missile program and related activities constitute clear violations of multiple UN Security Council resolutions and have been condemned by the international community. We continue to urge North Korea to comply with its UN Security Council obligations, and we obviously continue to closely monitor the situation on the Korean Peninsula and remain steadfast in our commitment to the defense of our allies, certainly including South Korea.” ● January 7, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “We’ve long said on the nuclear issue that the ball is in North Korea’s court. They need to abide by their international obligations, including the September 2005 joint statement. We haven’t seen any indication they have plans to do that. On human rights, they have the most – one of the most abysmal records in the world. It’s resulting in the suffering of the North Korean people, and certainly we would encourage any leader to take a look at that.” ● January 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “We can confirm that U.S. citizen Amy Chung, also known as Shin Eun-mi, was barred from exiting South Korea for the past three weeks. We have seen the reports indicating the prosecution has asked that Ms. Chung be deported and banned from South Korea for five years. We take our obligation to assist U.S. citizens overseas seriously. We’re in contact with Ms. Chung and providing all possible consular assistance. As it relates to the laws, I think it’s the application of the national security law was what was used here. I think broadly speaking, our view is that the Republic of Korea has shown a consistent and longstanding commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. In – as it relates to law, we’re concerned that the national security law, as interpreted and applied in some cases, limits freedom of expression and restricts access to the internet.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The relatively stable situation on the Korean Peninsula does not come easily. All parties concerned should act cautiously, avoid taking measures that may escalate the situation and stay united in safeguarding peace and stability of the Peninsula.” ● January 6, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “This year marks the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Korean Peninsula. At the outset of the New Year, the DPRK and the ROK conveyed to each other positive messages concerning bilateral relations. The Chinese side welcomes that. As a close neighbor to the Korean Peninsula, the Chinese side always supports the DPRK and the ROK in improving relations through dialogue and advancing reconciliation and cooperation so as to achieve peaceful reunification with their own efforts. It is hoped that under the current circumstances, both parties can have larger interests in mind, seize the opportunity, take concrete measures and work hard to improve bilateral relations and safeguard regional peace and stability.” ● January 9, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Chinese side has expressed its congratulations on the occasion of First Secretary King Jong-un's birthday. We wish the DPRK new achievements in economic and social development under the leadership of First Secretary King Jong-un. China and the DPRK are friendly neighbors. In the new year, the Chinese side will push forward its traditional friendship with the DPRK in keeping with the principles of carrying on the tradition, looking to the future, developing good-neighborly and friendly relations and enhancing cooperation.”



- **January 12, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The DPRK statement that inappropriately links routine U.S.-ROK exercises to the possibility of a nuclear test by North Korea is an implicit threat. A new nuclear test would be a clear violation of North Korea’s obligations under multiple UN Security Council resolutions, would also contravene North Korea’s commitments under the 2005 Six-Party joint statement. Our annual joint military exercises with the Republic of Korea are transparent, defense-oriented, and have been carried out regularly and openly for roughly 40 years. We call on the DPRK to immediately cease all threats, reduce tensions, and take the steps toward denuclearization needed to resume credible negotiations. And we do remain open to dialogue with the DPRK, as we’ve said, with the aim of returning to these credible and authentic negotiations.”

- **January 13, 2015 – Testimony by Special Representative for North Korean Policy Sung Kim: The North Korean Threat: Nuclear, Missiles and Cyber** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Close coordination with North Korea’s neighbors, our partners in the Six-Party Talks – the Republic of Korea, Japan, China, and Russia – is essential [...] China has a unique and important role to play in addressing the challenges of North Korea’s nuclear program and its provocations on the world stage. We believe there is more that China can do to bring the necessary pressure to bear so that North Korea concludes it has no choice but to denuclearize and abide by its international obligations [...] Standing up to North Korea requires a sustained and concerted effort by all of the countries in the Six-Party process, and indeed by the entire international community.”

- **January 15, 2015 – Foreign Policy Updates: 2015 Priorities** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The recent statements from the DPRK that inappropriately link what are routine U.S.-ROK exercises – they’re transparent, they’re annual, we tell everyone before we do them, and they are defensive in nature – linking those with the possibility of a nuclear test by North Korea is an implicit threat. North Korea is not allowed to test; under multiple UN Security Council resolutions, they are prohibited from doing so. And look, we’ve offered the DPRK and we continue to offer the opportunity for meaningful engagement and an improved bilateral relationship if it could demonstrate its willingness to uphold its international obligations and commitments. Unfortunately, North Korea hasn’t done so; they haven’t upheld their commitments. They continue to ignore those offers, and instead offer false choices and a series of provocations. And that’s not advancing the ball at all.”

- **January 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China maintains committed to realizing denuclearization and safeguarding peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula. We advocate and expect relevant parties to reach aforementioned goals through dialogue and consultation, and oppose any action that may escalate the tension.”

- **January 20, 2015– Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China supports the improvement of relations between the DPRK and the US. We are glad to see relevant parties improve mutual understanding and trust through dialogue and contact, and commit themselves to safeguarding peace and stability of the Peninsula and moving forward the denuclearization of the Peninsula. We hope that such dialogue and contact can create favorable conditions for the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks.”

- **January 23, 2015– Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “To move forward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and safeguard peace and stability of the Peninsula serves the common interests of relevant parties. It is also a responsibility shared by all. Under the current circumstances, parties concerned should work together, pool wisdom, return to the track of dialogue and consultation as soon as possible, and create conditions for the resumption of the Six-Party Talks. We hope relevant dialogue and contact can create conditions for moving forward an early resumption of the Six-Party Talks.”

- **January 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “It serves the common interests of all parties and calls for the dedication and sense of responsibility of all parties to forge ahead with the Six-Party Talks and properly resolve the Korean nuclear issue through dialogue and consultation. Under the current circumstances, all relevant parties should leverage their wisdom, work together with a flexible and practical attitude and create conditions for an early resumption of the Six-Party Talks. The Chinese side is willing to stay in close communication with all the other parties on that.”



- **January 15, 2015 – Foreign Policy Updates: 2015 Priorities** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We’ve long welcomed ROK efforts to improve inter-Korean relations through constructive dialogue, and we urge the DPRK to respond positively to President Park’s tireless efforts to pursue such dialogue. And look, progress in inter-Korean dialogue could play an important role in bringing North Korea back to authentic and credible denuclearization negotiations, which is, of course, our goal.”

- **January 15, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The U.S. has offered the DPRK and continues to offer the opportunity for meaningful engagement and improved bilateral relationship provided it demonstrates its willingness to uphold its international obligations and commitments. Unfortunately, North Korea continues to rebuff or ignore these offers while instead preventing us with the kind of – presenting us with the kind of false choices and a series of provocations we’ve just seen even recently. So we’re open to talking, certainly, but haven’t seen that reciprocated [...] Well, the offer, as I understand it, which we see as an implicit threat, is for the U.S. to stop doing something that is routine, that is transparent, that is defensive in nature, and that is annual that we do every year, in exchange for the North Koreans not doing something that is prohibited under multiple UN Security Council resolutions and that they are not supposed to be doing. That’s really a false choice here. They’re not equivalent in any way.”

- **January 28, 2015 - Remarks Remarks by Special Representative for North Korean Policy Sung Kim at Iikura House, Tokyo** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We continue to believe that China has a very important role to play. They are the chair of the Six-Party Talks. They have strong historical ties with North Korea, and we do expect China will exercise its leadership and use its leverage on North Korea to persuade North Korea back to the path of denuclearization [...] I think there’s very strong consensus among not just the three parties – the U.S., Japan, and Korea – but among the five parties including China and Russia, that North Korea needs to demonstrate its commitment to denuclearization in a concrete manner before we can resume any serious negotiations. I think that would give us a much better chance to actually make lasting progress in denuclearization.”



- **January 30, 2015 - Remarks by Special Representative for North Korean Policy Sung Kim: Remarks to Reporters at the Westin Chaoyang Hotel (State Department)**

Quote: "I can tell you that in general we continue to have very close cooperation and coordination with China on all aspects of our North Korea policy. And that includes sanctions enforcement. I think we have very effective cooperation with China on sanctions enforcement [...] China has a very special relationship with North Korea. They have a long history of ties with North Korea, and we expect that China will use its leverage and its leadership of the Six-Party Process to try to persuade North Korea [to come] back to serious and credible negotiations."



Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S. Focus on ISIL Continues, Concerns over Syria, Boko Haram and Swift to Shutdown Palestinian Attempts at Joining International Treaties; China Focuses on Peace and Building Stronger Relations with Africa

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 8, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing: Regarding Palestinian Efforts to Accede to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (State Department) <p>Quote: “The United States does not believe that the Palestinians are eligible to become a party to the Rome Statute or any of the other treaties at issue, or that the United States is in treaty relations with the Palestinians under any of the treaties that they are seeking to join [...] The United States will continue to work to advance the interest we share in bringing about a lasting peace between the Israelis and Palestinians.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 12, 2014 – Remarks by Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at the University of Louisville McConnell Center (Mission to the United Nations) <p>Quote: “[...] new sanctions will actually likely weaken the sanctions pressure on Iran, by undermining crucial international support for the existing multilateral sanctions against Iran. The negotiations have worked so far in large part because we have remained united on our side of the negotiating table with the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, and China [...] If our international partners believe that the United States has acted prematurely by adding new sanctions now – as they most surely would – their willingness to enforce sanctions collectively is likely to wane. And broad international enforcement is what has made our sanctions exponentially more effective than bilateral sanctions alone.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 11, 2015 - Records of Foreign Minister Wang Yi's Interview with CCTV Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “‘The journey of peace’ is to participate in the settlement of African hotspot issues in a constructive way and give full play to China’s role in promoting peace and security in Africa. Peace and development are still the major issues that Africa faces today. Without peace, there is no development; without development, it is difficult to maintain peace. China has clear stances on peace and security issues in Africa. We firmly support African people in solving African issues in their own ways, and support the African Union and relevant sub-regional organizations in playing dominant and core roles in this process.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 11, 2015 - Records of Foreign Minister Wang Yi's Interview with CCTV Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “This year marks the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the FOCAC [Forum on China-Africa Cooperation] and it is an important year for carrying forward the past and forging ahead into the future of China-Africa cooperation. We attach great importance to the sixth ministerial conference of FOCAC to be held in South Africa this year. FOCAC is an important platform for performing collective dialogue and practical cooperation between China and Africa, and plays an important role in the development of China-Africa relations. China’s bilateral relations and multilateral cooperation with all African countries under the framework of the forum have promoted each other for common development, forming a comprehensive and all-dimensional China-Africa cooperation pattern.”</p>



- **January 15, 2015 - Remarks by Deputy Assistant Secretary Thomas O. Melia: Examining the Crisis in Syria: What Can Be Done? (State Department)**

Quote: “Syrian civilians already terrorized by Assad's barrel bombs and starvation sieges are now additionally threatened by the vicious terrorist group, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, or ISIL, and its Al Qaeda affiliated rival and counterpart, Al Nusra [...] To bring an end to the human rights violations carried out by the regime and the abuses by terrorist groups like ISIL, we must confront its root causes through a negotiated political solution that stops the violence and addresses all dimensions of human rights and international humanitarian law to the conflict. The crisis demands a political solution that leads to a sustainable peace for all Syrians, men and women alike; the U.S. Government will continue to support the Syrian people in pursuing this outcome.”

- **January 15, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks With Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borissov After Their Meeting (State Department)**

Quote: “I have spoken out about Boko Haram any number of times. And what they have done with respect to the slaughter recently is a crime against humanity; nothing less. It's an enormously horrendous slaughter of innocent people. And Boko Haram continues to present a serious threat, not just to Nigeria and the region, but to all of our values, and to all of our sense of responsibility regarding terrorism.”

- **January 16, 2015 - Press Statement by Jeff Rathke: Statement on ICC Prosecutor's Decision (State Department)**

Quote: “We strongly disagree with the ICC Prosecutor's action today. As we have said repeatedly, we do not believe that Palestine is a state and therefore we do not believe that it is eligible to join the ICC. It is a tragic irony that Israel, which has withstood thousands of terrorist rockets fired at its civilians and its neighborhoods, is now being scrutinized by the ICC. The place to resolve the differences between the parties is through direct negotiations, not unilateral actions by either side. We will continue to oppose actions against Israel at the ICC as counterproductive to the cause of peace.”

- **January 11, 2015 - Records of Foreign Minister Wang Yi's Interview with CCTV Africa (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Chinese diplomacy has a good tradition that Africa is always the first destination of the foreign minister's annual overseas visits. This move is to send a clear signal to the world that it has always been an important cornerstone of China's foreign policy to strengthen solidarity and cooperation with African countries, no matter in the past, at present or in the future. China and Africa have always shared common destiny. China's policy of valuing the development of China-Africa relations is consistent and will continue to be stuck to [...] The “Six China-Africa Cooperation Projects” refers to industry, finance, poverty reduction, ecological improvement and environmental protection, people-to-people and cultural exchanges, as well as peace and security. We have realized that in order to open up a new situation of cooperation with Africa, we must adapt to Africa's new needs of development.”

- **January 16, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “China strongly supports South Sudan in realizing peace. China has been advocating the early and peaceful settlement of the South Sudan issue in the UN Security Council and on other international occasions, and prompting the international community to firmly support and coordinate with the IGAD-led mediation. Meanwhile, the Chinese side plays a proactive role in the UN peacekeeping operations in South Sudan, and the additional peacekeeping infantry troop China sent to the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is gradually moving into place. Being China's first combat forces dispatched overseas, the peacekeeping troop in South Sudan will strictly follow the mandate of the Security Council, fulfill its obligations under the command of the UNMISS, help safeguard security and stability, protect civilians and support humanitarian assistance efforts in South Sudan.”



- **January 23, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the World Economic Forum (State Department)**

Quote: "In the weeks to come, we have to not only continue moving ahead with urgency to eliminate Daesh as a threat to international security, but we also have to strengthen Somalia, intensify our effort to defend violence in Nigeria, which I will go to in a couple of days, and strike at the tentacles of al-Qaida in Yemen, the Maghreb, and wherever else they appear. There is nowhere that you can leave as an ungoverned space with this crowd, and believe me, there is nothing to negotiate. These are the front line battles I've just listed, and they require that we not waver in our solidarity or our courage."

- **January 23, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the World Economic Forum (State Department)**

Quote: "Boko Haram's principal tactics are to butcher teachers, kill boys, and kidnap girls. In all of the areas under its control, Daesh has shut down classrooms, entire societies have been disrupted – countless opportunities lost for young men and women who deserve the chance to pursue their dreams. Just imagine what the threat level would be and what life would be like if we do not choose to do what is required of us now."

- **January 23, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the World Economic Forum (State Department)**

Quote: "So in making this choice, we might reflect on the claim that some have made in recent years, especially due to events in the Middle East, that the entire international system is somehow unraveling. My own view, my friends, is very different. In the course of my travels, I don't see an unraveling; I see just the opposite. I see nations working together to negotiate new and far-reaching trade pacts, to bring an end to the Ebola epidemic; to seek a peaceful resolution to the threat posed by Iran's nuclear program; to restore peace based on law in Ukraine and having come together around sanctions and held together and made a difference; to reach an ambitious, global agreement to address climate change with a recent agreement between China and the United States that begins to set the targets to try to make the Paris negotiations this year a success; with efforts to curb the strife that plagues the Central African Republic, Colombia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo and other places."

- **January 28, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "President Xi Jinping when putting forward the vision of cooperation with Africa said that the phoenix will come if the nest is built and that teaching one to fish is better than giving him a fish. Premier Li Keqiang also made the proposal of China and Africa cooperating on three major networks of high-speed railway, expressway and aviation in Africa. The signing of the MOU is an important step taken by China to implement the vision and the proposal and also a solemn commitment made by China to promoting connectivity and integration of Africa, breaking the development bottleneck of Africa and helping Africa realize independent and sustainable development [...] We hope that more countries will make earnest efforts to help Africa with infrastructure development as China does and work with China to help Africa realize independent and sustainable growth."



- **January 23, 2015 - Media Note: Joint Statement on South Sudan Peace Negotiations** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The members of the Troika (the United States, the United Kingdom, and Norway) are gravely concerned with the continued lack of progress in the South Sudan peace negotiations. We commend the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the IGAD Special Envoys for their steadfast commitment to the peace process, and welcome the strong message from People’s Republic of China Foreign Minister Wang Yi calling on the parties to make peace [...] We look forward to guidance from the African Union Peace and Security Council, convened on the margins of the African Union Summit in January, on how the report of the AU Commission of Inquiry will be used to support the peace process and inform the development of mechanisms for accountability and reconciliation in South Sudan.”

- **January 24, 2015 - Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: ISIL Murder of Japanese Hostage Haruna Yukawa** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States strongly condemns ISIL’s despicable murder of an innocent Japanese citizen, Haruna Yukawa. America has known this pain and horror ourselves, and we stand with Japan not just in sadness, but in solidarity and strength. We grieve with Haruna Yukawa’s family and loved ones, and with all the people of Japan. We join Japan in calling on Kenji Goto’s captors to immediately release him, as we continue to call for the release of all other hostages. The United States will continue to support and coordinate closely with Japan as we stand together in confronting terrorism and extremism.”

- **January 26, 2015 - Media Note: Assistant Secretary Linda Thomas-Greenfield Travels to the African Union Summit and Ethiopia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Our observer delegation reflects our enduring commitment to the U.S.-AU strategic partnership established in the January 2013 Memorandum of Understanding. It also underscores the U.S. commitment to intensified cooperation to advance shared security interests, as well as our common goals to increase prosperity for the United States and African countries and to advance the dignity, well-being, and freedom of our people.”



- **January 27, 2015 - Testimony by Antony J. Blinken: Perspectives on the Strategic Necessity of Iran Sanctions** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We will also continue to confront Iran’s destabilizing activities, promotion of sectarian divisions, and support for non-state actors and terrorists throughout the Middle East. Our positions on Palestinian terrorist groups, such as Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Lebanese Hezbollah, for example, have in no way changed – and will not change. We have very clearly and consistently spoken out against these designated foreign terrorist organizations, as well as Iran’s support for them.”

- **January 30, 2015 - Media Note: Joint Statement on the U.S.-Angola Strategic Partnership Dialogue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Both delegations expressed their willingness to build upon the momentum generated from the September visit of the AFRICOM Commander and the U.S.-Africa Partnership Flight hosted in Luanda in March. The United States and Angola agreed to expand security cooperation, including counterterrorism cooperation and the preparation of a joint International Maritime and Energy Security Conference hosted by Angola in 2015. The United States expressed its appreciation and offered technical and material support for Angola’s commitment to participate in the United Nations peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic.”

- **January 31, 2015 - Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: ISIL Murder of Japanese Journalist Kenji Goto** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States condemns ISIL’s vicious murder of Japanese journalist Kenji Goto. We extend our sincere and heartfelt condolences to his wife, his family, and his loved ones, as well as to the people of Japan. The barbaric killing of Kenji Goto, and of Haruna Yukawa before him, shows again ISIL’s brutality and extremist agenda. The United States knows this pain on a personal level born of our own experience. We share the sorrow and continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with our ally Japan in confronting terrorism. We commend Japan’s support for those in the region who have been displaced by ISIL, the Syrian regime, and other militant groups. Japan’s generous assistance to vulnerable communities fully reflects its commitment to international peace.”



Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: Flag Raising Ceremony at Taiwan's U.S. Office Draws Chinese Concern; U.S. Protest at Chinese Plans to Declare New Air Routes over the Taiwan Strait, Encourages Better Relations between China and the Dalai Lama, Claims It is Neutral in South China Sea Disputes

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “QUESTION: [...] had it previously been not allowed for the Taiwanese mission here to raise the flag at the representative’s office – residence?” <p>MS. PSAKI: Well, I think the issue is that it’s inconsistent with the spirit of our policy, and it’s violated our longstanding understanding on the conduct of our unofficial relations. I’m not sure if there was a previous incident to speak of [...] I think the message is what we’ve been conveying, which is that we’re disappointed with the action. It’s – the flag-raising ceremony violated our longstanding understanding on the conduct of our unofficial relations. We have a robust set of cultural relations, but we do not have diplomatic relations. And we’ll continue to discuss this with the proper officials.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 7, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “I don’t have any confirmation, but I can convey that we’ve long encouraged the Chinese Government to hold direct and substantive discussions with the Dalai Lama or his representatives without preconditions aimed at resolving differences. We believe that all people in the PRC would benefit from the fruits of dialogue and urge the Chinese Government to seize the opportunity to further engage with the Dalai Lama.” ● January 14, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “We note the reports that China is preparing to declare new air routes over the Taiwan Strait. Our primary focus is on maintaining and enhancing international aviation safety. That’s obviously our primary focus when we talk about air routes, which is in the interests of all countries and regions around the world. We do encourage China to engage and consult with the parties affected by the newly declared air routes in the Taiwan Strait to ensure that air safety concerns are addressed. Obviously, that’s of utmost importance to us.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “We are resolutely opposed to the so-called flag-raising ceremony staged by Taiwan's office in the US, [...] The Chinese side requests the American side to adhere to the one-China policy and the principles established by the three China-US joint communiqués, act with discretion when dealing with Taiwan-related issues and avoid the recurrence of similar incident.” ● January 7, 2015– Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: An official from the "Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the US" said that the office intentionally not notified the US about the flag-raising ceremony in order to give the US government deniability about the situation. What is China's response to that? A. We have noted that the spokesperson of the US State Department has twice answered questions on that for two consecutive days. She said that the US was not notified in advance, reaffirmed US commitment to the one-China policy and regarded relevant activity as not consistent with US policy. We hope that the American side would adhere to the one-China policy and the principles established by the three China-US joint communiqués and prevent similar incident from happening again.”



- **January 15, 2015 – Foreign Policy Updates: 2015 Priorities** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The U.S. did not work with China on these new air routes. I think there’s been a little misinformation out there about that. It’s my understanding China may have worked with ICAO, which is the international organization that deals with civil aviation. That would make sense. Our main concern when it comes to these new air routes is aviation safety. Obviously, we believe that no steps should be taken that threaten aviation safety and certainly that maintaining and enhancing that is in the interests of all countries and reaches of the world. So we’ve encouraged China to engage and consult with the parties affected to ensure air safety concerns are addressed as they go forward with these new air routes. That’s our main concern.”

- **January 23, 2015 - Remarks by Assistant Secretary Puneet Talwar: The U.S.-Vietnam Relationship: Advancing Peace and Prosperity in 2015** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Our security cooperation is already paying dividends, but there is still more work to do. One area where we are seeing tension is in the South China Sea. We continue to support diplomatic efforts by ASEAN to manage these tensions, including the establishment of a binding Code of Conduct. And we do not hesitate to raise our concerns over these tensions at the highest of levels, including with Chinese leaders. Our policy is clear. There must be one set of rules in the South China Sea. We believe in freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region, which is crucial to economic growth. We share a vision where all parties pursue resolution of their territorial and maritime disputes through peaceful means, in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.”

- **January 15, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Recent years have seen a notable increase of flights above the western side of the Taiwan Straits, leading to congested air traffic and a higher rate of flight delay. The opening of the new air route in the Shanghai flight information zone steps up flight security level in relevant airspace, safeguards rights and interests of travelers, and also meets the need of China’s civil aviation development. It is a routine work taken by China’s civil aviation authority in airspace management. Back to 2007, the Civil Aviation Administration of China and the US Federal Aviation Administration have jointly completed the security assessment of the air route, and the International Civil Aviation Organization has ratified it and named it with a code number.”



- **January 24, 2015 - Press Availability with Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: Roundtable With Malaysian Media** ([State Department](#))

Quote:“The United State is not a claimant to any territory in the South China Sea. And as a matter of policy worldwide we never – we don’t take a position on the ultimate resolution of sovereignty disputes between other countries. That is a place where we remain neutral. We’re not taking Msia’s side against China or the Philippines or China’s side against Malaysia. Where we are not neutral, where we are very strong and outspoken, is in defending universal principles, universal law, and accepted norms. That includes our defense of the principle of freedom of navigation and overflight as well as the right to unimpeded lawful commerce in the oceans. It also includes our very strong view that differences and disputes must be resolved peacefully [...] favoring real and measurable progress in establishing a code of conduct between the 10 ASEAN countries and China that will be binding and that will govern the behavior of all parties and all claimants.”

- **January 26, 2015 - Remarks at the Institute of Security and International Studies** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We have been clear and consistent in conveying to the Chinese the area where we are neutral, and the areas where we take a position with regard to territorial disputes in the South China Sea. The United States isn't taking one country's side against another when it comes to the matter of how the dispute over sovereignty will ultimately be resolved. We fully agree that that is an issue that should be resolved among the claimants themselves. But we believe strongly that it should be resolved peacefully and through diplomatic means.[...]That is part of our contribution to the stability and the security of the Asia-Pacific region that, among other things, has been instrumental in China's extraordinary growth.”



- **January 27 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote: "QUESTION: Well, I mean, there is a perception in China that U.S. is being biased in sort of being a referee between its allies and non-ally, which is China, regarding the South China Sea issue.

MS. PSAKI: Well, as you know, we've had the same position on this particular issue for some time and we don't take a position on the sovereignty. We do continue to encourage dialogue and for all sides to reduce tensions. And when there has been a need, we have expressed concerns at times about the actions of China. We've done that on occasion and we've certainly raised it privately as well."



Reference

1. United States

(1) Official Government Websites

Office of the U.S Trade Representative <<http://www.ustr.gov>>

The White House <<http://www.whitehouse.gov>>

U.S. Department of Defense <<http://www.defense.gov>>

U.S. Department of State <<http://www.state.gov>>

U.S. Department of Treasury <<http://www.treasury.gov>>

U.S. Mission to the United Nations <<http://www.usunnewyork.usmission.gov>>

.

2. China

(1) Official Government Website

Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China <<http://english.agri.gov.cn/>>

Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China <<http://english.mofcom.gov.cn/>>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China <<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng>>

Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China <<http://eng.mod.gov.cn/>>

(2) Government Managed Media

China Daily (中國日報). <<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn>>

Xinhua News Agent (新华网)



Knowledge-Net for a Better World

- The East Asia Institute acknowledges the MacArthur Foundation for its generous grant and continued support.
- This report is the result of the East Asia Institute's research activity of the Asia Security Initiative Research Center.
- We hope to see this material in wide use, including areas that relate to policy making, academic studies, and educational programs. Please use full citations when using the information provided in this factsheet.
- The views and ideas in this material are those of the author and do not represent official standpoints of the East Asia Institute.
- This report was produced with the help of Dayoung Kim (Kyung Hee University), Michael Parker (Monash Univeristy), Miran Park (Seoul National University), Ben Forney (Seoul National University), Yena Shin (Ewha Womans University), Yewon Choi (Sungkyunkwan University), and Sejeong Hwang (Soongsil University).

The East Asia Institute
909 Sampoong B/D, Eulji-ro 158,
Jung-gu, Seoul 100-786,
Republic of Korea

