

EAI U.S.-China Relations Briefing

February 2015

Patrick Thomsen
ASI Research Center

March 2015

Introducing the UCR Briefing

The EAI is pleased to announce the expansion of the UCR Series with its renamed flagship publication called the UCR Briefing. The UCR Briefing combines the monthly publication of the UCR Factsheet with a probing investigative summary designed to raise potential points of discussion and analysis. Also, the previous format included a total of 10 categories that have now been streamlined to 9. The EAI believes that these changes will offer a better experience and easier navigation of the vast amount of information available to users of the UCR series.

A Complex Courting Process

Investigative Summary

The U.S. have made no secret of its desire to bring China closer into its orbit as a partner in the Asia-Pacific region and the rhetoric from Washington of late has been resoundingly positive in this regard. The February 2015 issue of the UCR Briefing shares a similar theme, as the U.S. continues its very public courting of China's officials. However, the complex nature of the U.S.-China relationship ensures that there remains a large number of issues that both take diverging positions on. The following outlines five areas of potential interest tracked by the UCR Briefing in February in following the evolving nature of relations between the world's two most powerful nations.

The Honeymoon Continues?

Since the major breakthrough on climate change policy was made last year, express cooperation with Beijing has become *en vogue* in Washington, with officials from outside the state department more willing to comment on direct diplomatic relations

between the two. This has been matched by uniform support by Chinese officials. In illustration of this, there exists no shortage of rhetoric from both sides on the need to mitigate climate change, in-line with trends since late 2014.¹

Interestingly, when U.S. officials visited South Korea and India in February, interactions with China were specifically mentioned within the context of regional relations.² The direct diplomatic relationship between the U.S. and China was also given another strong shot-in-the-arm by the acceptance of an invitation by Xi Jinping of an official state visit to the U.S. to take place in 2015. China also comments on how it wants to keep working with the U.S. in helping to develop norms on preventing corruption in government.³

However, as with any relationship, not everything is necessarily positive and signs of potential U.S. checking of China's rise inevitably surfaces. U.S. Press Secretary Josh Earnest warns that if the U.S. does not engage in the Asia-Pacific region, China will be able to write the rules of the regional game, compromising the interests of U.S. companies in particular.⁴ This concern is also echoed in comments by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative who spare no euphemisms in criticizing China's export subsidy program.⁵

Intensifying Militarism in the Face of Extremism?

As the U.S. continues to raise its level of military action against ISIL, both the U.S. and China condemn the role of extremism in escalating conflicts around the world. Both are highly critical of terrorist attacks that occur in all regions including domestically as well as in Europe and other areas of the globe.⁶

The U.S. once again demonstrates that it perhaps is concerned about China's rise in this particular issue area, with a comment by Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob

¹ UCR Briefing February Issue 2015- Climate Change and Environmental Issues, [Issue 5 pg. 22](#)

² UCR Briefing February Issue 2015 - China Bilateral Relations, [Issue 1 pg. 9](#)

³ [Ibid, pg. 8](#)

⁴ [Ibid, pg. 8](#)

⁵ UCR Briefing February Issue 2015 - Economic Relations, [Issue 2 pg. 13](#)

⁶ UCR Briefing February Issue 2015 - Military and Security Relations, [Issue 3 pg. 16](#)



Work highlighting what he sees as an “astonishing” expansion of the Chinese military program over recent years.⁷ To which China replies that it is mere defensive posturing. China goes on to mention that it is committed to what it calls the “opening-up” policy when it comes to its security rules on network information.⁸

Not surprisingly, the issue of cyber security also looms large for both nations, and China in particular makes clear its commitment to working with the U.S. in establishing cooperative measures in regulating such activities, expressing its own concerns over accusations of U.S. and UK cyber-surveillance activities.⁹

Moreover, the U.S. posits that the possible deployment of THAAD in the region is meant purely to enhance the defensive capabilities of U.S. troops in the area.¹⁰ This issue promises to become one of greater saliency over the next few months.

U.S.’ Regional Entanglement Leaving Room for China to Build Influence in Africa?

It is no secret that the U.S. continues to find itself entangled in a whole host of regional conflicts, none more so prominent than what is occurring in the Middle East. The U.S. claims that the job in the region, especially stopping the actions of ISIL is a responsibility that in which “nearly every country in the world has a role to play.”¹¹ This message seemingly falls on deaf ears in Beijing as China makes no mention of any particular position in relation to aiding the fight against ISIL.

This apparent Chinese indifference is also reflected in its attitude toward the Korean Peninsula. While the U.S. are embroiled in a war-of-words with Pyongyang, as North Korea ratchets up its criticisms and threats in response to the U.S.-ROK joint military exercises, the Chinese choose to criticize the use of sanctions in dealing with the North. This is in sharp contrast to the U.S. position, of which the U.S. makes

clear that threats from Pyongyang are taken very seriously in Washington.¹² With this backdrop, rather unsurreptitiously, China continues its courting of Africa, launching a diplomatic mission to the African Union in February. China also chooses to focus on the negotiation process with Iran over its nuclear program.¹³ Is U.S. entanglement continuing to present opportunities for China to extend its own interests? This continues to be a point of fascinating conjecture.

U.S. Is Not Checking the Rise of China and Territorial Disputes Still Linger

The U.S. choosing to engage in the Asia-Pacific region is not an attempt to check the rise of China according to officials. As President Obama’s well broadcast trip to India unwound, state department officials were quick to highlight the importance of India and other nations in the Asia-Pacific to U.S. interests on their merits alone. China, in response says that it hopes U.S. policy and engagement in the region can “inject positive energy to peace and stability of the region.”¹⁴

Also, the issue of Taiwan continues to ruffle a few feathers in Beijing. Following on from last month’s controversy over the raising of the Taiwanese flag in Washington D.C., China expresses its concerns over the issuance of new car plates to Taiwan’s representative office, although noting it is not a diplomatic one. China urges that the U.S. respect the “one-China policy” so as to “avoid any negative impact on China-U.S. relations.” The U.S. mentions that it stands behind its relationship with Taiwan and its continued efforts to “help ensure Taiwan can preserve its autonomy and manage its defense.”¹⁵

The issue of Tibet also garners a mention from China, and although rather muted, comparatively with past months, China continues to push the line that its position and actions over maritime disputes in the South China Sea is in fact

⁷ Ibid pg. 16

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid pg. 17

¹⁰ Ibid

¹¹ UCR Briefing February Issue 2015 - Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8 pg. 29

¹² UCR Briefing February Issue 2015 - Korean Peninsula, Issue 7 pg. 28

¹³ UCR Briefing February Issue 2015 - Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8 pg. 29

¹⁴ UCR Briefing February Issue 2015 - Asia-Pacific Issues, Issue 6 pg. 23

¹⁵ UCR Briefing February Issue 2015 - Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes, Issue 9 pg. 33



lawful. China also asks that the U.S. honor its commitments and is told to “mind what it says and does” in behaving in a manner that is “conducive to the development of China-U.S. relations.”¹⁶ A veiled threat perhaps?

U.S. Testing China’s Commitment to International Norms?

The U.S. launched a case at the WTO to protest the Chinese export subsidy program, which it sees as disadvantageous to American businesses. Surprisingly, China makes no official mention of its position on this, rather, choosing to focus on opening up its own economic cooperation with the U.S.¹⁷

In this issue, the U.S. also continues to highlight human rights violations across a wide variety of areas and regions. Humanitarian issues in North Korea, ISIL attacks on children in Iraq and the rights of LGBT people form the basis of U.S. focus on human rights. China offers its official support to the UN human rights regime.¹⁸ However, questions remain as to how serious this commitment from China really is.

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ UCR Briefing February Issue 2015 - Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, [Issue 4 pg. 19](#)



[FACTSHEET]

TIME PERIOD: February 1 ~ February 281. **U.S. – China Bilateral Relations:** U.S. Continues Its Pursuit of Engagement; Xi Jinping Accepts Obama's Invitation for a State Visit

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 ● February 4, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 ● February 4, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 ● February 4, Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken Travel to the Republic of Korea, China, and Japan ● February 5, Remarks by Nisha Desai Biswal: The United States and India: A Future of Friendship ● February 6, Remarks by National Security Advisor Susan Rice on the 2015 National Security Strategy ● February 9, Overview of the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy ● February 11, Readout of the President's Call with President Xi of China ● February 13, FACT SHEET: Supporting Travel and Tourism to Grow Our Economy by Improving the Arrivals Experience for International Travelers to the US ● February 24, Special Briefing: New Reward for Cyber Fugitive ● February 25, Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice's Meeting with State Councilor Yang Jiechi of China ● February 26, Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 6, Remarks by H.E. Liu Zhenmin, Vice Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China at the "Asia-Pacific Geopolitics" Munich Security Conference ● February 11, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● February 11, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference

2. **Economic Relations:** U.S. Attacks China's Export Subsidy Program; China Promises to Preserve the Rights of Foreign Companies

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 11, Remarks by Ambassador Daniel A. Sepulveda: Trade Promotion and the Fight to Preserve the Open Internet ● February 11, United States Launches Challenge to Extensive Chinese Export Subsidy Program ● February 11, Daily Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest ● February 19, Remarks by Under Secretary for International Affairs Nathan Sheets at The Peterson Institute for International Economics on The Global Economy ● February 27, Remarks by Wendy R. Sherman: Remarks on Northeast Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 6, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference



3. **Military and Security Relations:** U.S. Increases Military Force against ISIL, Raises Concerns over China's Military Expansion, Defends the Possible Deployment of THAAD in the Region; China Condemns Extremism, Reiterates that Its Military Expansion is Defensive in Posture, Raises Concerns about Possible U.S. Spying, Cyber Security an Issue for Both Nations

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 ● February 6, Remarks by the Vice President at a Meeting with European Council President Donald Tusk ● February 8, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Munich Security Conference Panel Discussion ● February 9, Daily Press Briefing ● February 10, USNI West Delivered by Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work ● February 11, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: Support for Authorization for Use of Military Force ● February 20, Remarks by Frank A. Rose: Ballistic Missile Defense and Strategic Stability in East Asia ● February 23, Remarks by Frank A. Rose: A Modern U.S.-Japan Alliance ● February 25, Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice's Meeting with State Councilor Yang Jiechi of China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 2, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● February 4, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● February 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● February 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● February 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● February 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● February 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● February 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● February 17, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● February 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● February 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference

4. **Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues:** U.S. Actively Supports the Preservation of Human Rights Worldwide; China Offers Its Support of UN Human Rights Schemes

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, Remarks by Robert R. King: Supporting Humanitarian Aid Programs in the DPRK ● February 5, Daily Press Briefing ● February 6, Daily Press Briefing ● February 10, Remarks by Michele J. Sison, U.S. Deputy Representative to the United Nations, at a General Assembly Open Briefing on Counter-terrorism ● February 19, Daily Press Briefing ● February 20, Remarks at the Swearing-in Ceremony for Ambassador-at-Large for Religious Freedom David Saperstein ● February 24, Review of Resources, Priorities and Programs in the FY 2016 State Department Budget Request 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference



5. **Climate Change and Environmental Issues:** Combating Climate Change, Poor Air Quality and the Need to Protect Wildlife

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 6, Remarks by National Security Advisor Susan Rice on the 2015 National Security Strategy ● February 12, Remarks by Fatema Z. Sumar : Fulbright Water-Energy-Food Nexus Workshop ● February 18, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at a Signing Ceremony for the Agreement to Enhance Post Air Quality Monitoring and Action Overseas with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 9, Statement by Ambassador Wang Min at the 53rd Session of the Commission for Social Development ● February 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference

6. **Asia Pacific Issues:** Obama Visits India, Claims U.S. Is Not Trying to Counterweight China; China Talks Positively of U.S. Engagement in the Region

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 3, Readout From President Obama's Trip to India: Perspectives on U.S.-India Relations ● February 3, Readout From President Obama's Trip to India: Perspectives on U.S.-India Relations ● February 3, Readout From President Obama's Trip to India: Perspectives on U.S.-India Relations ● February 4, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 ● February 4, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 ● February 5, Daily Press Briefing ● February 9, Overview of the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy ● February 9, Overview of the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy ● February 13, Remarks by Antony J. Blinken: U.S. Economic Policy in East Asia and the Pacific ● February 24, Remarks by Sung Kim: Remarks at Mansfield Foundation Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 6, Remarks by H.E. Liu Zhenmin, Vice Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, at the 'Asia-Pacific Geopolitics' Munich Security Conference ● February 10, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference

7. **Korean Peninsula:** U.S. Talks Denuclearization and Takes North Korean Threats Seriously; China against the Use of Sanctions

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 ● February 4, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 ● February 8, Remarks by Antony J. Blinken: Remarks at Incheon Airport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 6, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 9, Overview of the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy ● February 18, Daily Press Briefing ● February 25, Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice's Meeting with State Councilor Yang Jiechi of China 	
--	--

8. **Middle East and Africa Issues:** U.S.-Led Fight against ISIL, Boko Haram Intensifies; China Focused on Iran, Building Better Relations with the African Union

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 3, Fact Sheet by Office of the Spokesperson: The United States and Jordan Sign a Memorandum of Understanding on U.S. Assistance ● February 3, Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Secretary Kerry Hosts Plenary Meeting of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL ● February 3, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: The Death of Jordanian First Lieutenant al-Kasasbeh ● February 5, Daily Press Briefing ● February 6, Daily Press Briefing ● February 6, Daily Press Briefing ● February 12, Briefing: Fact Sheet: UN Security Council Resolution 2199 on ISIL ● February 12, Briefing by Samantha Power: Explanation of Vote at a Security Council Session on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Threats ● February 15, Remarks by Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at a Security Council Session on Yemen ● February 17, Daily Press Briefing ● February 24, Press Statement by Jen Psaki: Recent Attacks on Civilians in Syria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● February 6, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● February 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● February 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference

9. **Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes:** Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tibet and Maritime Territorial Disputes

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 ● February 4, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 ● February 4, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 ● February 5, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest ● February 9, Briefings by Ben Rhodes: Overview of the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy ● February 13, Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Joint Statement on the Third United States-Singapore Strategic Partnership Dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 9, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● February 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● February 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● February 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference



Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. Continues Its Pursuit of Engagement; Xi Jinping Accepts Obama's Invitation for a State Visit

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, 2015 - Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 (State Department) <p>Quote: "I'm very, very satisfied at the active pace of interaction between U.S. Government officials and Chinese Government officials both in Beijing and in Washington, because this is a big relationship with a lot of moving parts, and the quality and the extent of our coordination and our dialogue has direct benefits for both countries, for the region, and for the world."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, 2015 - Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 (State Department) <p>Quote: "The meetings that occur on an ongoing basis fall into a variety of categories. Some of them are directly related to Strategic & Economic Dialogue agenda items or working groups. Some of them are not. You only referenced the government-to-government piece of our engagement. There's a very active private sector. There's a very active academic, think-tank and cultural level of engagement as well. One of the reasons that typically we hold the U.S.-China High-Level Dialogue, consultations on people-to-people exchanges at the same time that we hold the S&ED. So there's a tremendous amount of work and it's good work, it's necessary work underway. That's a healthy sign. It is not limited by any means to China. There is, as I outlined at the beginning, a very heavy focus on Southeast Asia. There is an intense level of engagement with our Northeast Asian allies, and our relations with Australia and New Zealand and the Pacific Islands are also a vitally important component of both our regional and our global strategy."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 6, 2015 – Remarks by H.E. Liu Zhenmin, Vice Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China at the "Asia-Pacific Geopolitics" Munich Security Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: "Major countries should perceive each other's strategic intentions in a rational way. China has been working with the US to build a new model of major-country relationship based on no-conflict, no-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation. Both sides are committed to strengthening cooperation in the Asia-Pacific."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: "China and the US maintain sound exchanges and cooperation under the APEC framework. The Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption was adopted by the 2014 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and the APEC Network of Anti-Corruption Authorities and Law Enforcement Agencies (ACT-NET) was established, both of which were supported by the US. President Xi Jinping and President Barack Obama have also agreed upon enhancing cooperation against corruption during their meeting on the sidelines of APEC. Both the Chinese and American delegations attended the APEC anti-corruption working group meeting held in the Philippines this January [...] The Chinese side will stay in communication with the American side to implement the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries on anti-corruption cooperation, encourage all APEC economies to follow through on the Beijing Declaration on Fighting Corruption, enhance practical cooperation on the repatriation of corrupt officials, recovery and return of proceeds of corruption and other areas [...] The Chinese side regards it necessary for China and the US to explore effective and new means to carry forward the current cooperation. The Chinese side will keep in touch with the American side in this regard."</p>



- **February 4, 2015 - Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "One of the important attributes of the relationship that President Obama has established with his Chinese counterparts, particularly with President Xi Jinping, has been the ability to do two important things: The ability to cooperate on issues of shared interest that truly matter to the people of both countries and to the region, and secondly, to address directly and candidly important differences or disagreements in a way that doesn't undermine the prospects of cooperation, but doesn't paper over differences either. This balance was on display when President Obama visited Beijing in November, and it is evident in all of the Administration's interactions – official interactions with the Chinese Government."

- **February 4, 2015 - Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken Travel to the Republic of Korea, China, and Japan** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "Deputy Secretary Blinken will then travel to Beijing, February 10-12, to meet with senior Chinese government officials, to discuss ongoing cooperation on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global issues. His visit reflects continuing high-level U.S. engagement with China and the importance of strengthening our bilateral relationship."

- **February 5, 2015 - Remarks by Nisha Desai Biswal: The United States and India: A Future of Friendship** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "President Obama and Prime Minister Modi renewed their pledge to accelerate bilateral trade another fivefold to match the level of annual trade between the United States and China [...] We value our relationship with China, and encourage its peaceful rise within a rules-based system that respects the rights of all sovereign nations and settles disputes amicably."

- **February 6, 2015 – Remarks by National Security Advisor Susan Rice on the 2015 National Security Strategy** ([Speeches and Remarks, White House](#))

Quote: "With China, we're building a constructive relationship that expands practical cooperation across a wide spectrum of issues from global health to non-proliferation, even as we confront real differences over human rights, cyber-enabled economic espionage, and the use of coercion to advance territorial claims [...] In furtherance of our relationships throughout the region, I'm pleased to announce today that we have invited Prime Minister Abe of Japan and President Xi of China for state visits."

- **February 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: During President Xi Jinping's telephone call with US President Obama this morning, the latter invited President Xi to visit the US. Can you tell us more about that? Will President Xi attend activities of the UN General Assembly when he visits the US in September?"

A: [...] The two leaders exchanged New Year greetings and agreed to promote China-US relations in a sustained, stable and healthy way in the New Year so as to ensure bigger progress of the new type of major-country relationship between China and the US. President Obama invited President Xi Jinping to pay a state visit to the US when President Xi attends activities commemorating the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the UN in September. President Xi Jinping accepted the invitation. Both parties will make full preparation to ensure the visit a success."



- **February 9, 2015 - Overview of the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy**
([State Department](#))

Quote: “We felt it was important to have President Xi here. With the Chinese, what we found is it’s very important to – there’s no substitute for the two leaders sitting down together, and we wouldn’t have had the type of progress that we had last year in China were it not for that summit. I mean, it took the two leaders getting together to have the progress on climate change, on trade, on military-to-military relations. So we wanted to keep that momentum going, and the best way to do that was to have, again, the occasion and marker of a state visit. We don’t have dates for those, but again, it will certainly be in advance of the summits at the end of the year.”

- **February 11, 2015 – Readout of the President's Call with President Xi of China**
([Statements and Releases, White House](#))

Quote: “The President spoke to Chinese President Xi Jinping on February 10 to review progress in the development of U.S.-China relations and to look ahead to opportunities to grow bilateral relations in 2015. The President expressed appreciation for China’s contributions to the Ebola response and longer-term global health security in West Africa and also for President Xi’s commitment to partner in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in achieving a successful outcome at the Paris Climate Summit this December. The President encouraged China to continue its move toward consumption-led growth and a market-determined exchange rate, reiterated his commitment to pursue a high-standard and comprehensive bilateral investment treaty, and called for swift work to narrow our differences on cyber issues. The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to coordinate closely on security challenges, including by jointly encouraging Iran to seize the historic opportunity presented by P5+1 negotiations. Finally, President Obama noted that he looks forward to welcoming President Xi to Washington for a State Visit later this year.”



- **February 13, 2015 – FACT SHEET: Supporting Travel and Tourism to Grow Our Economy by Improving the Arrivals Experience for International Travelers to the US** ([Statements and Releases, White House](#))

Quote: “The safety and security of this country will always come first, but we can and must also ensure that the travel experience continues to be welcoming, friendly, and efficient. Today’s announcements build on progress already made by the Administration to support continued growth in travel and tourism to the U.S.: in 2013 alone, the State Department issued 9.2 million visas, up 42 percent since 2010; waiting periods for visas in important markets like Brazil and China have dropped from as high as several months to less than five days on average; and in November 2014, the State Department announced a bilateral agreement with China to increase the length of business and tourist visas issued to each country’s citizens from one year to ten years, while increasing student visas from one to five years. In the three months since that announcement, Chinese demand for U.S. visas has grown by more than 50 percent compared to the same period last year.”

- **February 24, 2015 - Special Briefing: New Reward for Cyber Fugitive** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I will tell you that the United States and China have established a mechanism that is now well over 10 years old called the Joint Liaison Group for Law Enforcement between the United States and China. This mechanism allows all of the major law enforcement players in the Federal Government of the United States and the Government of China to meet regularly and systematically to address both general cooperation and specific case cooperation, and allows us in an open and frank manner to discuss both those things that seem to be working well and those things that we wish would work better.”

- **February 25, 2015 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice’s Meeting with State Councilor Yang Jiechi of China** ([Statements and Releases, White House](#))

Quote: “In discussing preparations for President Xi’s state visit to the United States in 2015, Ambassador Rice underscored the importance of expanding tangible cooperation on shared interests—noting the historic joint climate announcement made last year—while addressing areas of disagreement, including cyber issues.”



- **February 26, 2015 - Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([Press Briefings, White House](#))

Quote: “If the United States refuses to or fails to engage in this region of the world, that what you’ll see is you’ll see that China, given their own economic aspirations, will engage pretty aggressively in that region of the world in a way that will be disadvantageous to American workers and American businesses and American farmers; that they will seek to lower the kind of standards that we abide by in this country. So it’s in our interest to try to go to our partners in the Asia Pacific and work with them to abide by the kinds of standards that we regularly abide by [...] Again, if we fail to engage in this region of the world, we’re going to let China write the rules of the road. That’s not in the best interest of the United States, and it’s certainly not in the best interest of the American economy.”



Issue 2 – Economic Relations: U.S. Attacks China's Export Subsidy Program; China Promises to Preserve the Rights of Foreign Companies

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 11, 2015 - Remarks by Ambassador Daniel A. Sepulveda: Trade Promotion and the Fight to Preserve the Open Internet (State Department) Quote: "In China, authorities have blocked Gmail and Google's search engine. In addition to ongoing and systematic efforts to control content and punish Chinese citizens who run afoul of political sensitivities, such measures are an effort to further diminish the Chinese people's access to information, while effectively favoring Chinese Internet companies by blocking other providers from accessing its market." ● February 11, 2015 – United States Launches Challenge to Extensive Chinese Export Subsidy Program (Press Releases, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative) Quote: "United States Trade Representative Michael Froman announced today that the United States has pursued dispute settlement consultations with the Government of China at the World Trade Organization (WTO) concerning China's "Demonstration Bases-Common Service Platform" export subsidy program. Under this questionable program, China seems to provide prohibited export subsidies through "Common Service Platforms" to manufacturers and producers across seven economic sectors and dozens of sub-sectors located in more than one hundred and fifty industrial clusters throughout China known as "Demonstration Bases." This unfair Chinese program is harmful to American workers and American businesses of all sizes. 'President Obama has made vigorous enforcement a touchstone of his trade agenda,' said Ambassador Froman. 'Under the President's leadership, USTR will continue working tirelessly to ensure that China and all WTO Members play by the rules so we can grow solid, middle-class jobs here in America.'" ● February 11, 2015 – Daily Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest (Press Briefings, White House) Quote: "The U.S. brought a case before the World Trade Organization over China's subsidy program and a challenge to it [...] Throughout this presidency, 18 different times this administration has taken specific cases to the World Trade Organization raising concerns about the trade practices of other countries. Eighteen times, the United States has come away victorious in resolving those claims, that they were resolved in the favor of the United States and in the favor of U.S. businesses and U.S. workers." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 6, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "Q: The US Chamber of Commerce and 16 other US business lobbies called on the US government to urge the Chinese side to overturn its new cyber security regulations that would hurt market opportunities of American information and communications technology companies and in China and their job opportunities in the US. How does China respond to this? A: China is firmly committed to the win-win strategy of opening up. Thanks to this strategy, information and communications technology has been widely used in China which strongly boosts the economic and social development of China, and also creates an enormous market for companies from the US and other countries. The Chinese government will ensure the rights and interests of foreign companies operating in China in accordance with the law, and welcomes and supports the endeavor of foreign companies to expand the market in China, jointly develop and make products with Chinese companies and contribute to China's economic and social development."



- **February 19, 2015 – Remarks by Under Secretary for International Affairs Nathan Sheets at The Peterson Institute for International Economics on The Global Economy** ([Department of the Treasury, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “A number of other emerging-market economies, most prominently China, have remained far too reliant on export-led growth. This has perpetuated the risks associated with global imbalances and blunted our mutual efforts to achieve strong, sustainable, and balanced growth. In addition, with sluggish global demand and with world trade now growing at a much slower rate, export-led growth strategies are less viable for the countries themselves and more prone to zero-sum competition for market share than in the past. In countries that are overly reliant on export-led growth, reforms are needed to shift resources toward the non-tradables sectors and to rebalance the economy toward stronger domestic demand. Achieving these policy objectives will require efforts to open the financial sector, allow increased exchange rate flexibility, and strengthen safety nets.”

- **February 27, 2015 - Remarks by Wendy R. Sherman: Remarks on Northeast Asia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States very much wants China to be stable and prosperous [...] We recognize that China’s success benefits our own, just as our progress supports China’s. That’s also why we’re working to reach agreement with Beijing on a bilateral trade and investment treaty, a pact with high standards that would provide a level playing field for U.S. investors and ensure that commercial ties are supported by the rule of law.”



Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: U.S. Increases Military Force against ISIL, Raises Concerns over China's Military Expansion, Defends the Possible Deployment of THAAD in the Region; China Condemns Extremism, Reiterates that Its Military Expansion is Defensive in Posture, Raises Concerns about Possible U.S. Spying, Cyber Security an Issue for Both Nations

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, 2015 - Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 (State Department) <p>Quote: “Well, first of all, the United States categorically condemns the brutal and unjustified murder of Japanese civilians by ISIL. And we send our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the families and to the Japanese people. We also commend the Japanese Government and Prime Minister Abe for a resolute stand against hostage takers, against terrorists, against an effort to collect ransom in exchange for human life. We believe that the Japanese Government showed determination, firmness, and courage that in the long run will protect Japanese citizens and the citizens of other countries as well. Moreover, I think it’s clear that the United States stands shoulder to shoulder with our ally Japan in a difficult moment, and we value deeply the generosity and the significant contributions that the Japanese Government and people are making in providing assistance and relief to the hundreds of thousands of people that are dislocated and are jeopardized by the turmoil now in that region [...] This is a priority for the United States not only with Japan, but with all Asian nations because ISIL is not a Middle East problem. ISIL is everyone’s problem. And the threat of recruitment, the threat of the sinister ideology, the threat from returning foreign fighters, is a threat not only for the United States, not only for countries in the Middle East, but for countries throughout Southeast Asia.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “China is against all forms of terrorism and all extremist activities targeting innocent civilians. China maintains that the international community should follow the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and other widely recognized norms governing international relations, step up cooperation, jointly combat terrorism threats and safeguard security and stability of the region and the world.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “The Chinese side is opposed to all forms of terrorism and terrorist activities that brutally take people's lives. The Chinese side believes that the international community should follow the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and other widely-recognized norms governing international relations, enhance cooperation, rise to the challenge posed by terrorism and safeguard world peace and stability.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “China has an open network, and China's Internet has facilitated Chinese citizens and offered them a direct channel to exercise the right to know, the right to participate, the right to express and the right to supervise. The Chinese side also calls for improving the connectivity of the cyber space. Meanwhile, the Chinese side believes that all countries have the right to administer the cyber space in accordance with the law and the cyber sovereignty of all countries should be respected and maintained.”</p>



- **February 6, 2015 - Remarks by the Vice President at a Meeting with European Council President Donald Tusk (Speeches and Remarks, White House)**

Quote: “Both Europe and the United States face the threat, as you mentioned, of violent extremism -- abroad, in the form of ISIL, or as they say in the region, Daesh; and sometimes here at home. The tragic terrorist attack here in Brussels and Paris demonstrates how real that is. We Americans understand and share the pain and outrage of everything that the people of Brussels, as well as Paris have gone through in the recent past. And we’re committed to collaborating very closely with all of Europe to mitigate this threat and to protect our citizens.”

- **February 8, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Munich Security Conference Panel Discussion (State Department)**

Quote: “The world cannot and will not cower in the face of this extremism. And the United States and our European partners are helping to lead the fight to defeat it, wherever it exists. And this is clear in the French-led fight against terrorists in the Sahel, which we appreciate enormously. It is clear in the support that Germany, France, and almost all of our European partners have shown for the fight against Boko Haram in Nigeria and elsewhere. And certainly, it is clear in our shared mission to counter Daesh, a group that directly threatens the peace and stability of every single country in the region and has overtly threatened to take their horrific mission to every corner of the world.”

- **February 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote: “We have – as you know, we have more than 60 partners contributing to this coalition. It’s a multipronged strategy. To date, the coalition has conducted more than 2,300 airstrikes against ISIL terrorists, over 1,200 in Iraq and over a thousand in Syria. We’re taking ISIL’s fighters, their commanders, over a thousand – we’ve taken out ISIL’s fighters, their commanders, and over a thousands vehicles and tanks, over 200 oil and gas facilities, the infrastructure – a great deal of the infrastructure, as well as over 20 training camps.”

- **February 10, 2015 – USNI West Delivered by Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work (Department of Defense)**

Quote: “From 2011 to 2016, we estimate that China’s defense budget increased by 500 percent. Their military is rapidly fielding new weapons and systems. It is astonishing to see the number of programs that they are -- they are developing at a single point. It’s really eye-watering.”

- **February 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “China is against all forms of terrorism. The Chinese side is willing to step up cooperation with the international community, jointly fight against terrorist forces including the East Turkestan Islamic Movement and safeguard security and stability of the region and the world.”

- **February 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “China holds a consistent and clear position on anti-missile issues. It is our belief that every country should keep in mind other countries’ security interests and regional peace and stability while pursuing its own security interests. We hope that countries concerned can properly deal with relevant issues in the larger interests of regional peace and stability and bilateral relations.”

- **February 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “The Chinese government firmly opposes and cracks down on all forms of hacking activities in accordance with the law [...] In order to safeguard a cyber space that is peaceful, secure, open and cooperative, all countries should respect instead of suspecting each other, have dialogue to enhance mutual trust instead of antagonizing and accusing other countries. As a country boasting the most advanced cyber technology and the most solid cyber strength, the US should lead by example. We hope the US can take more positive actions and do more things that are conducive to preserving mutual trust and cooperation of the cyber space.”

- **February 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “China is committed to the path of peaceful development and a national defense policy that is defensive in nature. The development of China’s national defense aims to safeguard national unity, territorial integrity and development interests. It answers to the need of preserving world and regional peace and security, and targets and threatens no one [...] We hope relevant countries can view China’s development, including its national defense development, from a peaceful, objective, unbiased and reasonable perspective.”



- **February 11, 2015 - Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: Support for Authorization for Use of Military Force** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "President Obama's draft resolution to authorize the use of military force against ISIL is important, and it's important for our country that we work with Congress to achieve its passage. We are strongest as a nation when the Administration and Congress work together on issues as significant as the use of military force. The world needs to hear that the United States speaks with one voice in the fight against ISIL [...] The near daily drumbeat of ISIL's barbaric acts have only strengthened the world's collective resolve to defeat ISIL. We've already taken decisive action to reverse ISIL's momentum, and it is critical that we move forward together in the next phase of the Coalition's campaign."

- **February 20, 2015 - Remarks by Frank A. Rose: Ballistic Missile Defense and Strategic Stability in East Asia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "The United States is committed to maintaining strategic stability in U.S.-China relations and supports initiation of a dialogue on strategic stability and nuclear postures aimed at fostering a more stable, resilient, and transparent security relationship with China [...] We could potentially expect a notional Chinese equivalent to the GMD system to provide at most a limited defense of the Chinese homeland, which would not counter the U.S. strategic deterrent and therefore would not undermine strategic stability [...] There is another important aspect of China's BMD program that bears discussing, which is its connection with China's anti-satellite, or ASAT, weapons program."

- **February 23, 2015 - Remarks by Frank A. Rose: A Modern U.S.-Japan Alliance** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "There has been a lot of discussion in the press recently about the possible deployment of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense or THAAD system in the region. Let me be clear, this system is a purely defensive system to defend against short- and medium-range regional ballistic missiles from North Korea. It does not and cannot impact broader strategic stability with Russia and China. Such a system would provide additional defensive capabilities to support our forces on the peninsula."

- **February 13, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: The US side said that it has raised concerns at a senior level to China over China's new security rules on network information. Has China received such concerns? What is China's message in response?"

A: China and the US are in communication with each other on the relevant issue. As for the question you raised, yesterday I have made our principles and positions clearly. China is unswerving in implementing the opening-up policy. As long as foreign enterprises abide by Chinese laws, and do nothing to undermine China's national security and Chinese consumer's interests, China will protect their lawful rights and interests in accordance with the law."

- **February 17, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The stance of the Chinese government on issues relating to cyber security is clear and consistent. We are against all forms of cyber attacks and activities creating hostility or confrontation in the cyber space. We hope that all parties can act upon the spirit of mutual respect and mutual trust, enhance dialogue and cooperation in the cyber space, properly deal with cyber security issues and make joint efforts to safeguard peace and security of the cyber space."

- **February 25, 2015 - Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: Reports said that US and UK intelligence agencies embedded spying software into the computer system of a Dutch SIM card maker which produced SIM cards for some Chinese mobile phone companies. What's China's comment on this?"

A: We have noted relevant reports, and are deeply concerned about them. The Chinese government firmly opposes cyber-surveillance activities conducted through ways like embedding spying software and setting up back-doors when information technology superiority is taken advantage of and convenience gained from supplying information technology products is misused [...] We hope relevant parties can respect the consumers' interests and take effective measures to prevent such cases from happening again."



- **February 25, 2015 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice’s Meeting with State Councilor Yang Jiechi of China** ([Statements and Releases, White House](#))

Quote: “Ambassador Rice and State Councilor Yang agreed to strengthen coordination on regional and global challenges, including North Korea, Iran, Afghanistan, global health security, and counterterrorism [...] They also agreed that Iran should seize the historic opportunity presented by the ongoing P5+1 negotiations to address the international community’s concerns regarding its nuclear program.”

- **February 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China’s position on opposing hacking attack and other cyber threats is consistent, clear and serious. Hacking is a global issue that needs to be tackled jointly by the international community. Peace, security, openness and cooperation of the cyber space needs to be maintained with collective efforts. China is a staunch guardian of cyber space peace and stability, as well as an advocate for formulating order and rules in cyber space.”



Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Actively Supports the Preservation of Human Rights Worldwide; China Offers Its Support of UN Human Rights Schemes

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, 2015 - Remarks by Robert R. King: Supporting Humanitarian Aid Programs in the DPRK (State Department) Quote: “We seek to alleviate the humanitarian problems in North Korea and also to end the egregious human rights violations occurring in the country [...] We support efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the people of North Korea. And we call on North Korea to honor its international obligations and agreements and to allow the international humanitarian assistance groups and independent monitors unfettered access to all areas of the country to ensure that humanitarian aid reaches its intended recipients.” ● February 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “The report released yesterday by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child further exposes the horrendous and vile tactics that ISIL has used to run its campaign of terror on the Iraqi people. The report – this one specifically outlines how ISIL is systematically killing, torturing, and raping children, and discusses specific cases of mass executions of boys, as well as crucifying and burying children alive. The report also describes ISIL’s use of children as suicide bombers, bomb makers, informants, and human shields. These savage and barbaric acts should once again call into question the humanity of those committing them. We have repeatedly seen that ISIL is nothing but a brutal and vicious cult that inflicts unspeakable horrors on its victims.” ● February 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “We obviously remain committed to protecting and promoting the human rights of all people, including LGBT rights, which have been a key issue for Secretary Kerry. I don’t know if you saw some of the press stories yesterday, but the Secretary will be announcing the appointment of a special envoy for the human rights of LGBT persons. It will be an openly gay Foreign Service officer. We don’t have a finalized name yet, but we will announce soon, reflecting, again, his commitment and the Administration’s ongoing commitment to advancing the human rights of LGBT persons globally.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: Next month is the annual UN human rights meeting in Geneva. Do you have any details on the Chinese delegation? Who will be the chief of the delegation? A: [...] China takes an active role in the UN human rights cause, and sends delegations to take part in the meeting every year. China is willing to engage in discussions and exchanges on human rights issue with all countries on the basis of mutual respect and equality to jointly move forward the international cause of human rights.”



- **February 10, 2015 – Remarks by Michele J. Sison, U.S. Deputy Representative to the United Nations, at a General Assembly Open Briefing on Counter-terrorism** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Here in the United States, we have also struggled with many of the same challenges you have outlined today, including how to reconcile our security needs with the need to protect and defend our cherished freedoms and privacy [...] We therefore particularly appreciate that France is carefully thinking through the difficult question of how best to fight terrorism while preserving the rule of law and protecting our fundamental rights, in particular, freedom of speech.”

- **February 19, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We have – since the beginning of this emergency, we have provided 24.7 million in support of essential humanitarian aid to refugees, internally displaced persons, and other populations of concern impacted by Boko Haram-engendered conflicts in Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. These include support for protection, food, agriculture, and livelihoods; health, humanitarian coordination, and water sanitation; and hygiene assistance. We are committed – we continue to assess and are committed to doing more. There is, as you know, a multinational joint task force that we also continue to support.”

- **February 20, 2015 - Remarks at the Swearing-in Ceremony for Ambassador-at-Large for Religious Freedom David Saperstein** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Our generation prides itself on its modernity, and yet we are still grappling with rivalries that have their roots in the distant past. Today, thousands of people are in prison because of their religious practices or beliefs. In the Central African Republic, Christian and Muslim militias are engaged in a bloody conflict. In Burma, radical Buddhists are seeking to deny citizenship to an Islamic minority. In the Middle East and Africa, terror networks such as Daesh and Boko Haram are betraying fundamental principles of their own religion of Islam. Major European cities are struggling to cope with the aftermath of terror attacks, amid evidence of anti-Semitism, radicalization, Islamophobia [...] So I’m not exaggerating when I say that we need a steady voice to speak for us and to us on these issues and to do so in the larger context of religious freedom.”



- February 24, 2015 - Review of Resources, Priorities and Programs in the FY 2016 State Department Budget Request ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We have been leading the effort to curb Ebola. We took the risk – President Obama took the risk of sending 4,000 young American troops to build the infrastructure so we could deal with that. It was risky at the time he did it, because nobody had all of the answers. But it worked, and America led an effort to bring people to the table to help keep this from providing the 1 million people dying that were predicted if we didn’t have the response that was provided.”



Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: Combating Climate Change, Poor Air Quality and the Need to Protect Wildlife

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 6, 2015 – Remarks by National Security Advisor Susan Rice on the 2015 National Security Strategy (Speeches and Remarks, White House) Quote: “American leadership is addressing the very real threat of climate change [...] We’re making smart decisions today that will pay off for generations, like our ground-breaking climate commitment with China that will limit both our nations’ greenhouse gases and bend down the global emissions curve.” ● February 12, 2015 - Remarks by Fatema Z. Sumar : Fulbright Water-Energy-Food Nexus Workshop (State Department) Quote: “As you are all aware, in recent months President Obama has announced new cooperation with China and India on climate change and renewable energy. And the United States is working with governments throughout South Asia on green energy, clean cook stoves, and disaster risk resilience.” ● February 18, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at a Signing Ceremony for the Agreement to Enhance Post Air Quality Monitoring and Action Overseas with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (State Department) Quote: “Interestingly, in recent years, China has gotten a better sense of just how dangerous the levels of air pollution have become, and their citizens are increasingly demanding action. There was a time when poor visibility in cities like Beijing was blamed simply on excessive fog. But today, in part because of expanded air-quality monitoring in cities throughout China, the Chinese Government is now deeply committed to getting the pollution under control. And last March, Premier Li Keqiang “declared war” – that’s a quote – on pollution. The mayor of Beijing, Wang Anshun, correctly deemed it a “life-or-death situation.” And in 2014, the National People’s Congress updated the environmental protection law for the first time in 25 years [...] The United States and China, the world’s two largest emitters of greenhouse gasses – carbon pollution – two countries long regarded as the leaders of opposing camps in the effort to do something about climate change, have now found common ground on this issue. And because of that, the possibility of an ambitious and absolutely critical agreement in Paris actually is on the horizon.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 9 – Statement by Ambassador Wang Min at the 53rd Session of the Commission for Social Development (Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the UN) Quote: “Climate change is a challenge to the whole mankind. The year 2015 is a critical year for negotiations on climate change and all parties have high hopes for the COP 21 of UNFCCC. China is ready to work with others under the principles of ‘common but differentiated responsibilities’, equity and respective capacities, in a joint effort to strive for a new agreement at the Paris Conference on Climate Change and establish a global climate governing system that is fair and reasonable and ensures cooperation and win-win results.” ● February 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Chinese government sets great store by the protection of wildlife, including elephant. We adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal ivory trading, and severely crack down on ivory smuggling and illegal trading activities through ways of legislation, law enforcement and jurisdiction. We also organize extensive education campaigns to raise public awareness about this. As a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, China has been following the convention and playing a positive role in international cooperation of law enforcement. We have been actively conducting exchanges and cooperating with elephant range countries in Africa to provide more personnel training and funding for elephant protection.”



Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: Obama Visits India, Claims U.S. Is Not Trying to Counterweight China; China Talks Positively of U.S. Engagement in the Region

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 3, 2015 - Readout From President Obama's Trip to India: Perspectives on U.S.-India Relations (State Department) Quote: "As Prime Minister Modi publicly noted during the visit just recently, when he thinks of the United States, he doesn't think to look to the West. He thinks to look to the East, and he sees the Pacific shore of the United States. And in so many ways, as the U.S. implements our rebalance, we see India as a fundamental provider of security and economic growth across the region, and we have agreed to develop a bilateral road map to put the essence behind this strategic vision going forward." ● February 3, 2015 - Readout From President Obama's Trip to India: Perspectives on U.S.-India Relations (State Department) Quote: "In terms of the effort as to, is the U.S.-India partnership something that's to counterweight China, I would fundamentally point to the fact that this is a U.S.-India effort and it's not necessarily to counterweight anyone. I don't think either the U.S. or India has an interest in any kind of confrontation or much less any sort of intent to contain China. That's not the intent. The intent here is to work together, and I think we have, as was noted throughout this visit, both in the private engagements during the bilaterals but also in the public statements at the business summit, to work off of the core values that we have to build India up." ● February 3, 2015 - Readout From President Obama's Trip to India: Perspectives on U.S.-India Relations (State Department) Quote: "I think that within that, the China conversation is just as important as the full spectrum of conversations that we're having about East Asia and the Indian Ocean writ large and the connectivity that remains there. There's great opportunities here for all of us to be collaborating together. And the intent, I think, up front, as you've seen this week, the Indian foreign minister is in Beijing conducting engagement. So this is not intended by any means to be exclusive, or as was noted earlier, to be some sort of counterweight. But it is intended to find means to make sure that this is a stable and prosperous region going forward." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 6, 2015 – Remarks by H.E. Liu Zhenmin, Vice Foreign Minister of the People's Republic of China, at the 'Asia-Pacific Geopolitics' Munich Security Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "China has been working with the US to build a new model of major-country relationship based on no-conflict, no-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation. Both sides are committed to strengthening cooperation in the Asia-Pacific." ● February 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "As a country of major influence, the U.S. is watched for every action it takes in the Asia-Pacific region. We hope that the U.S. policy and action in the Asia-Pacific region can inject positive energy to peace and stability of the region and play a positive and constructive role in maintaining peace and stability of the region and promoting mutual trust and cooperation among countries in the region."



- **February 4, 2015 - Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “2015 is also going to be a big year and we believe a good year, certainly an important year in the Asia Pacific region. It’s a year that’s replete with a lot of anniversaries. Of course, it’s the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, and of the formation of the United Nations. It is the 50th anniversary of Singaporean independence, the 20th anniversary of normalization of U.S.-Vietnam relations, and 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War and much more. So there will be a wealth, I believe, of important visitors moving in both directions between Asia and the United States in 2015.”

- **February 4, 2015 - Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015** ([State Department](#))

Quote: One of the things that keeps me going is the example of Burma, Myanmar. There is a country that decided to make a change. There is a case in which a military dictatorship reinvented itself, opened itself, and the result of that shift has been the pouring in of significant development and economic support. President Obama has visited Burma twice. Imagine that. The president of Burma has visited the United States. The country is working up towards elections. Now, they – of course, Burma has many problems. But the transformation in the economy, the transformation in the lives of the Burmese people, the opportunities that have opened up and the scope of international cooperation and support for Burma has not come at the cost of a revolution. This is, as we see, a peaceful and iterative prospect. So the point is that we will negotiate with the government that exists in North Korea if they will negotiate in good faith consistent with their commitments under the Six-Party Talks and the UN Security Council resolutions. However, change in North Korea does not need to be regime change, as the example of Burma shows.”

- **February 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Thailand is a valued friend and ally. We have a longstanding history of strong cooperation. We will continue cooperation on issues that matter to the security and well-being of our country and theirs as well. But we have continued to urge the government to take necessary steps to fully succeed in its transition to democracy. “



- **February 9, 2015 - Overview of the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy**
([State Department](#))

Quote: “In terms of the South China Sea, I think as you look at what the rebalance is about, it’s positioning the United States to work cooperatively with the nations of the region, to assure continued prosperity and stability going forward. And so everything that we’re doing is meant to reinforce a rules-based system in the region. So on trade, TPP is meant to establish high standards for increased trade and commerce between Asia Pacific nations. If you look at our security posture and how we’re working with allies, but also deepening partnerships with emerging nations, again, broadening America’s partnerships in places like Australia in Darwin or the Philippines, where we’ve increased our defense relationships, we want to make sure that we’re well positioned to support stability in the region. And then in terms of our political engagement, we’ve really sought to try to empower an architecture through ASEAN and the East Asia Summit whereby there’s a process for a dialogue for addressing issues like maritime security in the South China Sea, so that that can lead to things like a code of conduct to avoid escalation, and so that can lead to a process for resolving claims not through force but through international law and international mechanisms.”

- **February 9, 2015 - Overview of the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy**
([State Department](#))

Quote: “We also wanted to indicate, of course, the importance we place on our relationship with the Republic of Korea. So we wanted to make clear that the President will be extending that invitation to President Park. But also, we’ve put a premium on engagement with ASEAN, and so we also wanted to indicate that the new president of Indonesia will be visiting this year. And as a snapshot, I think, of how we’ve approached the region – very close cooperation with allies, aiming to work cooperatively with – where we can with China, even as we have differences, but also ensuring that we’re reaching out robustly to Southeast Asia.”



- **February 13, 2015 - Remarks by Antony J. Blinken: U.S. Economic Policy in East Asia and the Pacific** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Strengthening our relationship with China is also part and parcel of the rebalance. We seek a relationship with China defined by practical and tangible cooperation on challenges that face both of our nations. The more we can work together, and be seen as working together, the more we can avoid the trap of inevitable rivalry [...] The TPP is not an attempt to isolate or contain China. Any nation that is willing to rise to the occasion and meet the high standards we have set for ourselves is welcome – China included. In fact, the world would be a better place if China made the changes and embraced the reforms that would make it an eligible candidate for TPP.”

- **February 24, 2015 - Remarks by Sung Kim: Remarks at Mansfield Foundation Event** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “TPP is not just a technical trade agreement, it’s a strategic opportunity for the entire region. It will cement the strong alliance framework and partnerships that ensure the Asia-Pacific’s security and prosperity [...] We welcome last November’s understanding between China and Japan to improve relations, in particular their stated intent to establish a crisis management mechanism to avoid accidents [...] Our alliances with Japan and the Republic of Korea are at the core of our Six-Party diplomacy. Both allies remain fully committed to the goal of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and an end to North Korea’s illicit behavior.”



Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: U.S. Talks Denuclearization and Takes North Korean Threats Seriously; China against the Use of Sanctions

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, 2015 - Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 (State Department) Quote: “The fact of the matter is we don’t have a hostile policy, we have a denuclearization policy. And that’s a policy and a policy goal that is shared by the Republic of Korea, by Japan, by China, by Russia, and one to which the North Koreans themselves signed up in 2005. So as you rightly said, the U.S. has been consistent in making clear that we are open to dialogue. We have no problem talking to the North Koreans. We talk to the North Koreans. What we want, however, are negotiations, to implement the agreements reached, to fulfil the mandate of the UN Security Council resolutions, to denuclearize the north – the Korean Peninsula. And to that end, we are always alert to and seeking indicators of seriousness of purpose on North Korea’s part, that’s it prepared to negotiate, that it’s prepared to come to the negotiating table ready to take the concrete steps, take the irreversible steps that will be necessary to freeze, rollback, and eliminate, ultimately, the nuclear program and the missile program that are outlawed under the UN Security Council resolutions.” ● February 4, 2015 - Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 (State Department) Quote: “But the fact of the matter is that I and my colleagues in government, of course, take threats by North Korea very seriously, and we are mindful of and alert to the risk that North Korea may conduct a provocation, whether it is along the pattern of past behavior, a nuclear test or a missile launch, or an asymmetric sneak attack such as was the case against the Cheonan, or a cyber sneak attack, as was the case against Sony. We are not – we’re well aware of the potential for North Korean provocation.” ● February 8, 2015 - Remarks by Antony J. Blinken: Remarks at Incheon Airport (State Department) Quote: “We began in a relationship founded on our common interests on the Peninsula. That’s expanded to a partnership that focuses not just on the Peninsula, but on the region, and indeed the world. The partnership between the United States and the Republic of Korea is increasingly a global partnership on.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 6, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China maintains that sanctions, which do no good to solving problems, should not be imposed willfully in handling international relations. Concerning the DPRK nuclear issue, we believe that all parties should display wisdom, increase dialogue, strive to resume the Six Party talks at an early date, advance the denuclearization process of the Korean Peninsula and realize peace and stability of the Peninsula given the current circumstances.”



- **February 9, 2015 - Overview of the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “All the six parties, I think, need to be making very clear to North Korea that the only pathway toward stability on the Korean Peninsula is denuclearization. That nobody has an interest in the types of provocative actions that we’ve seen from North Korea. So Russia, for instance, has no interest in instability in the Korean Peninsula, that when North Korea is engaging in actions like launching missiles or testing nuclear devices, that that inherently contributes to instability. So we would encourage every nation, particularly those within the six-party – the Six-Party nations to be sending a clear message to North Korea that denuclearization has to be the road to stability on the peninsula.”

- **February 18, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “North Korea has one of the most abysmal records on human rights in the world. There is a commission of inquiry that, as you know, looks into this. The report reflects the international community’s consensus view that the human rights situation in North Korea is among the world’s worst. We urge North Korea to take concrete steps, as recommended by the commission of inquiry, to improve the human rights situation. We will continue to work with the international community to sustain international attention on – on the deplorable human rights situation in North Korea. And that is something that we remain committed to.”

- **February 25, 2015 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice’s Meeting with State Councilor Yang Jiechi of China** ([Statements and Releases, White House](#))

Quote: “National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice met today with State Councilor Yang Jiechi of China in New York City. Ambassador Rice and State Councilor Yang [...] reaffirmed their commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and agreed that North Korea would not succeed in its twin pursuit of nuclear weapons and economic development.”



Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S.-Led Fight against ISIL, Boko Haram Intensifies; China Focused on Iran, Building Better Relations with the African Union

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 3, 2015 - Fact Sheet by Office of the Spokesperson: The United States and Jordan Sign a Memorandum of Understanding on U.S. Assistance (State Department) Quote: “The United States recognizes Jordan’s increased immediate needs resulting from regional unrest, the efforts Jordan is undertaking at the forefront of the fight against ISIL and other extremist ideology and terrorism, the influx of refugees from Syria and Iraq, the disruption of foreign energy supplies, and other unprecedented strains.” ● February 3, 2015 - Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Secretary Kerry Hosts Plenary Meeting of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL (State Department) Quote: “Supporting regional military partners, stopping the flow of foreign fighters, cutting off ISIL’s access to financing, addressing urgent humanitarian needs, and countering ISIL’s messaging [...] nearly every country in the world has a role to play in defeating ISIL [...] illustrates how strongly the global community is united in degrading and defeating ISIL, and underscores our shared commitment to continued coordination of our joint operations.” ● February 3, 2015 - Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: The Death of Jordanian First Lieutenant al-Kasasbeh (State Department) Quote: “Jordanian First Lieutenant Moaz al-Kasasbeh represented everything that ISIL is not: he was brave, compassionate, and principled [...] We will never allow the scourge of ISIL to spread to other countries, or the death of Lieutenant al-Kasasbeh and thousands of innocent victims to be forgotten. Our support for the Arab coalition united against this terrorist organization will not rest until ISIL can no longer threaten the region and their lies and deceptions are clear to all. Today and hereafter, particularly in this hour of grief, our support for Jordan and the Jordanian people remains strong and steadfast.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The P5+1 and Iran are negotiating in high gear on a comprehensive agreement on resolving the Iranian nuclear issue. We hope that parties concerned can prize and maintain the hard-won momentum of negotiation, stick to the consensus forged in previous negotiations, concentrate on differences and try to close them, make political judgment and strive for a mutually beneficial and comprehensive agreement as soon as possible. The Chinese side is ready to work with all parties and continue to play a constructive role in advancing the process of dialogue and negotiation.” ● February 6, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “A: China’s establishment of a permanent mission to the African Union (AU) is an important step to implement the outcomes of President Xi Jinping’s visit to Africa and fulfill Premier Li Keqiang’s commitment during his visit to Africa [...] the establishment of the permanent mission, a sign of how China values the in-depth growth of friendly cooperation with the AU in a sincere way, is a landmark event in the history of China-AU relations. It will infuse fresh driving force to the development of the two sides and China-Africa relations.” ● February 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: Negotiations on a comprehensive solution to the Iranian nuclear issue were held in Geneva days ago. Reports said that some progress was made, but there was still a long way to go to seal a final deal [...] How does China perceive the prospect of the nuclear negotiations? A: [...] China is ready to work with all parties and continue to play a constructive role in moving along the talks and negotiations. We hope that parties concerned can consolidate their confidence, work towards the same direction so that a comprehensive agreement that is mutually beneficial and win-win to all can be reached at an early date.”



- **February 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We do believe that a regional effort is needed to fight Boko Haram [...] I clearly think if you just look at the sheer amount of violence that Boko Haram has been able to perpetrate that there needs to be more capacity and more willingness among some of the parties. Some of the – there’ve been some times when people have stepped up and really tried to be aggressive against Boko Haram, but clearly more needs to be done.”

- **February 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States condemns the recent terrorist attacks by Boko Haram in Cameroon and Niger in the strongest possible terms. Boko Haram has perpetrated countless unprovoked attacks on men, women, and children in their homes, schools, places of worship, and businesses. Their brutality and barbarism know no bounds. We condemn the horrific and barbaric acts of these groups that continue to show total disregard for the sanctity of human life. Boko Haram must not be allowed to continue brutally terrorizing innocent civilians in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. This unchecked killing must stop. The United States stands firmly with the governments and peoples of the region in the face of this threat. We are responding to requests from Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria. We continue to provide support to governments in the region, including through intelligence sharing and are increasing our support for these efforts. The U.S. is committed to supporting the efforts of the multinational joint task force and we commend efforts by the African Union and the Lake Chad Basin Commission to bring together the MNJTF, and we will continue to work with our regional and international partners to make it an effective force.

- **February 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States strongly condemns the Assad regime’s barrel bombing and airstrikes this week in the Damascus suburbs of eastern Ghouta and Duma, where hundreds of civilians, including children, were killed and wounded, as well as its deliberate targeting yesterday of civilians near Aleppo, where victims were simply attempting to go about their day collecting water in a public square, and others were riding a bus. These attacks show an utter disregard for human life. Syrians on the ground report these are among the Assad regime’s most brutal attacks since its unrelenting campaign of terror began nearly four years ago. We have been clear that all parties must avoid any action that endangers civilians, and we condemn the use of heavy weaponry against civilian areas by combatant forces. Those who commit such crimes must be held accountable.”

- **February 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China attaches great importance to the Palestinian issue, stands firmly with the Palestinian people in their just cause, and supports Palestine in integrating further into the international community as a state.”



- **February 12, 2015 - Briefing: Fact Sheet: UN Security Council Resolution 2199 on ISIL** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “On February 12, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2199 to respond to the threat posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), as well as the Al Nusra Front (ANF) and other groups associated with Al-Qaida (AQ) [...] this resolution provides for a range of tools, including sanctions and other binding measures, to degrade these terrorist organizations’ ability to carry out brutal attacks. It focuses extensively on terrorist financial support networks, particularly ISIL’s raising of funds through oil smuggling, looting of antiquities, kidnapping for ransom and other illicit activities.”

- **February 12, 2015 - Briefing by Samantha Power: Explanation of Vote at a Security Council Session on Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Threats** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States strongly supports today’s resolution, which is part of a comprehensive strategy to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL. The strategy also includes coordinated efforts by many nations to conduct robust military operations to degrade ISIL’s military capabilities; to enact tougher laws and foster better cooperation to stop the flow of foreign terrorist fighters who fill ISIL’s ranks; and to counter the violent ideologies that attract people to ISIL and help fuel the group’s attacks.”

- **February 15, 2015 – Remarks by Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, at a Security Council Session on Yemen** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “The United States is pleased to support the adoption of a Security Council resolution that sends a clear message: all parties in Yemen, especially the Houthi, must commit to resolving the country’s political crisis by consensus through a peaceful and inclusive dialogue [...] The people of Yemen deserve a clear path back to the political transition process and a legitimate government based on these agreements and the resolutions of this Council, with a publicly-announced timeline and specific dates for the completion of a new constitution, a constitutional referendum, and national elections.”



- **February 17, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote: “A military solution will not bring an end to ISIL. That’s why there are several components of our coalition. Yes, the military component is important, and we’ve done thousands of strikes in Iraq and Syria. That’s continuing to pick up, as you know, and you’ve covered quite a bit. But we also need to delegitimize ISIL. If the ideology is out there and growing, we – ISIL will continue to grow and thrive. We need to cut off their financing, we need to prevent foreign fighters from moving.”

- **February 24, 2015 - Press Statement by Jen Psaki: Recent Attacks on Civilians in Syria (State Department)**

Quote: “Syrians are threatened not only by ISIL’s grotesque violence and repressive ideology, but also by the Assad regime’s unrelenting campaign of terror [...] To bring an end to these daily horrors, we remain committed to leading the international coalition to degrade and defeat ISIL and to working towards a negotiated political solution that stops the bloodshed and secures a future of freedom, justice, and dignity for all Syrians.”



Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: Taiwan, Hong Kong, Tibet and Maritime Territorial Disputes

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 4, 2015 - Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015 (State Department) <p>Quote: “The U.S. and Taiwan discuss issues relating to air safety on an ongoing basis, and this is an issue of common concern for both of us. Issues pertaining to the health, safety, the welfare, the dignity of the people of Taiwan are important to us and are fully consistent with our robust unofficial relations, which of course are, as always, governed by our “one-China” policy by the three communiques, et cetera. 2015 is an important political year, of course, in Taiwan. The relationship that has been developed, certainly since I have been back in Washington – so over the last six years, which corresponds to the presidency of Barack Obama – has been very productive. One of the things that has made that relationship productive has been the progress in cross-straits relations – something that we support, something that we have welcomed, and where possible something that we have facilitated. That said, just as there is bipartisan support in the United States for our China – “one-China” policy and for our very strong unofficial relations with Taiwan – important people-to-people connections, economic and trade, commercial connections, important cultural connections – just as there is very strong support in the United States on both sides of the aisle, so to speak, in Congress for our continued efforts to help ensure that Taiwan can preserve its autonomy and manage its defense, Taiwan can find appropriate international space in which to make regional and global contributions.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “Our position on Tibet-related issues is consistent and clear. We oppose any other country's decision to allow the Dalai Lama to visit, and we oppose any country's interference in China's domestic affairs by exploiting Tibet-related issues [...] Tibet-related issues bear on China's core interests and national feelings [...] If any foreign country attempts to provide any form of platform or facilitation for the Dalai Lama to carry out separatist activities, or meet him in any way, we firmly oppose that. When interacting with other countries, we hope to foster friendly and cooperative relations on the basis of mutual respect and accommodation of each other's core interests. This position is very clear and consistent.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “A: The US side issued new car plates to the Taiwan's representative office in the United States, but this kind of plate is not diplomatic one. We have asked the US side to strictly follow the one-China policy and the principles of the three joint communiques, abide by the international law, avoid developing official ties with Taiwan, and make sure that the name, nature, function and activities of the Taiwan's representative office in the United States are non-official ones so as to avoid any negative impact on China-US relations.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● February 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “China's position on the South China Sea issue is clear and consistent, and we have been acting in a restrained and responsible way. What China has been doing on its own islands and reefs and in its own waters is lawful, justifiable and reasonable [...] We hope the US side can honor its commitments, mind what it says and does, and act in a way that is conducive to the development of China-US relations and regional peace and stability.”</p>



- **February 4, 2015 - Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We expect the arrangements and the regulations pertaining to travel to Hong Kong by Americans, let alone by senior members of Congress or officials, to be honored. We think that it is important for our elected officials to be able to see with their own eyes and hear with their own ears what the situation is and what the views and the aspirations are of the people in the Hong Kong SAR [...] I testified on Hong Kong at the request of Congress. I made very clear the views and the concerns of the U.S. Administration, and I underscored our hope and belief that the principle of universal suffrage should be applied in good faith in Hong Kong, that the selection of the next chief executive should be an inclusive one. Hong Kong is important not only to the PRC but to the United States and to other neighbors as well because it is a huge financial capital, because it’s a thriving cultural center, because it’s so important in terms of trade and commerce, and because it has an estimable tradition of civic participation and rights – rights that are protected under the Basic Law. We continue to hope that the authorities in Beijing will show flexibility, will show patience, will show inclusiveness, and will be responsive to the many voices of civil society in Hong Kong. I think there would be great value to a visit to Hong Kong by members of Congress and would certainly support that in any way that I can.”

- **February 4, 2015 - Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: U.S. Policy Priorities for the East Asian and Pacific Region in 2015** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We have expressed concerns about some behavior that is unilaterally altering the status quo in a fraught and tense area. We’ve made that known directly and constructively to the Chinese. We also have concerns about the unintended effect of that behavior on China’s relationships with its neighbors. As the President, the Secretary, and others have made clear, we benefit when China has good and stable relations with its neighbors, including important neighbors like Vietnam, like the Philippines, like Malaysia, et cetera. And that’s something that we would like to encourage. It’s for that reason that we have advocated for the exercise of self-restraint by claimants in – particularly in terms of large-scale reclamation activities to transform rocks and shoals into outposts that could easily be militarized. That’s one reason why we have constructively advocated for self-restraint, for a freeze, for a moratorium on behavior that each of the claimants finds troubling. It should be on a voluntary basis among them. We’re not dictating what that looks like. So we value our ability to engage with China on cooperative projects, just as we value our ability to be candid with them on areas that we see as carrying the potential for trouble.”

- **February 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “[...] “One country, two systems” has been proved to be a great success, and is recognized by the world. The Central Government of China will continue to implement the “one country, two systems” policy and the Basic Law, resolutely support Hong Kong’s democratic development in accordance with the law, and safeguard Hong Kong’s long-term prosperity and stability [...] The Central Government of China resumed its sovereignty over Hong Kong on July 1, 1997. Since then, Hong Kong has been a special administrative region of China [...] Hong Kong affairs are completely China’s domestic affairs. No foreign country has any right to interfere.”



- **February 5, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([Press Briefings, White House](#))

Quote: “President Obama offered a public welcome, public greeting and even public words of praise for the Dalai Lama [...] The President’s respect for and appreciation of the Dalai Lama were pretty clearly articulated in the remarks that he delivered today [...] As longstanding as the President’s appreciation for the Dalai Lama is, so is the Chinese government’s objections to those kinds of interactions. But we’re certainly cognizant of that impact, but it hasn’t changed the President’s view.

- **February 9, 2015 - Briefings by Ben Rhodes: Overview of the 2015 U.S. National Security Strategy** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “In terms of the South China Sea [...] it’s positioning the United States to work cooperatively with the nations of the region, to assure continued prosperity and stability going forward. And so everything that we’re doing is meant to reinforce a rules-based system in the region. So on trade, TPP is meant to establish high standards for increased trade and commerce between Asia Pacific nations [...] We’ve really sought to try to empower an architecture through ASEAN and the East Asia Summit whereby there’s a process for a dialogue for addressing issues like maritime security in the South China Sea.”

- **February 13, 2015 - Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Joint Statement on the Third United States-Singapore Strategic Partnership Dialogue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “They urged all parties to exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities, including land reclamation, in the South China Sea. They continued to encourage ASEAN Member States and China to expeditiously work toward the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea [...] urged all parties to pursue their claims peacefully and in accordance with international law, including UNCLOS.”



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

