

Two Branches of the Same Tree: Common Goals - Diverging Tactics

April 2015

Benjamin Engel
ASI Research Center

June 2015

Introducing the UCR Briefing

The EAI is pleased to announce the expansion of the UCR Series since February 2015 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. These changes will allow for a greater scope of coverage and the inclusion of a wider range of sources that the EAI believes will offer a better experience and easier navigation of the vast amount of information available to users of the UCR Series

Two Branches of the Same Tree: Common Goals - Diverging Tactics

Finding policy goals shared by both the U.S. and China is not a difficult task. Both nations are seeking a peaceful and secure Asian-Pacific region which will allow for more rapid economic growth. Both seek to expand their influence and reach to bring about positive outcomes for themselves and their partners and allies. Yet the specific strategies each nation chooses to accomplish these similar goals can sometimes be polar opposites, and thus despite having a shared goal, these differing tactics can lead to conflict. The following summarizes five key issues within U.S.-China relations that arose during the previous month.

Complexities in Conflict Resolution

The U.S. and China have been in step, at least theoretically, with regards to some of the most pressing international issues. For example, both the U.S. and China were upbeat on the deal constructed to halt the development of nuclear weapons in Iran, and both countries also professed their belief that the Six Party Talks were a

useful forum in bringing about a denuclearized Korean Peninsula with the U.S. calling for a North Korean return to the talks.¹ Yet with regard to other critical situations such as the tensions in the South China Sea, the strategies used by the U.S. and China have been quite different and these diverging tactics themselves may become the source of conflict. The U.S. this month continued to bolster its alliances and stand by its partners with statements reaffirming alliances with Japan, South Korea, and Australia in addition to participating in military exercises with the Philippines.² China, on the other hand, derided the U.S. for engaging in “outdated” military alliances while expressing concern with the scale of U.S. military exercises in the region.³ It remains to be seen if these differing strategies will increase tensions further or if the mutual desire for peaceful conflict resolution will win the day.

Japan in the Crosshairs

Building up to Abe’s historic address in Washington, U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter visited American military installations in Japan and spoke warmly about the alliance between the two nations stating, “we reaffirmed that the Japanese alliance continues to be important for Japan’s security and peace and stability of the region. And we agreed to cooperate closely to further strengthen our alliance.”⁴ The U.S. also supported the renewed Japanese goal of increasing the size and strength of its military with Secretary Carter stating, “I think the Japanese have shown that they can be good citizens in the region, and they’re kind of ready to do more for security in the region.”⁵ China, on the other hand, accused Japan of attempting to “whitewash” its historical crimes away with new textbooks and

¹UCR April Issue 2015 – Military and Security Relations, Issue 3 [pg. 16](#)

²Ibid, [pg. 17](#)

³Ibid, [pg. 18](#)

⁴UCR April Issue 2015 – Asia Pacific Issues, Issue 6 [pg. 29](#)

⁵Ibid, [pg. 30](#)



closely monitored the attendance of Japanese government officials to ceremonies held at the Yasukuni Shrine which honors Japanese war veterans including some designated as war criminals, a thorny issue for many Asian nations.⁶ Yet China was focused narrowly on historical issues and did not venture to comment on the possibility of a growing Japanese military, leaving one to wonder if China views a stronger Japanese military as an independent, new and rising threat or if it is just an outgrowth of the American pivot to Asia with the U.S. having a firm leash on China's island neighbor.

Rising Tides

Newly released history textbooks asserting the Japanese claim to the Senkaku Islands/Diaoyu Dao brought strong statements from the Chinese Foreign Ministry reasserting China's historical claim to the disputed group of islands.⁷ China and the Philippines also sparred over the rights to the Nansha Islands in the Southeast China sea with claims by the Filipino government that Filipino fisherman were attacked with a water canon while fishing in the area,⁸ and in a separate incident the Filipino government accused a Chinese warship of flashing a powerful light at a Filipino military aircraft patrolling near the Nansha Islands.⁹ China was also faced with a statement from the 26th ASEAN summit "expressing serious concerns on the land reclamation being undertaken in the South China Sea."¹⁰ The U.S. refrained from taking too strong a stance on many of these incidents and when statements were given, as in the case of the water cannon attack claim by the Filipino government, the U.S. urged "claimants to exercise restraint and to pursue

⁶Ibid, pg. 28, 31

⁷UCR April Issue 2015 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes, Issue 9 pg. 46

⁸Ibid, pg. 49

⁹UCR April Issue 2015 – Military and Security Relations, Issue 3 pg. 18

¹⁰UCR April Issue 2015 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes, Issue 9 pg. 52

diplomatic means to clarify their claims and to resolve disputes."¹¹ Given the military nature of some of these incidents, one cannot help but be worried a more serious incident is on the horizon.

Competing Acronyms

Fast-track authority for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was an important goal for the Obama administration in April and various government bodies devoted significant amounts of efforts towards espousing the benefits of the trade agreement.¹² China countered with talking up its Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and a plan for a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP).¹³ While none of the plans affects the other in theory, the race to complete these deals and boost economic growth is on the forefront of both governments' minds. With regards to the AIIB, another important economic issue as of late, China deliberately stated several times that the AIIB will not exist outside the existing international financial system and that China would uphold that system given that it had benefitted from it greatly over the past several decades.¹⁴ Are these calming tones from the Chinese government continued overtures to the U.S. in hopes of seeing the Americans join an international financial organization established by Beijing?

Putting Out Fires Together?

Both countries urged parties in Yemen to cooperate with the U.S. calling for parties to participate in a UN led political dialogue and China applauding the Saudi-led coalition's announcement that the "Decisive Storm" campaign had

¹¹Ibid, pg. 46

¹²UCR April Issue 2015 – Economic Relations, Issue 2 pg. 14

¹³Ibid, pg. 15

¹⁴Ibid, pg. 14



ended.¹⁵ Both parties also condemned the terrorist attacks in Kenya¹⁶ and provided aid to earthquake-stricken Nepal.¹⁷ Despite this perhaps inadvertent cooperation, the U.S. refused to allow the Chinese silencing of activists go unnoticed and called for the release of the “Beijing +20 Five.”¹⁸ President Obama also called out China’s crackdowns on freedom of expression directly during the Civil Society Forum in Panama. These remarks went widely unnoticed in China where statements by the U.S. State Department calling for dialogue between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government were met with the normal stonewall claiming the issue was a “domestic affair.”¹⁹ In the end, cooperation was limited to areas of mutual interest with little progress made on other pressing humanitarian issues.

¹⁵UCR April Issue 2015 – Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8 [pg. 40, 42](#)

¹⁶Ibid, [pg. 38](#)

¹⁷UCR April Issue 2015 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, Issue 4 [pg. 22](#)

¹⁸Ibid, [pg. 22](#)

¹⁹UCR April Issue 2015 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes, Issue 9 [pg. 49](#)



April 2015:

TIME PERIOD: April 1 ~ April 30

MAIN ISSUES:

1. **U.S. – China Bilateral Relations:** U.S. Acknowledges Tensions while Promoting Partnership; China Highlights a Mutual Need to Refrain from Interference in Domestic Issues

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 6, Remarks by Secretary of State Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific April 9, Remarks by President Obama in Town Hall with Young Leaders of the Americas April 29, Remarks by Under Secretary Nathan Sheets at the Center for Strategic & International Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 8, <i>People's Daily</i>: AIIB Dissent May Mark Shift Away from Compliance with the U.S. Hegemony April 10, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference April 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference April 14, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference

2. **Economic Relations:** U.S. Pushes for Market-based Exchange Rates and Promotes both Atlantic and Pacific Trade Agreements; China Insists AIIB Will Be Part of the Existing International Order and Advances RCEP and FTAAP

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 16, Testimony by Secretary Jacob J. Lew before the Senate Finance Committee April 17, Statement of Secretary Jacob J. Lew at the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) Meeting April 17, Remarks by President and Prime Minister Renzi of Italy at Joint Press Conference April 18, Statement of Secretary Jacob J. Lew at the Development Committee April 27, Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to AmCham China and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce April 30, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest April 30, Briefing by Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Catherine A. Novelli: Update on Progress of the President's Trade Agenda for 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 1, <i>China Daily</i>: U.S. Should Not Choose to Remain Outside the AIIB April 15, <i>China Daily</i>: 'Belt and Road' Should be Collective Endeavor April 16, Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang's Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber April 16, Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang's Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber April 16, Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang's Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber April 16, Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang's Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber April 17, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference April 17, <i>China Daily</i>: AIIB Complementary to Existing Institutions April 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference



3. **Military and Security Relations:** U.S. Furthers Global Non-Proliferation Efforts and Touts Iranian Nuclear Deal, Calls for Demilitarized Approach in Asian Territorial Disputes while Encouraging Allies; China Disapproves of Large Scale Military Exercises in South China Sea, Reaffirms Commitment to Nuclear Non-Proliferation

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2, Statement by the President on the Framework to Prevent Iran from Obtaining a Nuclear Weapon • April 3, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf • April 6, Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Countering Radical Ideologies Through People-to-People Diplomacy • April 6, Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific • April 6, Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific • April 7, Department of Defense Press Briefing by Commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command Adm. Bill Gortney • April 10, Joint Press Conference with Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and South Korean Defense Minister Han Min-koo • April 12, Meet the Press Transcript • April 16, Department of Defense Press Briefing by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Martin E. Dempsey • April 20, Remarks by Assistant Secretary of Bureau of Arms Control Frank A. Rose: The Strategic Imperative of Ballistic Missile Defense Cooperation in the Gulf • April 23, Remarks by Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel R. Russel: The FY 2016 Budget Request for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs • April 27, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry at the 2015 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference • April 27, Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan Regarding the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia • April 28, U.S.-Japan Joint Statement on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 3, <i>China Daily</i>: Military Exercises Are Not Cause for Concern • April 8, Statement by the Head of the Chinese Delegation, Counsellor Sun Lei of the Permanent Mission of China to the UN, at the General Debate of the United Commission • April 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 24, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 27, Statement by Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong at the General Debate of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on The Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons • April 30, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference • April 30, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference • April 30, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference



4. **Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues:** U.S. Pushes for Release of Chinese Activists, Highlights Humanitarian Aid and Human Rights Activism; China Provides Aid to Earthquake-stricken Nepal

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 3, Press Statement by Secretary Kerry: UN International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action April 10, Press Statement by Secretary Kerry: Ongoing Detention of Chinese Women's Rights Activists April 10, Remarks by President Obama at the Civil Society Forum April 13, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S Department of State Marie Harf April 13, Remarks by Margaret Pollack: Statement by the United States at the 48th UN Commission on Population and Development April 14, Remarks by U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power during Statement on the Conditional Release of Chinese Women's Rights Activists April 15, Remarks by U.S Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power during Testimony to the House Subcommittee on Appropriations for State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs April 17, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf April 21, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks With Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlut Cavusoglu April 23, Remarks by Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel R. Russel: The FY 2016 Budget Request for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs April 29, Statement by U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power: Statement on the Situation in Burundi April 29, Briefing by Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Public Affairs Douglas Frantz: World Press Freedom Day 2015: State of World Press Freedom 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 6, Remarks by Spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce on the Arrival of China's Emergency Humanitarian Material Assistance to Vanuatu April 7, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference April 22, Statement by Counsellor Yao Shaojun at the 14th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues April 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Remarks on the Earthquake in Nepal and China's Rescue and Assistance Work April 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference April 27, <i>China Daily</i>: Nepalese People Are Not Alone in Fighting the Quake April 28, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference April 28, Ministry of Commerce Spokesman Shan Danyang's Regular Press Conference April 30, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference

5. **Climate Change and Environmental Issues:** U.S. Urges Action on Climate Change both at Home and Abroad; China Focuses on Domestic Pollution Cleanup Efforts

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 3, FACT SHEET: Administration Announces Actions to Drive Growth in Solar Energy and Train Workers for Clean-Energy Jobs April 3, Letter from the President—Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Designations April 7, Remarks by the President after Roundtable on the Impacts of Climate Change on Public Health April 18, Weekly Address: Climate Change Can No Longer be Ignored April 20, Remarks by Acting Assistant Secretary Judith Garber: Remarks at the International Politics, Economics and Foreign Policy Implications of Climate Change Event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April 3, Meeting Held to Facilitate Improvements and Honesty in Water Program April 8, The Settlement Results of the Environmental Cases Reported by the Public Through "12369" Hotline in November 2014 April 10, Intensified Enforcement Demonstrates the Strength of "Combination Blow" April 16, Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 21, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • April 22, Op-Ed by Secretary of State John Kerry: On Earth Day, Time Running Out for Climate Change • April 22, Op-Ed by Secretary of State John Kerry: On Earth Day, Time Running Out for Climate Change • April 24, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Presentation of the U.S. Chairmanship Program at the Arctic Council Ministerial 	
--	--

6. **Asia Pacific Issues:** U.S. Reaffirms Alliance Partners in Asia, Shows Strong Support for Japan; China Calls for Bilateral Dialogue to Peacefully Resolve Territorial Disputes between Concerned Nations Free from U.S. Entanglements, Criticizes Japan’s Unwillingness to Address Historical Issues

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 6, Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific • April 6, Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific • April 7, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf • April 8, Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Japanese Minister of Defense Gen Nakatani at a Joint Press Conference • April 9, Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at a Troop Event, Yokota Air Base, Japan • April 9, Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at a Press Gaggle, Yokota Air Base, Japan • April 16, Remarks by Deputy Secretary of State Anotny J. Blinken: Press Availability with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Akitaka Saiki and Republic of Korea Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yong • April 16, Remarks by Deputy Secretary of State Anotny J. Blinken: Press Availability with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Akitaka Saiki and Republic of Korea Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yong • April 21, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf • April 22, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf • April 23, Remarks by Defense Secretary Ash Carter at the Drell Lecture Cemex Auditorium, Stanford Graduate School of Business, Stanford, California • April 23, Briefing by Senior Director for Asian Affairs Evan Medeiros: Preview of the Official Visit of Prime Minister Abe of Japan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 1, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 8, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 9, <i>China Daily</i>: Japan's New Textbooks Deceitful and Harmful • April 13, <i>China Daily</i>: U.S. Meddling Will Only Increase Regional Tensions • April 16, Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang's Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber • April 17, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 21, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 21, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 21, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 21, <i>China Daily</i>: Xi in Pakistan to Work for Real Mutual Benefits • April 22, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 24, <i>China Daily</i>: Abe's Shortsightedness Still the Sticking Point • April 28, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 30, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 30, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 27, Press Availability by Secretary of State John Kerry: Press Availability with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, and Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani • April 27, Press Availability by Secretary of State John Kerry: Press Availability with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, and Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani • April 28, Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Abe of Japan in Joint Press Conference • April 30, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf 	
--	--

7. **Korean Peninsula:** U.S. Opens Door for Introduction of Advanced Weaponry to Korea Peninsula during the Shift to Asia, Derides North Korean Human Rights Abuses and China’s Repatriation of Refugees; China Mum on Potential Kim Jong-eun Visit

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 3, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: UN International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action • April 6, Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific • April 9, Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at a Troop Event, Osan Air Base, South Korea • April 10, Joint Press Conference with Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and South Korean Defense Minister Han • April 10, Press Briefing by Acting Deputy Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Jeff Rathke • April 23, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf • April 23, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf • April 30, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf • April 30, Remarks by U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power at a Panel Discussion on Human Rights Abuses in North Korea, “Victims’ Voices: A Conversation on North Korean Human Rights” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 14, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference • April 14, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference • April 17, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference • April 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference • April 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference



8. **Middle East and Africa Issues:** U.S. Highlights Iranian Nuclear Deal, the Fight against ISIL, and Loss of Civilian Lives in Syria; China Calls for a Cease-fire in Yemen and for Progress in Iranian Nuclear Talks

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2, Statement by the President on the Framework to Prevent Iran from Obtaining a Nuclear Weapon • April 3, Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz • April 3, Press Statement by Marie Harf: Recent Violence Against Civilians in Syria • April 4, Weekly Address: Reaching a Comprehensive and Long Term Deal on Iran's Nuclear Program • April 6, Press Statement by Marie Harf: Condemning the Deaths of Red Cross/Red Crescent Staff in Syria and Yemen • April 6, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz • April 6, Remarks on Media Availability with Secretary Carter enroute to Japan by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter • April 7, Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest • April 8, Letter—Continuation of National Emergency with Respect to Somalia • April 8, Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Readout of the Counter-ISIL Coalition Small Group Meeting in Jordan • April 9, Remarks by Vice President Joe Biden on Iraq • April 10, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications Ben Rhodes • April 10, Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on the Situation in Yarmouk Refugee Camp • April 11, Remarks by the President in the Press Conference after the Summit of the Americas • April 13, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • April 14, Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Al-Abadi of Iraq • April 15, Remarks by Deputy Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken: Remarks at the Council on Foreign Relations • April 19, Statement by National Security Council Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on Murders in Libya • April 20, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • April 21, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • April, 29, Remarks by Secretary Jacob J. Lew at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy 30th Anniversary Gala 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 3, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 6, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Announcement of the Temporary Closure of the Chinese Diplomatic and Consular Missions in Yemen • April 7, <i>China Daily</i>: Deal with Iran Shows Constructive Composure • April 7, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 8, <i>People's Daily</i>: Chinese Naval Vessels Evacuate Hundreds from War-Torn Yemen • April 14, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 17, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 22, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 24, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 28, Ministry of Commerce Spokesman Shan Danyang's Regular Press Conference



9. **Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes:** U.S. Calls on China to Find a Peaceful Route to Resolving Territorial Disputes, Criticizes Use and Expressions of Force; China Deflects Criticism of Reclamation Work in South China Sea and Hong Kong Elections, Remains Steadfast on Claims to the Diaoyu Dao, Argues with the Philippines about the Nansha Islands

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 1, Statement by the President on Executive Order “Blocking the Property of Certain Persons Engaging in Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities” • April 8, Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Japanese Minister of Defense Gen Nakatani at a Joint Press Conference • April 9, Press Briefing by Acting Deputy Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Jeff Rathke • April 10, Joint Press Conference with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and South Korean Defense Minister Han at Seoul, South Korea • April 21, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf • April 23, Briefing by Senior Director for Asian Affairs Evan Medeiros: Preview of the Official Visit of Prime Minister Abe of Japan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2, China's Policy Paper on the EU: Deepen the China-EU Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Mutual Benefit and Win-win Cooperation • April 2, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 7, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 7, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 7, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 8, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 9, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 9, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 9, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 9, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • April 14, Remarks by Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Li Keqiang • April 15, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 16, Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang's Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber • April 17, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 22, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 22, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 24, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 28, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 28, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 28, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 28, Statement by Ambassador Liu Jieyi at the Security Council Open Debate on Security Sector Reform • April 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • April 30, <i>China Daily</i>: Code of Conduct Key to South China Sea



Issue 1 –U.S. – China Bilateral Relations:U.S. Acknowledges Tensions while Promoting Partnership; China Highlights a Mutual Need to Refrain from Interference in Domestic Issues

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 6, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific (<u>U.S. Department of Defense</u>) Quote: “The U.S. and China are not allies, but we don’t have to be adversaries. A strong, constructive U.S.-China relationship is essential for global security and prosperity. Our relationship will be complex as we continue to both compete and cooperate. But we also believe there are opportunities to improve understanding and to reduce risk with China, which is why President Obama and President Xi announced two historic confidence-building agreements this past fall. We’re working to complete another measure this year that aims to prevent dangerous air-to-air encounters, and there are a wide range of other possible confidence-building measures that I will be strongly working on.” ● April 9, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama in Town Hall with Young Leaders of the Americas (<u>White House, Speeches and Remarks</u>) Quote: “So our policy is not to fear China’s peaceful rise. Where we get concerned with China is where it is not necessarily abiding by international norms and rules, and is using its size and muscle to force countries into subordinate positions. And that’s the concern we have around maritime issues. We think this can be solved diplomatically, but just because the Philippines or Vietnam are not as large as China doesn’t mean that they can just be elbowed aside. And, by the way, we don’t have a particular view on the territorial disputes, the maritime disputes. Our attitude is simply, let’s use the mechanisms that we have in place internationally to resolve them.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 8, 2015 – AIB Dissent May Mark Shift Away from Compliance with the U.S Hegemony (<u>People’s Daily</u>) Quote: “The failure of the U.S to prevent much of the global financial community from joining the China-proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) marks not just a setback for U.S. efforts to dominate global financial affairs. It also provides the precedent whereby would-be U.S. allies can begin to dissent from U.S. hegemonic demands. [...] Currently the nationalistic, anti-Chinese biases of the Shinzo Abe-centered leadership make it unlikely it will want to do anything that adds of China’s global prestige [...]. It is also doing all it can to lock the U.S. into its East Asian military strategies and is in no mood to say no to the U.S. on any issue. Even so, [...] some remember how in the wake of the 1997 Asian financial crisis a hegemonic U.S. crudely intervened to prevent Tokyo from setting up an Asian Monetary Fund to prevent a recurrence. They ask whether Japan needs constantly to bow to U.S. demands.” ● April 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (<u>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</u>) Quote: “Q: U.S. President Barack Obama said yesterday that he was concerned that China was using its "sheer size and muscle" to push around smaller nations in the South China Sea. How do you respond to these comments? A: Speaking of "size and muscle", I believe everyone knows well who has the largest "size and muscle" in the world. We have stated on many occasions the position of the Chinese side on the South China Sea issue. China firmly upholds and promotes peace and stability of the South China Sea. We strongly advocate and stand for the proper resolution of the South China Sea issue with the dual-track approach. China and ASEAN countries are in positive and effective communication to fully implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and advance the negotiation on the code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC). It is hoped that the American side would respect the efforts made by China and ASEAN countries and play a positive, constructive and responsible role for regional peace and stability.”



- **April 29, 2015 – Remarks by Under Secretary Nathan Sheets at the Center for Strategic & International Studies (U.S Department of the Treasury)**

Quote: “First, on climate change, [...] we look forward to continuing to facilitate cooperation on climate change between the United States and China to create favorable conditions for a climate agreement in Paris in December. Second, [...] creating a fair and open environment for innovation and trade in technology products – while addressing cybersecurity concerns in a smart way that is consistent with global best practices – is a key part of our conversation this year. China’s recent suspension of its ICT rules in the banking sector is a promising development, but we need to continue to work on this issue. Third, we will continue to advocate for further exchange rate reform, building on the commitment last year to reduce foreign exchange intervention as conditions permit, as well as for measures to increase the transparency of China’s reserve holdings and foreign exchange market operations. We also hope to see further moves toward domestic financial sector reform and interest rate liberalization, as well as prudent steps to liberalize China’s capital account and promote greater integration with international financial markets. And finally, a central goal of the S&ED has always been to support China’s emerging role in the global economic and financial architecture, and to strengthen its sense of ownership of and responsibility for the international system. As Secretary Lew said recently in San Francisco, ‘[t]he United States welcomes China’s growing involvement in the global economic architecture, and as China assumes a more significant role on the international stage, it falls on China to assume more significant responsibilities.’ [...] The United States welcomes new additions to the international development architecture, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, provided that these additions complement existing international financial institutions and share the international community’s strong commitment to genuine multilateral decision making and ever-improving lending standards and safeguards. These standards and safeguards are designed to foster sustainable development by curbing corruption, preventing environmental damage, and ensuring protection of both workers and affected communities. We will continue to engage directly with China and other countries to provide concrete guidance on how the AIIB can adopt and implement high-quality international standards. This ties to a broader point. At a strategic level, we would like to see China contribute more – not less – to addressing regional and global challenges. This is why we will work with China to support strong, sustainable, and balanced global growth; augment and extend an open and rules-based trade and investment regime; and engage on norms for cyberspace.”

- **April 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Q: On April 12, former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that she would run for the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Does China have anything to say on this?”

A: The U.S. presidential election is an internal affair of the U.S. Here I’d like to stress that the sound and steady development of China-U.S. relations is in the fundamental interests of the two peoples, and helpful to safeguard peace, stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific and the world. We are willing to join hands with the U.S. to strive for constantly new progress in the building of the new model of major-country relationship between China and America.”

- **April 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Q: The U.S. State Department published on its website the Hong Kong Policy Report. What is China’s comment on this?”

A: Hong Kong affairs fall entirely within China’s domestic affairs, in which other countries have no right to interfere. China urges the U.S. side to abide by its commitment to the Chinese side, and stop intervening in China’s domestic affairs in any form lest the China-U.S. relations be disturbed and undermined.”



Issue 2 –Economic Relations:U.S. Pushes for Market-based Exchange Rates and Promotes both Atlantic and Pacific Trade Agreements; China Insists AIIB Will Be Part of the Existing International Order and Advances RCEP and FTAAP

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 16, 2015 – Testimony by Secretary Jacob J. Lew before the Senate Finance Committee (Department of Treasury) Quote: “We have made progress with China on exchange rates through the S&ED, and continue to raise the issue regularly with our Chinese counterparts. As part of our Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED), China has committed to reduce its foreign exchange intervention as conditions permit — and the amount of China’s currency intervention has fallen significantly in the last year. This has contributed to a decline in China’s current account surplus from a peak of 10 percent of GDP before this Administration took office to just 2 percent of GDP last year. RMB has seen a real effective appreciation of nearly 30 percent since China allowed its currency to resume appreciation in mid-2010. We will continue to intensify our efforts on exchange rates using the tools and channels that are most effective. We will build on our ongoing multilateral and bilateral engagement in the G-20, IMF, and U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue to press countries even harder towards more market-determined exchange rates and to secure strong commitments on currency disciplines.” ● April 17, 2015– Statement of Secretary Jacob J. Lew at the International Monetary and Financial Committee (IMFC) Meeting (Department of Treasury) Quote: “China faces a significant transition away from heavy investment to a consumption- and services-based economy. By using the appropriate policy tools, China can achieve higher quality growth and advance domestic rebalancing over the medium term. China should allow the market to play a greater role in determining prices, particularly the exchange rate and interest rates. While China’s exchange rate intervention has declined, a number of factors indicate that the RMB exchange rate remains significantly undervalued. China should build on the recent reduction in intervention and durably curb its activities in the foreign exchange market, including at times when there is market pressure for appreciation.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 1, 2015–US should not choose to remain outside the AIIB (China Daily) Quote: “Given the once strong opposition from the United States and still lingering prejudice and badmouthing from some Western media against the China-proposed initiative, it is heartening to see so many countries and organizations in the world have shown support and goodwill to the AIIB.” ● April 15, 2015 – 'Belt and Road' should be collective endeavor (China Daily) Quote: “With its potential benefits for all, the Belt and Road Initiative is a worthy cause for all. Which is precisely why the entire process should be based on common and shared visions and actions, not just China's. With its impressive financial capabilities, strong desire to contribute to regional and global development as a responsible rising power, China has every reason to propose and lead such an open and inclusive development program. But like any blueprint, the initiative should not just sound good and look good, it must offer real gains to all stakeholders, China included.” ● April 16, 2015 – Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang's Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: Premier Li, I just came from Tokyo where I spent nine days in Japan looking closely at their economic experiment. I met with Prime Minister Abe for an hour for an interview. I wonder, are you concerned that the depreciation of the yen and the euro against the RMB means China is less competitive and you may have to devalue in response? A: China has been advancing the reform of the RMB exchange rate formation mechanism to widen the RMB floating band and improve the market-based, managed exchange rate regime. For some time, there has been slight devaluation of the Chinese currency. But this is not because of the steps taken by the Chinese side, but because of a stronger U.S. dollar. I believe the current value of the RMB is basically stable. [...] We don't want to see a scenario in which major economies trip over each other to devalue their currencies. That will lead to a currency war. And if China feels compelled to devalue the RMB in this process, we don't think this will be something good for the international financial system. This may ultimately lead to trade protectionism and impede the globalization process. This is something we don't want to see.”



- **April 17, 2015 – Remarks by President and Prime Minister Renzi of Italy at Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Prime Minister Renzi is a strong supporter of T-TIP -- the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership -- which would boost both jobs and exports in Europe and the United States, and would include strong protections for workers, and public health and safety and the environment. [...] I'm looking forward to hearing the Prime Minister's assessment of the ambitious economic reforms that he's pursuing to make Italy more competitive and to reinvent the Italian economy as a source of growth in Europe.”

- **April 18, 2015 – Statement of Secretary Jacob J. Lew at the Development Committee** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “We are ready to welcome new additions to the international development architecture, including the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, provided that these institutions complement existing international financial institutions, including by adopting their high quality standards. Having the AIIB co-finance projects with existing institutions will help demonstrate a commitment to these high standards.”

- **April 27, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to AmCham China and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “That's why it's so important that we use our trade agreements to shape globalization, and not just sit idly by and be shaped by it. And that's why it's so important we get this relationship right, the U.S.-China economic relationship – truly one of the defining relationships of the 21st century.”

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

Quote: “One of the reasons the President is pursuing this Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement is it is an opportunity for the United States to more deeply engage in the Asia Pacific region and the President sees a clear economic benefit for the American people in doing so; that there continues to be a risk that as the United States were to disengage from that region that we would see China move aggressively into what they consider to be their sphere of influence and essentially write rules of the road that would put American businesses and American workers at a significant disadvantage.”

- **April 16, 2015 – Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang's Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Could I turn to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank? Are you very pleased that the British have now started a stampede to join the bank?”

A: The original consideration for putting forward the AIIB initiative is there is a large funding shortfall for infrastructure development in Asia, especially connectivity building. This shortfall needs to be met with the support of several multilateral financing institutions. The AIIB is going to be an open and transparent institution. [...] I wish to emphasize that the AIIB and ADB can work in parallel in promoting Asian development. And the initiative of AIIB is not to reinvent the wheel. Rather it is intended to be a supplement to the current international financial system.”

- **April 16, 2015 – Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang's Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Let me first emphasize China was deeply involved in establishing the post-war international order from the very outset. China was a permanent member of the UN Security Council and a founding member of this world body. [...] At the same time, the current international economic and financial systems have opened up broad dimensions for China's development. [...] So China has been a beneficiary of the current international system in terms of both peace and development. Still China is a developing country, and we still have a long way to go before we can achieve modernization. We still need to draw upon the advanced technologies and managerial expertise of other countries. Past progress shows that pursuit of mutual benefit makes all winners. And that is in China's fundamental interest. So there is no such thing as breaking the existing order.”

- **April 16, 2015 – Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang's Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “We have an open attitude towards the TPP. China is actively working with others to advance the RCEP negotiation. We believe the RCEP, economic integration in the Asia-Pacific, the China-ASEAN FTA, the China-ROK FTA and so on can all work in parallel. This applies to the TPP too. But all in all, I believe we need to have both wheels in motion in advancing trade. That is: there can be bilateral and regional FTA arrangements with their respective distinctive features. At the same time, there also needs to be full compliance with the WTO rules to promote economic globalization and trade liberalization.”



- **April 30, 2015 – Briefing by Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Catherine A. Novelli: Update on Progress of the President's Trade Agenda for 2015** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The BIT – the bilateral investment treaty with China – is absolutely critical for us. We think it’s a very important piece of our relationship with China. We are really doing well in the negotiations on the text of the BIT, which is all the commitments that are made about how Chinese companies will be treated in the U.S. and how U.S. companies will be treated in China.”

- **April 17, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Yesterday the U.S. Congress reached a deal that would pave the way for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement. Some people say that the TPP agreement will strengthen the influence of the U.S. and Japan in the Asia-Pacific at a time when a free trade agreement in the Asia-Pacific is still at a planning stage. What is China's comment on this?”

A: We are committed to open regionalism. The APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in China last year initiated the process of building the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP). It will generate far more economic gains than all existing regional free trade arrangements once it is completed. With regard to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the TPP, we believe they can work in parallel as two main routes leading to the building of the FTAAP.”

- **April 17, 2015 – AIIB Complementary to Existing Institutions** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “As a country that has built much of its economic achievements on the post-war international order, China strongly believes the pursuit of mutual benefit makes all winners, and it is ready to put such faith into practice through such an initiative as the AIIB.”

- **April 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: President Xi Jinping has embarked on his state visit to Pakistan. The two sides are expected to sign a series of deals on economic cooperation. Will China and Pakistan strike any security deal to prevent terrorists based in Pakistan from slipping into Xinjiang and secure the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor?”

A: Both China and Pakistan face the important task of economic development and improvement of people's livelihood. We need to deepen practical cooperation and work together to make the China-Pakistan community of common destiny a fine example for such efforts by China and its neighboring countries. The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor is located where the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road meet. It is, therefore, a major project of the “Belt and Road” initiative.”



Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: U.S. Furthers Global Non-Proliferation Efforts and Touts Iranian Nuclear Deal, Calls for Demilitarized Approach in Asian Territorial Disputes while Encouraging Allies; China Disapproves of Large Scale Military Exercises in South China Sea, Reaffirms Commitment to Nuclear Non-Proliferation

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 2, 2015 – Statement by the President on the Framework to Prevent Iran from Obtaining a Nuclear Weapon (Whitehouse, Speeches and Remarks) Quote: “Today, after many months of tough, principled diplomacy, we have achieved the framework for that deal. And it is a good deal, a deal that meets our core objectives. This framework would cut off every pathway that Iran could take to develop a nuclear weapon. Iran will face strict limitations on its program, and Iran has also agreed to the most robust and intrusive inspections and transparency regime ever negotiated for any nuclear program in history. So this deal is not based on trust, it’s based on unprecedented verification.” ● April 3, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S Department of State Marie Harf (U.S Department of State) Quote: “Q: And Iran – I know that Iran and North Korea are totally different cases, but in some aspect the Iran’s nuclear deals could affect North Korea’s nuclear deals. I mean, though, my question is: What does this Iran’s deal mean for North Korea? And is there any possibility of a resume – I mean the resuming talks over the negotiation with North Korea about nuclear things? A: Well, I think that these really are very different issues, and what Iran chooses to do or not do doesn’t have a lot of bearing on whether North Korea lives up to its international obligations. So we have said that if North Korea is open to coming back to the table in a credible way as part of the Six Party Talks, obviously, we believe the goal is the same. We need to get to a denuclearized Korean peninsula.” ● April 6, 2015 – Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Countering Radical Ideologies Through People-to-People Diplomacy (State Department) Quote: “As part of the State Department’s ongoing efforts to counter violent extremism, 11 high-level government representatives from Counter-ISIL Coalition countries will begin a U.S. exchange program this week aimed at discrediting and delegitimizing ISIL’s brand of violent extremism.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 3, 2015 – Military Exercises Are Not Cause for Concern (China Daily) Quote: “Drills and training in airspace far offshore are a normal practice for coastal countries seeking to improve the combat capabilities of their air forces. Japanese fighter planes and surveillance aircraft frequently appear in the airspace over the west Pacific and East China Sea, while the US military often breaks past its “first island chain” to enter the East and South China seas and conduct exercises, training and surveillance. Japanese and Western media never make a fuss about these activities. Therefore, the carping of Japanese media on the drills conducted by the Chinese air force is ill-intentioned and aimed at misleading the international community. [...] To effectively shoulder more international responsibilities, as advocated by the United States and other countries in the world, China’s navy and air force need to conduct training and exercises on the high seas. The outside world should look at this from the proper perspective.” ● April 8, 2015 – Statement by the Head of the Chinese Delegation, Counsellor Sun Lei of the Permanent Mission of China to the UN at the General Debate of the United Commission (Permanent Mission to the UN) Quote: “China is firmly committed to a nuclear policy based on self-defence and has upheld its commitment that it would not be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time and under any circumstances and that it would not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons unconditionally against Non-Nuclear-Weapon States or Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones. [...] China firmly opposes to any form of nuclear proliferation, promotes to consolidate and improve the international non-proliferation regime, and seeks the peaceful resolution of regional nuclear issues through dialogue and negotiation. China welcomes the key parameters of a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action reached by P5+1 and Iran at Lausanne recently. China has made a positive contribution to resolving the difficult issues and sticking points in the negotiation, and is prepared to work with other relevant parties to reach a mutually beneficial comprehensive agreement at an early date. The Six-Party Talks is an viable and effective mechanism to push forward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and maintaining peace and stability. China will continue to make efforts with all relevant parties to address the concerns of all through dialogue in a balanced manner so as to ease the current situation, create and accumulate conditions to resume the Talks at an early date.”



- **April 6, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific** ([U.S. Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “We will continue to invest in future capabilities that will be especially relevant to the Asia-Pacific’s complex and dynamic security environment. These include high-end capabilities, such as a new, long-range stealth bomber and a new, long-range anti-ship cruise missile – just to name two...and areas like rapid runway repair, which may seem mundane, but will help ensure that U.S. forces can survive in a crisis. We’re also working on new weapons like a railgun, which uses electromagnetic forces rather than high explosives to fire rounds at much higher speeds, lower cost, and with greater effectiveness. And we’re developing new space, electronic warfare, and other advanced capabilities, including some surprising ones.”

- **April 6, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific** ([U.S. Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “To expand the reach of our alliances, we are building unprecedented “trilateral” cooperation – in other words, we’re networking our relationships. With Japan and Australia, for example, we’re cooperating to strengthen maritime security in Southeast Asia and explore defense technology cooperation. And with Japan and Korea, we’re building on a first-of-its-kind information-sharing arrangement that will help us collectively deter and respond to crises.”

- **April 7, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Commander of North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command Adm. Bill Gortney** ([U.S. Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: How would you describe the capability of national missile defenses if a nation like North Korea or Iran were, in the future, to launch a missile against the United States? Could we shoot it down?”

A: Yes. [...] but I own the trigger on this, and I have high confidence that it will work against North Korea. The -- you know, it was designed to defend against nations that might not be deterred other ways, and that would clearly be North Korea in that regard. [...] The next piece is that we need to improve the lethality of the kill vehicles, and then the next one is to take care and upgrade and maintain that which we have to be as best as we possibly can [...] our concern is maintaining the investments to out-pace the threat.”

- **April 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: First, the U.S. cyber security firm "FireEye" said that hackers from China have been launching cyber attacks against some countries in the past decade. Does China have any comment on this?”

A: On your first question, I'd like to emphasize that the Chinese government resolutely forbids and cracks down on all forms of hacker attacks. This position is consistent and clear. Hacker attack is a global issue which requires cooperative response from the international community rather than groundless finger-pointing and suspicion.”

- **April 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: It is reported that spy agencies from New Zealand and the U.S. once collaborated on a plan to hack into a data link of China's Consulate General in Auckland. Does the Chinese government have any response to that?”

A: The Chinese side expresses deep concern over the relevant report. We strongly urge relevant countries to stop undermining the interests of China and other countries via the Internet.”

- **April 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The U.S. and the Philippines are holding the Balikatan (Shoulder-to-Shoulder) military exercises twice the size of previous ones in the South China Sea. Do you have any comment on that?”

A: We have noted the relevant report and hope that relevant countries will do more to enhance security mutual trust among countries in the region and promote regional peace and stability.”



- **April 10, 2015 – Joint Press Conference with Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and South Korean Defense Minister Han Min-woo** ([U.S. Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “The United States has long had the position that militarizing these territorial disputes in -- of long-standing in the South China Sea is not the way things should be approached. [...] not taking territorial disputes and dealing with them in a multi-lateral and diplomatic fashion is it's hard to have friends and allies that way. And the United States has lots of friends, and allies, and partners in this part of the world -- the Republic of Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Vietnam, lots of new partners and growing partners. And the reason for that is the way we conduct ourselves. We don't conduct ourselves coercively. We don't militarize situations like that. And I think that speaks for the -- the strength of the American position in the Asia-Pacific.”

- **April 12, 2015 – Meet the Press Transcript** ([Meet the Press](#))

Quote: “We don't trust [Iran]. There is no element of trust in what we're doing. You have to build trust, and that takes place over a long period of time. This is an agreement that is based on transparency, accountability, verification. [...] the president's responsibility and my responsibility in support of him, is to guarantee and protect the security of our country and of our friends and allies. And we believe that this agreement does that.”

- **April 14, 2015 – Statement by the Press Secretary on the Proposed Rescission of Cuba's Designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “As the President has said, we will continue to have differences with the Cuban government, but our concerns over a wide range of Cuba's policies and actions fall outside the criteria that is relevant to whether to rescind Cuba's designation as a State Sponsor of Terrorism. That determination is based on the statutory standard – and the facts – and those facts have led the President to declare his intention to rescind Cuba's State Sponsor of Terrorism designation. More broadly, the United States will continue to support our interests and values through engagement with the Cuban government and people.”

- **April 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: According to media report, a Philippine air force official said on April 23 that a Chinese warship aimed a powerful light at a Philippine military plane and warned it to stay away through radio when the plane was patrolling near the Zhubi Reef of the Nansha Islands. Please confirm that and give us more details.

A: It has been verified that the relevant report is not true. There is no such thing of powerful light warning as mentioned in the report. It is learned that planes from the Philippines have conducted multiple intrusions into the area above waters near China's islands and reefs over recent days. The Chinese garrison there took actions in accordance with the law by asking them to leave through radio. The Chinese troops will continue to monitor closely the situation to prevent China's national security from being jeopardized and accidents on the sea and in the air from happening.”

- **April 27, 2015 – Statement by Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong at the General Debate of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on The Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “China, as a staunch champion for nuclear disarmament process, stands for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and has faithfully fulfilled its nuclear disarmament obligations under the Treaty. Over the decades, China has pursued a nuclear strategy of self-defence and kept its nuclear arsenal at the minimum level required for its national security. China has neither deployed nuclear weapons in any other country nor taken part in any form of nuclear arms races. Among nuclear-weapon states, only China has pledged unconditionally not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon states.”

- **April 30, 2015 – Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “Military alliance is an out-dated product which goes against the trends of times featuring peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit. By beefing up the U.S.-Japan military alliance and expand their defense cooperation to the whole world, what kind of impact will it have on the world and regional peace and stability? This is a question that needs to be asked by all sides. [...] We are opposed to countries out of the region to interfere with China's territorial and maritime disputes with neighboring countries. No one should underestimate our resolve and capability to safeguard our lawful rights and interests.”



- **April 16, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Martin E. Dempsey (U.S Department of Defense)**

Quote: “Q: What lessons from that experience do you think would apply to the current situation with Iran?”

A: With respect to the nuclear weapons situation in Iran, first, those negotiations that are being conducted by us and our P5-plus-1 partners with the Iranians have the objective of arresting the North Korean -- I mean, not North Korean, excuse me, the Iranian nuclear program. And they're obviously -- that process isn't complete yet. [...] our role is not to conduct those negotiations, but two other things. The first is to make sure that we have, as the president says, other options on the table. [...] And the second thing is to continue to play a stabilizing role in the region as a whole with all of our friends and allies, of which we have many there, and continue to strengthen their capabilities and their confidence, so we're doing that. So those are the -- our two jobs here in the Department of Defense.”

- **April 20, 2015– Remarks by Assistant Secretary of Bureau of Arms Control Frank A. Rose: The Strategic Imperative of Ballistic Missile Defense Cooperation in the Gulf(State Department)**

Quote: “Our recently released budget is further proof positive of our commitment to BMD. The President’s Fiscal Year 2016 budget requests \$9.6 billion total investment in missile defense. This includes \$8.1 billion for the Missile Defense Agency and almost \$38B for MDA over the Fiscal Years 2016 to 2020. Despite pressure on the DOD budget, funding for missile defense programs remains a priority.”

- **April 23, 2015– Remarks by Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel R. Russel: The FY 2016 Budget Request for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs(State Department)**

Quote: “The Department of State leads the U.S. interagency effort to deliver targeted foreign assistance to Southeast Asian military and maritime agencies. [...] Lack of maritime awareness encourages smuggling, crime, piracy, illegal fishing, and forcible assertions of contested territorial claims. The FY 2016 request therefore includes over \$64 million to build maritime domain awareness and law enforcement capacity in Southeast Asia. The Philippines, Vietnam, and Indonesia are the primary recipients of this assistance which addresses significant gaps in training capacity, information sharing, training curriculum, and surveillance capabilities.”

- **April 30, 2015 – Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference(Ministry of National Defense)**

Quote: “The joint exercise that you have mentioned is indeed of very large scale. Relevant countries consolidate and deepen military alliance, conduct large-scale joint military exercise, and create tensions in the region. This does not accord with the trends of the times featuring peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit. To strengthen military alliance and show muscles will not contribute to the peace and stability in the region. There are some people in the international community who are quite keen to hype up the so-called “China Threat”. In the current situation, by conducting such a large-scale joint military exercise, we can not help but ask who is creating tensions in the region and who is threatening peace and stability in the region?”

- **April 30, 2015 – Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference(Ministry of National Defense)**

Quote: “We have noticed the report released by the U.S. side. The U.S. possesses the most advanced technology and controls most of the top layer resources in cyber space. It also has the strongest, most comprehensive and most capable cyber forces in the world. From such a dominant position, the U.S. is still publicly advocating an offensive cyber deterrence strategy. This is neither conducive to the joint efforts of the international community to strengthen cyber security, nor to controlling and removing existing differences. On the contrary, it will further escalate tensions and trigger an arms race in cyber space, which causes our concern and worries. Besides, we are firmly opposed to the groundless accusations against China made in the report. China has been gravely threatened by hacker attacks and is firmly opposed to all kinds of hacking activities in the cyber space. The Prism Gate incident exposed the double standard of the U.S. in cyber security. It should explain its own problems to the world, rather than smear the image of other countries. China advocates the development of a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyber space so that it can be completely utilized for the welfare of mankind. We are opposed to cyber warfare in any form and cyber arms race, and we hope the cyber space will not be turned into another battlefield. We urge the U.S., which has strong cyber capabilities, to play an exemplary role and do more for enhancing cyber security, promoting common security and mutual trust in cyber space, rather than seeking absolute security for itself.”



- **April 27, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry at the 2015 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference (U.S. Mission to the UN)**

Quote: “Countries without nuclear weapons will not obtain them; countries with nuclear weapons will move towards disarmament[...] nonproliferation must be non-negotiable. There is no room under the NPT for a country to negotiate its way into becoming a nuclear-armed state. [...] On that note, I want to emphasize our deep concerns regarding Russia’s clear violation of its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. We are urging Russia to return to compliance.”

- **April 27, 2015 –Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan regarding the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia(White House, Statements and Releases)**

Quote: “The President submitted the Protocol to the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia to the U.S. Senate for its advice and consent to ratification. [...] This protocol, upon entry into force, would obligate the United States not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon States within the regional zone who are Party to the Central Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (CANWFZ) Treaty and in compliance with their nuclear nonproliferation obligations. [...] the United States will continue to aggressively pursue practical measures to advance all of the NPT’s fundamental pillars, disarmament, nonproliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear technology.”

- **April 28, 2015 –U.S-Japan Joint Statement on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) (White House, Statements and Release)**

Quote: “Japan and the United States reaffirm our commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons and to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). [...] We reaffirm our commitment to a step-by-step approach to nuclear disarmament, and recognize the progress made since the height of the Cold War. [...] We unequivocally support access to nuclear technology and energy for peaceful purposes by states that comply with their non-proliferation obligations. [...] We underscore the imperative of addressing challenges to the integrity of the NPT and the non-proliferation regime posed by cases of noncompliance. [...] We also underscore the importance of promoting stringent export control in Asia and globally.”



Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Pushes for Release of Chinese Activists, Highlights Humanitarian Aid and Human Rights Activism; China Provides Aid to Earthquake-stricken Nepal

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 3, 2015 – Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: UN International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (State Department) Quote: “Since 1993, the United States has provided more than \$2.4 billion in assistance in over 90 countries for conventional weapons destruction programs. Thanks to strong bipartisan support in Congress, these funds provide the expertise and equipment to safely clear landmines and other unexploded ordnance. They also provide prosthetics and physical rehabilitation services, and vocational training for those injured by these weapons.” ● April 10, 2015 – Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: Ongoing Detention of Chinese Women's Rights Activists (State Department) Quote: “The United States strongly urges China to immediately and unconditionally release the ‘Beijing+20 Five’ [...] Each and every one of us has the right to speak out against sexual harassment and the many other injustices that millions of women and girls suffer around the world each and every day. We strongly support the efforts of these activists to make progress on these challenging issues, and we believe that Chinese authorities should also support them, not silence them.” ● April 10, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama at the Civil Society Forum (White House, Speeches and Remarks) Quote: “Here in the Americas, inequality still locks too many people out of our economies. Discrimination still locks too many out of our societies. Around the world, there are still too many places where laws are passed to stifle civil society, where governments cut off funding for groups that they don’t agree with. Where entrepreneurs are crushed under corruption. Where activists and journalists are locked up on trumped-up charges because they dare to be critical of their governments. Where the way you look, or how you pray, or who you love can get you imprisoned or killed. And whether it’s crackdowns on free expression in Russia or China, or restrictions on freedom of association and assembly in Egypt, or prison camps run by the North Korean regime -- human rights and fundamental freedoms are still at risk around the world.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 6, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce on the Arrival of China’s Emergency Humanitarian Material Assistance to Vanuatu (Ministry of Commerce) Quote: “The last batch of China’s emergency humanitarian material assistance to Vanuatu arrived in Vanuatu on April 2. So far, China’s emergency humanitarian material assistance to Vanuatu with a value of 30 million RMB has completely arrived and been delivered.” ● April 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Chinese side also pays high attention to the humanitarian situation in Yemen. We call on all relevant parties to abide by international law, facilitate and ensure the security of other countries’ evacuation of their nationals in Yemen. The Security Council should play a constructive role in easing the tension and alleviating the humanitarian situation in Yemen and pushing for the political settlement of the Yemeni issue.” ● April 22, 2015 – Statement by Counsellor Yao Shaojun at the 14th Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (Permanent Mission to the UN) Quote: “Secondly, development is the basis for the achievement of the rights of indigenous peoples. Most indigenous communities face the challenges of slow economic and social development and backward public infrastructure. We call upon the countries concerned to effectively improve the conditions of indigenous peoples in education, health, transportation and housing. The UN system-wide plan of action should pay balanced attention to both development and human rights and focus more on the improvement of the life of the indigenous communities in developed countries. Thirdly, we must correctly understand the concept of indigenous peoples. This concept is a legacy of western colonial history. Not every country has indigenous people and indigenous people must not be confused with native dwellers. To muddle or distort this concept is not in line with the spirit of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, nor is it conducive to the promotion and protection of the rights and interests of genuine indigenous peoples.”



- **April 13, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf ([U.S Department of State](#))**

Quote: “Q: Do you have any reaction on the Chinese releasing three of the five women activists this morning?”

A: We’ve seen that. We obviously believe that all of them should be released. I can’t confirm those reports independently that they have, although I’ve seen them. We believe that all of the – let me bring out the exact language I have here – that we have issued public statements but also believe privately that they should all be immediately and unconditionally released.”

- **April 13, 2015 – Remarks by Margaret Pollack: Statement by the United States at the 48th UN Commission on Population and Development ([State Department](#))**

Quote: “We continue to focus on the prevention and response to gender-based violence, advancing women’s economic empowerment, promoting women’s public and private leadership, and improving universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and promoting women’s reproductive rights. [...] We also know that enabling women to determine whether, when, and how often to have children is crucial to safe motherhood and healthy families.”

- **April 14, 2015 – Remarks by U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power during Statement on the Conditional Release of Chinese Women’s Rights Activists ([United States Mission to the United Nations](#))**

Quote: “The United States notes China’s decision to conditionally release Wu Rongrong, Wei Tingting, Wang Man, Zheng Churan and Li Tingting, also known as the “Beijing+20 Five.” We remain concerned that the women are still being considered criminal suspects, and may be subjected to further detention, restrictions, and interrogation. We continue to call on the Chinese government to abide by its international human rights commitments, including respect for the fundamental freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly.”

- **April 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Remarks on the Earthquake in Nepal and China’s Rescue and Assistance Work ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

Quote: “China’s International Rescue Team will set off for Nepal tomorrow morning to carry out disaster relief work. The Chinese government is mobilizing emergency relief supplies which will be delivered to the disaster-hit area in Nepal very soon. India, Bangladesh, Bhutan and other countries are also affected by the earthquake to varying degrees and suffer from casualties and property damages. The Chinese government extends sincere sympathies to countries concerned and stands ready to provide assistance as its capacity allows. The Foreign Ministry and the Chinese Embassy in Nepal have initiated the emergency response mechanism, doing their best to assist the wounded Chinese citizens and cope with matters concerning those killed in the earthquake. Emergency assistance on disaster relief from China to Nepal will also be coordinated.”

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

Quote: “China’s International Rescue Team consisting of 62 people arrived in Kathmandu on the morning of April 26 local time. Rescue work was carried out upon their arrival, and one person was successfully rescued in the afternoon the same day. The 58-person medical team sent by the Chinese government arrived in Nepal on the morning of April 27 for treatment and rescue. The Chinese medical team assisting Nepal which contains 17 people also threw themselves into the local rescue work. The rescue team and medical team sent by the Chinese military with a total number of 170 people will set off for Kathmandu today in different batches. The first 186 tons of emergency supplies from the Chinese government, which contain tents, blankets and etc., will be delivered to Nepal on four different flights today and tomorrow.”

- **April 27, 2015 – Nepalese People Are Not Alone in Fighting the Quake ([China Daily](#))**

Quote: “Natural disasters know no border and they often catch us unawares. Tremors of similar magnitude struck China’s Sichuan and Qinghai provinces in the past decade. We know how desperate the people trapped underneath the collapsed structures are for help. We know how hospitals in Kathmandu valley are in dire need of medicines and facilities to save the lives. We know how commodities such as tents and food are badly needed to help the local residents get through the nights in the open. That explains why Chinese Premier Li Keqiang sent a letter of condolence to his counterpart in Nepal, saying that China is willing to provide whatever emergency aid Nepal needs to respond to the disaster.”



- **April 15, 2015 – Remarks by U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power during Testimony to the House Subcommittee on Appropriations for State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs**([United States Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “We are working to ensure that the UN lives up to its obligation to promote human rights and affirm human dignity, as we did by pressing for the Security Council to hold its first ever meeting on the human rights situation in North Korea. We used that session to shine a light on the regime’s widespread abuses and give a face to its victims – like the man who was reportedly chained to the back of a car and dragged for some 30 miles in loops around his village, simply for trying to escape to China.”

- **April 17, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf** ([U.S State Department](#))

Quote: “And then finally, the United States is deeply concerned that Chinese journalist Gao Yu has been convicted and sentenced to seven years in prison after a closed trial on charges of leaking state secrets to a foreign news outlet. The conviction of this veteran journalist is part of a disturbing pattern of government action against public interest lawyers, internet activists, journalists, religious leaders, and others who peacefully question official Chinese policies and actions. We call on the Chinese authorities to release Ms. Gao immediately and to respect China’s international human rights commitments.”

- **April 21, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks With Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs Mevlut Cavusoglu**([State Department](#))

Quote: “On the humanitarian front, our ally is also hosting nearly two million refugees now, creating a huge economic burden and a social burden also on Turkey. [...] In the past four years, the United States has contributed more than \$3.7 billion in order to provide aid to the region, including more than a quarter of a billion to support relief efforts in Turkey specifically.”

- **April 23, 2015– Remarks by Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel R. Russel: The FY 2016 Budget Request for the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs**([State Department](#))

Quote: “U.S. assistance strengthens regional commitment to democratic development and human rights. The FY 2016 request includes \$133.8 million, an increase of \$68.5 million over FY 2014 levels, in funding for democracy programs throughout the region, with significant increases in Burma, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines.”

- **April 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The Nepali Foreign Minister said that Nepal has divided areas for China and India to carry out disaster-relief work. What is your comment? Is China willing to coordinate the relief work with India?”

A: The international community including China and India extended a helping hand to Nepal and provided it with all kinds of assistance after it was hit hard by a massive earthquake. We will intensify our efforts in helping Nepal. Both China and India are neighbors of Nepal. We stand ready to coordinate with India on the disaster-relief operation in Nepal, take care of relevant work and help Nepal overcome difficulties and rebuild its homeland at the earliest date possible.”

- **April 28, 2015 – Ministry of Commerce Spokesman Shan Danyang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “Q: On April 25, a magnitude-8.1 earthquake struck Nepal and influenced the Tibet Autonomous Region. The media want to know about the aid implemented by the Ministry of Commerce and the current situation of Chinese enterprises in Nepal.

A: The second largest city of Nepal, Pokhara, was hit by a magnitude-8.1 earthquake at 2:11 pm (Beijing time) April 25. After the earthquake, the Nepal government appealed to the international community for emergency aid. To express the firm support of the government and people of China to Nepal on the earthquake relief work, the Chinese government decided to provide the Nepal government with emergency humanitarian aid of RMB 20 million, including materials urgently needed by the disaster area like tents, carpet and electric generator, in order to help Nepal with the work of disaster relief. The aid was organized and implemented by the Ministry of Commerce, and the 180 tons of material will arrive at Katmandu today and tomorrow. The Ministry of Commerce has taken the lead to arrange the following-up assistance and plan for post-disaster reconstruction in Nepal.”



- **April 29, 2015 – Statement U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations by Samantha Power: Statement on the Situation in Burundi (State Department)**

Quote: “The United States condemns the ongoing political violence taking place in Burundi and the government’s crackdown on media, civil society, and the political opposition this week [...] We deeply regret the decision by the ruling party to nominate President Nkurunziza for a third term in violation of the Arusha Agreement.”

- **April 29, 2015– Briefing by Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Public Affairs Douglas Frantz: World Press Freedom Day 2015: State of World Press Freedom (State Department)**

Quote: “I consider countering Russian disinformation to be a top priority that requires more U.S. Government engagement with international media. Countering propaganda is not about producing counterpropaganda, it’s about ensuring that journalists have a voice to foster the free exchange of ideas and to serve as an arbiter of the truth.”

- **April 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Q: Commentaries say that India has done more in assisting Nepal than China. What is your response to this?”

A: After the massive earthquake in Nepal, China, India and the international community extended a helping hand by offering emergency disaster-relief supplies, and sending rescue and medical teams to search and treat the injured in Nepal. The international rescue efforts that come at a difficult time to those in need exemplify that Asian countries are in a community of common destiny, and will help Nepal overcome the disaster and rebuild the homeland at an early date. We are willing to keep in touch and step up coordination with India, and jointly strive for positive outcomes in the disaster-relief work in Nepal.”



Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. Urges Action on Climate Change both at Home and Abroad; China Focuses on Domestic Pollution Cleanup Efforts

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 3, 2015 – FACT SHEET: Administration Announces Actions to Drive Growth in Solar Energy and Train Workers for Clean-Energy Jobs (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “Since President Obama took office, solar electricity generation has increased 20 fold, doubling last year alone. [...] To continue progress, [...] the President is announcing the following actions. [The actions are such as but not limited to] training 75,000 solar workers, [...] launching a Solar Ready Vets Program, [...] utilizing the GI bill for solar workforce training, [and] educating veterans and service members about opportunities to gain solar workforce training.” ● April 3, 2015 – Letter from the President–Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Designations (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “The revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) preserves subsistence uses of local inhabitants, protects fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, and ensures opportunities for fish. [...] It also strengthens wildlife and habitat monitoring as well as the monitoring of public use of the refuge so as to better respond to changing conditions on the landscape, particularly those associated with climate change.” ● April 7, 2015 – Remarks by the President after Roundtable on the Impacts of Climate Change on Public Health (Speeches and Remarks, White House) Quote: “Climate change means higher temperatures overall and it also means longer and hotter heat waves [...], worse air in cities [...], more smog and more ozone [...], increased smoke in the air [...], more intense wildfires [...], and longer allergy seasons. [...] this means that we have more people exposed to triggers that can cause asthma attacks, and more asthma attacks mean more days of school missed. They mean more days of work missed. [...] a child who visits the emergency room six times because of asthma, there’s a cost associated to that. We as a society pay for that. [...] And so I want everybody to start recognizing the costs of inaction, and recognize that the costs of inaction are even higher than the costs of action.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 3, 2015 – Meeting Held to Facilitate Improvements and Honesty in Water Program (Ministry of Environmental Protection) Quote: “For a little over a month, the national project management office of the water program has, following the opinions of the Central Inspection Team and the requirements of the leading Party group of MEP, adopted a raft of measures to make earnest improvements, resulting in preliminary effects. [...] Also, MEP has, together with MHURD, printed and distributed the regulations on honesty in implementation of the water program as well as the terms of reference of the expert panels, and evaluated, inspected, and spot-checked the ongoing research projects during the 12th Five-Year Plan period from 2011 to 2015. Moreover, MEP will soon release “Some Opinions on Strengthening the Management of Model Projects under National Major S&T Program on Water Pollution Control and Governance”, in an effort to fulfill two responsibilities, establish a defense line for anti-corruption, go further in information disclosure, and share the research findings.” ● April 8, 2015 – The Settlement Results of the Environmental Cases Reported by the Public Through “12369” Hotline in November 2014 (Ministry of Environmental Protection) Quote: “Among the cases found with pollution problems, atmospheric pollution was the top complaint, followed by noise and water pollution. Local EPDs have handled those environmental incompliances, and made decisions including ordering enterprises concerned to make improvements within a prescribed period of time, suspending their operations to make improvements, imposing fines, ordering them to make up for the environmental review formalities, to make improvements on the scene of investigations, and shutting down enterprises.” ● April 10, 2015 – Intensified Enforcement Demonstrates the Strength of “Combination Blow” (Ministry of Environmental Protection) Quote: “Zou said that the EPDs of some regions have promoted the enforcement of the new law in full swing through enhanced publicity and training. In the meantime, they collaborated closely with local police departments in enforcement, demonstrating the preliminary strength of the “combination blow” in cracking down on environmental violations.”



- **April 18, 2015 – Weekly Address: Climate Change Can No Longer be Ignored** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “The President spoke about his commitment to combating the threat of climate change and to keeping ourselves and future generations safe. The effects of climate change can no longer be denied or ignored. [...] Climate change poses risks to our national security, our economy, and our public health. The President has already taken historic steps to address climate change, but there’s more that the United States and the international community can do.”

- **April 20, 2015– Remarks by Acting Assistant Secretary Judith Garber: Remarks at the International Politics, Economics and Foreign Policy Implications of Climate Change Event** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States is an active supporter of the new Green Climate Fund to support climate action in developing countries. Current pledges to the Green Climate Fund total more than \$10 billion, of which the United States has pledged \$3 billion. We have also spearheaded donor coordination efforts to help meet our collective commitment to mobilize \$100 billion a year of public and private climate finance by 2020, in the context of meaningful mitigation and transparency by developing countries. And we are committed to ensuring a strong, ongoing program of financial and technical assistance in the post-2020 regime.”

- **April 21, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “There are any number of reasons for the U.S. to continue and build on the leadership role that this President has established for the United States when it comes to dealing with climate change and reducing the U.S.’s carbon pollution and using our influence to get other countries, like we have successfully with China, to get them to make commitments to reduce their carbon pollution, as well. And the President is proud of the leadership role that he’s played in this effort, but he certainly welcomes the engagement in this broader debate by Democrats and Republicans.”

- **April 22, 2015 – Op-Ed by John Kerry Secretary of State: On Earth Day, Time Running Out for Climate Change** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “In Beijing last November, President Obama and Chinese leader Xi Jinping each announced bold new climate change targets. [...] Now it’s time for other nations to come forward with their own targets, and to make it possible to reach a meaningful global agreement at the UN Climate Conference in Paris later this year.”

- **April 16, 2015– Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution printed and distributed** ([Ministry of Environmental Protection](#))

Quote: “The action plan proposed that by 2020, the national water environmental quality will have witnessed staged-based improvements, the patches of badly polluted waters will have been substantially diminished, the guarantee of safe drinking water will have been taken up to a new level, the overexploitation of groundwater will have been under strict control, the aggravating deterioration of groundwater pollution will have been preliminarily contained, the environmental quality of nearshore seawaters will have turned better from unchanged, and the regional aquatic ecological environment conditions of Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, Yangtze River Delta, and Pearl River Delta will have been improved. By 2030, the national overall water environment quality will have been managed to be improved, and the water ecosystem functions will have been restored preliminarily. By the middle of this century, the eco-environmental quality will have been improved in all respects, and the ecosystem will have been in a benign cycling.”



- **April 22, 2015 – Op-Ed by John Kerry Secretary of State On Earth Day, Time Running Out for Climate Change** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “If we don't make significant changes — quickly — scientists say we can expect sea levels to continue rising to dangerous levels, more intense and frequent extreme weather events, severe disruptions to food supplies and prolonged resource shortages.” “At the same time, the United States has upped its wind energy production more than threefold — and increased its solar energy generation more than tenfold. We've also become smarter about the way we use energy in our homes and businesses. But the fact is that no single country can solve the climate challenge on its own. So at the State Department, we're engaging partners worldwide to reduce emissions and bring about a clean energy future.”

- **April 24, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Presentation of the U.S. Chairmanship Program at the Arctic Council Ministerial** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “During our chairmanship, the United States intends to press for the full implementation of the Framework for Action on Enhanced Black Carbon and Methane Emissions. And that includes the compilation of national black carbon and methane emission inventories, national reporting on domestic mitigation efforts, and greater international cooperation on reducing these dangerous pollutants. We also call on observer states in the Council to join us in this effort. Because the fact is these pollutants are a threat to everybody.”



Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Reaffirms Alliance Partners in Asia, Shows Strong Support for Japan; China Calls for Bilateral Dialogue to Peacefully Resolve Territorial Disputes between Concerned Nations Free from U.S. Entanglements, Criticizes Japan’s Unwillingness to Address Historical Issues

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 6, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific (U.S Department of State) Quote: “[...] defining region for our nation's future - the Asia-Pacific. [...] we are seeing very real and astonishing evidence today not just of economic progress, but true social advancement in so many areas in the Asia-Pacific. What many people do not see at first, however, is that all this growth - all this progress - has been the result of a peaceful security environment. [...] This miracle of rapid progress, against a backdrop of peace and prosperity, has in fact been enabled by the enduring presence and relationships of the United States - itself an Asia-Pacific nation. And not just in defense, but in diplomacy, economic policy, commerce, and trade. [...] First, we will continue to invest in future capabilities that will be especially relevant to the Asia-Pacific's complex and dynamic security environment. Next, we are now fielding in numbers key capabilities we have developed over the past decade - capabilities that are suited for the Asia-Pacific now and for years to come. Third, we're adapting our overall defense posture in the region to be geographically distributed, operationally resilient, and politically sustainable. [...] our allies in Japan and Korea are stepping up to pay their fair share of the bill for that construction.” ● April 6, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific (U.S Department of Defense) Quote: “We’re also establishing new partnerships – brand new partnerships – while deepening others...especially in South and Southeast Asia. I mentioned our growing relationship with Vietnam earlier, but this June I will also return to Singapore for the annual Shangri-La Dialogue, and travel on to Southeast Asia and India. The U.S.-India relationship is one of our most exciting and dynamic partnerships. [...] In Southeast Asia, we are enhancing the capabilities of our partners as they step up and play leading roles on a range of challenges. That’s why we are partnering with the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Indonesia to provide them with additional assets for maritime security and disaster relief operations. And why we’re helping Singapore develop a regional information sharing and disaster relief hub.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 1, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The rights and wrongs behind the issue of Diaoyu Dao are clear for all to see. It is not others but Japan itself who stirs up troubles and changes the status quo with unilateral actions. China will firmly uphold the territorial sovereignty of the Diaoyu Dao, and stay committed to properly managing and solving the Diaoyu Dao issue through dialogue and consultation. It is hoped that the Japanese side can look squarely at the history and reality, and make constructive efforts to properly resolve the issue.” ● April 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: The U.S. Defense Secretary who is visiting Japan expressed concerns today about the militarization of territorial disputes in Asia and China's land reclamation around the Nansha islands by means of militarization. What is China's response to that? A: China holds a consistent position on the relevant issues. We stay committed to resolving the relevant issues through consultation and negotiation with countries directly concerned. We hope that the American side would respect efforts made by China and relevant countries in the region for a negotiated settlement, do and say more things with a sense of responsibility, and play a constructive role for regional peace and stability.” ● April 9, 2015 – Japan's New Textbooks Deceitful and Harmful (China Daily) Quote: “Japan's new textbook revisions provide another example of how the Japanese government, under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, has plotted one trick after another to whitewash Japan's history of aggression. [...] For Japan to become a trustworthy neighbor or a respected member of the international community, an honest and responsible approach to history is a prerequisite.”



- **April 7, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf**

Quote: “Q: What’s your reaction on Japan’s adjustments to their textbook, especially on the part where they want softened tone of aggression in World War Two?”

A: So we don’t have specific reactions on particular textbook questions. I know we’ve gotten these in the past, and we’re just probably not going to wade in there. In terms of historical issues, we have consistently encouraged Japan to approach these historical issues arising from the past in a manner that is conducive to building stronger relations with its neighbors, but no specific comment on the textbook.”

- **April 8, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Japanese Minister of Defense Gen Nakatani at a Joint Press Conference (U.S. Department of Defense)**

Quote: “And we reaffirmed that the Japanese alliance continues to be important for Japan’s security and peace and stability of the region. And we agreed to cooperate closely to further strengthen our alliance. Concerning the guideline, we agreed that we shall work vigorously toward the early conclusion of the review. And through this review work, we shall further strengthen the Japan-U.S. alliance [...] Then concerning the security environment in Asia Pacific, we exchanged views. Concerning the Senkaku Islands, we confirmed the U.S. stance over the islands and we agreed to oppose attempts to change the status quo by force in the East China Sea and elsewhere. And in light of North Korea repeatedly launching ballistic missiles, we see that the regional security situation is becoming more severe and we reaffirm that we shall work closely together between Japan and U.S [...] TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership) will strengthen the economic power of the United States and many of its allies and partners, including Japan. It will deepen those ties and underscore our lasting commitment to the region and it will help us promote both the interests we share and the rules-based international order that has served Japan, the United States and every Asia Pacific nation for so long.”

- **April 13, 2015 – U.S. Meddling Will Only Increase Regional Tensions (China Daily)**

Quote: “Recent remarks from high-ranking U.S. politicians on China’s disputes in the South and East China seas with some of its neighbors breach the United States commitment not to take sides in the disputes. The U.S.’ inconsistency and capriciousness will only tarnish its own image and raise tensions in the region.”

- **April 16, 2015 – Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang’s Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “The current China-Japan relationship is still in a quite difficult spot. There is wish from both sides for improved relations. But such improvement needs a foundation. The crux of the issue is how to view the history of the Second World War, and whether one can draw lessons from that part of history to ensure that the war will never repeat itself. [...] It is common knowledge in political science that leaders of a country, while inheriting the achievements made by their predecessors, should also shoulder the responsibilities for crimes committed by past generations. This is how one establishes his true sense of national identity and responsibility.”

- **April 17, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “China holds a consistent and clear position on maritime issues in the neighborhood. We maintain that the relevant disputes should be resolved through negotiation and consultation by countries directly concerned, and stay committed to safeguarding regional peace and stability and pushing for mutually beneficial and win-win cooperation along with countries concerned. The situation of this region is generally stable, and relevant cooperation has been moved forward with positive results. It is hoped that relevant countries would fully respect the efforts by regional countries to safeguard regional peace and stability, and do more things that contribute to regional peace and stability.”

- **April 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “I want to underscore that the South China Sea issue is not an issue between China and ASEAN. The Chinese side is always against the attempt of few countries to damage the friendly relationship of cooperation between China and ASEAN by making use of the South China Sea issue. We are committed to working with ASEAN countries to fully implement the “dual-track approach” in handling and addressing the South China Sea issue and jointly uphold peace and stability of the South China Sea.”



- **April 9, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at a Troop Event, Yokota Air Base, Japan** ([U.S Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: What type of joint goals you had for the United States and Japan in the coming with, like, the rebalancing of the Pacific and, you know, everything that's going on with North Korea and, like the South China Sea? There's a lot of tension.

A: We and the rest of Asia were very suspicious of the Japanese and did not want the Japanese to have a big military; they didn't want them to have a military that did anything outside of Japan because they didn't trust the Japanese. Now the years have gone by and I think the Japanese have shown that they can be good citizens in the region, and they're kind of ready to do more for security in the region. That's what the meaning of the guidelines, which is our guideline for how we cooperate with the Japanese, are just about to be revised. And the key to that revision is the Japanese doing more in this part of the world, and I think it's time for that. 70 years is a long time since the end of World War II, [...] though I said this part of the world is mostly peaceful, it's not entirely peaceful, North Korea, you mentioned, the South China Sea, which is a reference for those who don't follow this to the -- the disputes that go back centuries between different countries, and especially China and other countries, regarding who owns islands out in the South China Sea. [...] So, we're trying to use our influence to make that thing -- that situation doesn't get out of control. And in fact, that all the changes that are going on in Asia keep happening, and people get wealthier, and they get, you know, more -- advanced in democracy and so forth, and that all that is able to happen peacefully.”

- **April 9, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at a Press Gaggle, Yokota Air Base, Japan** ([U.S Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Japan is one of our oldest and staunchest allies and it is changing its security posture in important and truly historic ways. And we're there, accordingly, changing our relationship to evolve with them. And the purpose of my visit here was to prepare the way for, first, the so-called 2+2 meeting, which is the meeting of foreign ministers and our state [...] I don't want to keep hammering on TPP, but I just need to remind everyone that's an important part of our relationship out here, too, because it reinforces the strategic -- that strategic approach to this part of the world is not just a military matter. It's economic and political as well.”

- **April 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reportedly said on April 20 that he would succeed previous cabinets' basic way of thinking on the history issue in his statement on the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. However, he would not repeat what his predecessors have said before, as that would make it unnecessary to issue a new statement. What is China's comment on that?

A: We have noted the remarks made by the Japanese leader. [...] It is hoped that the Japanese side will take heed of the call for justice from across the world and within Japan, honor previous Japanese cabinets' statements on and commitments to facing squarely and reflecting upon the history of aggression, show sincerity, make a break with the past and open up to the future.”

- **April 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Japanese Prime Minister Abe sent a "masakaki" tree as a ritual offering to the Yasukuni Shrine on April 21. What is China's comment on that?

A: The Chinese side holds a long-standing and clear position on the issue of the Yasukuni Shrine. In this crucial year that marks the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, we urge the Japanese side to face up to and show deep remorse for the history of aggression, properly deal with issues related and make tangible efforts to win the trust of its Asian neighbors and the international community.”

- **April 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Japanese Prime Minister Abe said in an interview yesterday that now that he would succeed the spirit of the Murayama Statement, there is no need to include key words such as "colonial rule", "aggression" and "heartfelt apology" in his statement on the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII. Does the Chinese side care about the use of these key words in Abe's statement?

A: As I just put it, we hope that the Japanese side would listen attentively to the call for justice from across the world and within Japan, honor previous Japanese cabinets' statements on and commitments to facing squarely and reflecting upon the history of aggression, and take concrete steps to win the trust of its Asian neighbors and the international community.”



- **April 16, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Secretary of State Anotny J. Blinken: Press Availability with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Akitaka Saiki and Republic of Korea Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yong** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We are not mediating between Japan and the Republic of Korea. We are simply encouraging our closest friends to have the strongest possible relationship, because it matters to us. Our ability to tackle together the many challenges we talked about is enhanced when the relationship between us is as strong as possible.”

- **April 16, 2015 – Remarks by deputy Secretary of State Anotny J. Blinken: Press Availability with Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Akitaka Saiki and Republic of Korea Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yong** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States [...] certainly have concern about some of the actions that China is taking in South China Seas, East China Seas, and those are concerns that we’ve expressed directly to our Chinese friends on many occasions. But I think these are concerns that are shared [...] by many countries in the region. And what we’ve said and what I think we all agree on is the need to pursue any claims that countries have with strict adherence and respect for the rule of law, for the norms and standards that have been established to work through these kinds of claims and not to take unilateral actions.”

- **April 21, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf** ([U.S State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Japan’s Prime Minister Abe suggested that in his statement marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II that he will not apologize for the country’s World War II aggressions, like some previous Japanese leaders have done. So is the U.S. worried about this in any way?”

A: We’ve continued to emphasize the importance of approaching historical legacy issues in a manner that promotes healing and reconciliation for all parties. We’ve been very clear about the importance of that. We of course believe that strong and constructive relations between countries in the region promote peace and stability in their interests, certainly in our interests as well.”

- **April 21, 2015 – Xi in Pakistan to Work for Real Mutual Benefits** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “But that is a thorough misunderstanding of the Sino-Pakistani relationship. For outsiders, the obvious disparity between the two immediate neighbors, in size, national strength and plenty of other aspects sets the stage for an unequal relationship. But from Xi to the average man on the street in China, Pakistan has never been just another neighbor. Bilateral ties are approached here with a special sense of brotherhood. Few of China’s partnerships with foreign countries have seen the degree of popular endorsement as that with Pakistan.”

- **April 22, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: This morning, over one hundred Japanese lawmakers paid homage to the Yasukuni Shrine for the annual spring festival. What is China’s comment on that?”

A: The Chinese side is firmly opposed to the visit by Japanese lawmakers to the Yasukuni Shrine. In such a sensitive year that marks the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII, political figures from Japan should uphold a right outlook on history, and do more to facilitate reconciliation and build up mutual trust with its Asian neighbors, rather than the opposite.”

- **April 23, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Chinese and Japanese leaders met with each other yesterday. How does China comment on that?”

A: [...] The history issue is a major matter of principle concerning the political basis of China-Japan relations. It is hoped that the Japanese side would take seriously the concerns of its Asian neighbors and send out a positive message of facing up to the history.”

- **April 23, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: With regard to yesterday’s meeting between Chinese and Japanese leaders, can you tell us the difference between this meeting and the one last year?”

A: It is our hope that China-Japan relations will always stick to the right direction and achieve sound and steady growth. It is hoped that the Japanese side will meet China halfway.”



- **April 22, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf**([U.S State Department](#))

Quote: “We welcomed the meeting between the Chinese president and the Japanese prime minister. As two of the three largest economies in the world, relations between the two countries, as we’ve said many times, affect the peace and prosperity of not just the region but the rest of the world, and again had welcomed the meeting.”

- **April 23, 2015 – Remarks by Defense Secretary Ash Carter at the Drell Lecture Cemex Auditorium, Stanford Graduate School of Business, Stanford, California** ([U.S Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “The Asia-Pacific region is important to our future because that’s where half of humanity resides, half of global economic activity resides. We’re a Pacific power. That’s why so much of our future lies there. [...] And so I believe that as China and India rise, that’s a good thing we welcome that, but we need to keep the American presence in the Asia-Pacific, because it’s a reassurance to many there, and it’s a signal to all that it would be terrible to ruin a good thing [...] I think that element of our influence is as important as our military element.”

- **April 23, 2015 – Briefing by Senior Director for Asian Affairs Evan Medeiros: Preview of the Official Visit of Prime Minister Abe of Japan**([State Department](#))

Quote: “We have fundamental national interests in the freedom of navigation, the protection of international law, unimpeded commerce, and peaceful resolution of disputes. And in those areas, the U.S. and Japan are in lockstep, and we think it’s important that the parties to these maritime disputes pursue diplomatic solutions, they don’t use coercion, and they look for ways to resolve them through existing frameworks.”

- **April 24, 2015 – Abe's Shortsightedness Still the Sticking Point**([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Yet it seems the Abe administration has failed to shore up a political will to either seriously reflect upon its handling of bilateral ties or sincerely bridge the gaps between the two countries. Instead, it has opted for an opportunist approach in pursuit of short-term gains. Abe stopped short of making an apology to countries victimized by Japan’s aggression before and during World War II at the Asian African Summit, a chance he should not have missed. And on the day of the Xi-Abe meeting, a group of Japanese lawmakers from various parties paid homage to the Yasukuni Shrine, which honors Japan’s war dead, including 14 Class-A convicted WWII criminals. As long as the Abe administration hangs to its short-sighted policy toward China-Japan ties, it will be difficult to translate the symbolic meeting between Xi and Abe into a real thaw in bilateral ties. It is time Abe awoke to the fact that the estrangement between Beijing and Tokyo is costing both sides a lot.”

- **April 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The forced recruitment of the “comfort women” is a gross crime against humanity committed by the Japanese militarism during the Second World War against people of the victimized countries in Asia. There is iron-clad evidence proving this, and the victims are still suffering from untold miseries. It is hoped that the Japanese side would face up to the history, properly handle the history issues including the comfort women issue in a responsible manner, and win the trust of its Asian neighbors and the world with tangible actions.”

- **April 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: When jointly meeting the press with Japanese Prime Minister Abe on April 28, U.S. President Obama said that the new Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation will make the two countries more flexible and better prepared to cooperate on a range of challenges, from maritime security to cyber threats and space. Japan will take on greater roles and responsibilities in the Asia-Pacific and around the world. What is China’s comment on that?

A: The U.S.-Japan alliance is a bilateral arrangement forged during the Cold War era. It is our strong belief that the U.S. and Japan shoulder the responsibility of ensuring that a third party’s interests will not be damaged and peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific not be undermined by their alliance. We will keep an eye on the future security cooperation between America and Japan.”



- **April 27, 2015 – Press Availability by Secretary of State John Kerry: Press Availability with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, and Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani (State Department)**

Quote: “The United States and Japan stand together in calling for disputes in the region to be resolved peacefully. We reject any suggestion that freedom of navigation, overflight, and other unlawful uses of the sea and airspace are privileges granted by big states to small ones, subject to the whim and fancy of a big state. And as President Obama has reaffirmed, our treaty commitments to Japan’s security remains ironclad and covers all territories under Japan’s administration, including the Senkaku Islands.”

- **April 27, 2015 – Press Availability by Secretary of State John Kerry: Press Availability with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, and Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani (State Department)**

Quote: “Q: Why should one not regard the new guidelines as substantially directed toward China given that one of the big changes in the world since 1997 has been the huge acceleration in Chinese military spending and its greater assertiveness in the region?”

Secretary of Defense Carter: Yes. Thank you for that. No, they’re not specifically aimed at China because there are other issues, both in that part of the world and globally, where the United States and Japan can, will and must cooperate. There’s North Korea, for example, and deterrence of provocative behavior by North Korea.”

- **April 28, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Abe of Japan in Joint Press Conference (White House, Speeches and Remarks)**

Quote: “With and for each other. This is the essence of the alliance between the United States and Japan. [...] Since taking office, I’ve worked to rebalance American foreign policy to ensure that we’re playing a larger and lasting role in the Asia Pacific -- a policy grounded in our treaty alliances, including our treaty with Japan. And I’m grateful to Shinzo for his deep commitment to that alliance.”

- **April 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Q: When addressing the U.S. Congress, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed deep repentance to the Second World War but did not apologize for Japan’s aggression. What is your comment?”

A: The Chinese side repeatedly urges the Japanese government and leadership to take a responsible attitude towards history, and act in accordance with the Murayama Statement and other statements and commitment made by previous governments on facing squarely and reflecting upon the history of aggression. This is the only way for Japan to genuinely win the trust of the world and develop friendly relationship for the future with its Asian neighbors.”

- **April 30, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of National Defense)**

Quote: “The joint exercise that you have mentioned is indeed of very large scale. Relevant countries consolidate and deepen military alliance, conduct large-scale joint military exercise, and create tensions in the region. This does not accord with the trends of the times featuring peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit. To strengthen military alliance and show muscles will not contribute to the peace and stability in the region. There are some people in the international community who are quite keen to hype up the so-called “China Threat”. In the current situation, by conducting such a large-scale joint military exercise, we cannot help but ask who is creating tensions in the region and who is threatening peace and stability in the region?”



- **April 30, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf (State Department)**

Quote: “Q: South Korean and Chinese media have been very critical of Prime Minister Abe’s speech or address to Congress that he gave yesterday because they feel that he didn’t adequately address some of the historical issues that those two countries have objections to. I know that in the past some such as Secretary Russel – Assistant Secretary Russel – has urged for Japan and its neighbors to resolve some of the historical issues that affects the relationship between those countries. Are you satisfied that Prime Minister Abe adequately addressed some of those historical issues?”

A: We certainly take note of Prime Minister Abe’s expressions of deep remorse over the war and his reference to Japanese actions that brought suffering to people in Asian countries. We also note his point that he will uphold the views expressed by previous prime ministers in regard to the past, and at the April 28th White House press conference he reaffirmed the Abe cabinet upholds the Kono Statement and has no intention to revise it. So obviously, that was something we also took note of.”



Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: U.S. Opens Door for Introduction of Advanced Weaponry to Korea Peninsula during the Shift to Asia, Derides North Korean Human Rights Abuses and China’s Repatriation of Refugees; China Mum on Potential Kim Jong-eun Visit

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 3, 2015 – Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: UN International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (State Department) Quote: “Last September, President Obama brought us one step closer to the goal of a world free from anti-personnel landmines when he announced that the United States will no longer use anti-personnel landmines outside of the unique circumstances of the Korean Peninsula.” ● April 6, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter on the Next Phase of the U.S. Rebalance to the Asia-Pacific (Department of Defense) Quote: “That begins with constantly refreshing our long-standing alliances – as we have done since their origin back in the Cold War – to reflect the new strategic environment. When I get to Japan later this week, we will be working to complete a new set of Guidelines on Defense Cooperation – which is the foundational guidance for this important alliance – to allow us to take our cooperation to a whole new level and into new areas like space and cyberspace. In Korea, I’ll be working with my counterpart to reinforce deterrence and improve capabilities on the Peninsula to counteract an increasingly dangerous and provocative North Korea.” ● April 9, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at a Troop Event, Osan Air Base, South Korea (Department of Defense) Quote: “Q: What changes can be expected here in Korea with the U.S. policy, the rebalancing in the Pacific as it progresses? A: One thing it means is that a lot of our newer capabilities, the ones that we’re making investments in, are going to be flowing into this theater because of the importance we attach to it. So you probably know we’re building new stealthy fighters, a new stealthy bomber, several new ship classes, a number of new Army equipment sets of all kinds, ranging from vehicles to command and control and so forth. And because this is a very demanding theater [...] it makes sense that we have -- and some of the most demanding kinds of situations, potential military situation, also are out here, we need to do that. And that’s what the whole rebalance is about.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: Has China invited the DPRK leader Kim Jong-un to the commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression? Has the DPRK side accepted the invitation? A: As we have briefed you recently, this year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the World Anti-Fascist War and the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, and relevant commemorations will be held by the Chinese side. We have sent invitations to leaders of all relevant countries, and we welcome their attendance at these activities. We are now in communication with countries concerned.” ● April 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “We stick to safeguarding peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula, realizing denuclearization of the Peninsula and resolving relevant issues through dialogue and consultation. It is hoped that relevant parties would work in concert to resume the Six-Party Talks at an early date and push for the settlement of the relevant issue through dialogue.” ● April 17, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: First, did China invite the DPRK Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un and the ROK President Park Geun-hye to the commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression? A: On your first question, we have said on multiple occasions that the Chinese side has invited leaders of all relevant countries to attend the commemorations marking the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War in September.”



- **April 10, 2015 – Joint Press Conference with Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter and South Korean Defense Minister Han**([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “We have agreed to cooperate closely in order to develop response measures against North Korean threats, as well as manage the security condition on the Korean Peninsula. Secretary Carter reaffirmed the United States' resolve and support for the ROK-U.S. alliance and the defense of the Republic of Korea, while further emphasizing America's unwavering commitment to its rebalancing strategy towards the Asia-Pacific. In light of this, I assessed that the United States' strategy to rebalance towards the Asia-Pacific will contribute to promoting the peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia. Regarding the deployment of THAAD, there has not been any decision made by the U.S. government, and neither has there been any consultation regarding the deployment of THAAD between the two governments. Secretary Carter and I reaffirmed that we will continue to work together on reinforcing the alliance's comprehensive capabilities in response to North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile threats. [...] Now the U.S.-Korea alliance is not just a regional alliance. It has global reach. Based on mutual trust and common values, we've worked together to counter ISIL, combat Ebola, and help rebuild Afghanistan. The gains for our national regional -- national, regional, and global security have been impressive and I thank the Republic of Korea for all it's doing to ensure peace and security around the world. We also discussed America's lasting presence in the Asia-Pacific.”

- **April 10, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Deputy Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Jeff Rathke**([State Department](#))

Quote: “As we've made clear for a long time, in conjunction and consultation with our partners and allies, we remain open to dialogue with the DPRK with the aim of returning to credible and authentic negotiations on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. But the burden is on North Korea to take meaningful actions towards denuclearization and to refrain from provocations. So that's where we stand. It's where we've been for a while, unfortunately, and our position on that hasn't changed.”

- **April 23, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The comprehensive deal we are seeking to negotiate with Iran is fundamentally different than what we did in terms of our approach to North Korea. [...] Any comprehensive deal with Iran would require at a minimum, again, implementation of the Additional Protocol, which constitutes a much greater level of monitoring and a wider scope of access on short notice than was ever attempted in North Korea

- **April 23, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: First, Chinese nuclear experts reportedly told American specialists during their meeting that the DPRK may be in possession of a nuclear arsenal larger than before. Can you confirm that?”

A: On your first question, I am not aware of the specifics. The Chinese side holds a consistent and clear position on the Korean nuclear issue. We stay committed to safeguarding peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula, realizing denuclearization on the Peninsula and resolving relevant issues through dialogue and consultation.”

- **April 23, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Second, the Russian Ambassador to the ROK said that DPRK Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un may attend activities commemorating the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Great Patriotic War in Moscow on May 9. Will President Xi Jinping meet with Kim Jong-un at that time? Is there any preparation for the meeting?”

A: China and the DPRK are friendly neighbors. We attach importance to developing relations with the DPRK. As for the meeting between the two leaders, it depends on the two sides' convenience.”



."

- **April 23, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "We obviously believe China should continue to use its influence to curtail North Korea's provocative actions. That's something we've said for a long time."

- **April 30, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "Q: I don't know if you've seen the report that came out late last night from the Washington Institute for Science and International Security about North Korea's nuclear reactor at Yongbyon, which suggested that because of the snow melt on it that it could actually have started some kind of low-grade activity."

A: We don't have a comment on the operational status of the facilities at Yongbyon. We don't tend to comment on those kinds of intelligence matters. But I would remind people that in the – excuse me – in the DNI's January 2014 report to Congress, the U.S. assessed that the DPRK has expanded the size of its Yongbyon enrichment facility and restarted the reactor that was previously used for plutonium production. So this was in the DNI's 2014 report to Congress. And so I'd sort of point you there but don't have much more for you than that."

- **April 30, 2015 – Remarks by U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power at a Panel Discussion on Human Rights Abuses in North Korea, "Victims' Voices: A Conversation on North Korean Human Rights"** ([U.S. Mission to the U.N](#))

Quote: "I just want to touch on three of the themes that we heard about today in order to underscore the importance of this event and of the human rights crisis inside North Korea. The first is the raw, painful hunger [...] A hunger that is one of the most potent weapons used by the North Korean regime to dehumanize the people of North Korea and to keep them unable to stand up for their aspirations and their rights. [...] The second theme is, of course, about the regime's use of terror to silence and divide people [...] Third, and finally, we've heard about the complicity of those countries that are forcibly repatriating North Koreans back to North Korea after they have risked everything to escape [...] We know the gruesome punishments that await North Koreans who are sent back against their will and yet the practice continues every day. It must stop and we urge China and all countries in the region to protect North Korean refugees and asylum seekers who reach their territories."



Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S. Highlights Iranian Nuclear Deal, the Fight against ISIL, and Loss of Civilian Lives in Syria; China Calls for a Cease-fire in Yemen and for Progress in Iranian Nuclear Talks

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 2, 2015 –Statement by the President on the Framework to Prevent Iran from Obtaining a Nuclear Weapon (Speeches and Remarks, White House) Quote: “As President and Commander-in-Chief [...] I am convinced that [...] will make our country, our allies, and our world safer. [...] This framework would cut off every pathway that Iran could take to develop a nuclear weapon. Iran will face strict limitations on its program, and Iran has also agreed to the most robust and intrusive inspections and transparency regime ever negotiated for any nuclear program in history. So this deal is not based on trust, it’s based on unprecedented verification.” ● April 3, 2015– Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz(White House, Press Briefings) Quote: “Q: Eric, President Rouhani of Iran is casting this deal as a new relationship with the world. Does the White House see in that way? A:I understand that the Iranians are in a spot where they need to sell this deal to the population there. For us, this was a deal about Iran’s nuclear program -- full stop. That’s what the negotiations were about. That’s what the international community came together, along with the United States, to reach. And for us, that was the parameters of this deal. Q:Do you see it, though, as an opening for a new relationship between Iran and the rest of the world? A: I think the concerns we have with Iran outside of the nuclear program remain just as vibrant as they were yesterday as they are today.” ● April 3, 2015– Press Statement by Marie Harf: Recent Violence Against Civilians in Syria(State Department) Quote: “The United States reiterates that all forces must cease unlawful attacks on civilians and comply with international law. Those who are responsible for these and other atrocities against the civilian population must be held accountable.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China firmly opposes all forms of terrorism, and strongly condemns the terrorist attack against young students in Garissa, Kenya. We extend deep condolences to the victims and sincere sympathies to all the bereaved families and the injured. China will continue to stand firmly by the Kenyan side in its endeavor to safeguard national security and regional stability.” ● April 6, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Announcement of the Temporary Closure of the Chinese Diplomatic and Consular Missions in Yemen (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “As the security situation in Yemen is getting worse, after evacuating Chinese citizens from Yemen, staff of the Chinese diplomatic and consular missions in Yemen also left the country. The Chinese Embassy in Yemen and Consulate General in Aden are temporarily closed.” ● April 7, 2015 –Deal with Iran Shows Constructive Composure (China Daily) Quote: “Due to the long-time distrust between Teheran and the West, many hard tasks and challenges still lie ahead. Given the ambiguity in some disputed issues, Teheran and Washington may have different interpretations on the framework agreement. So maintaining composure is still essential for the involved parties if they are to finalize a comprehensive agreement on Iran's nuclear program three months from now.It is hoped the parties involved can shore up their sense of responsibility and seize the historic opportunity so that a final deal could be secured on schedule.” ● April 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Chinese side is deeply concerned about the situation in Yemen and calls on all relevant parties to realize an immediate ceasefire so as to prevent further casualties of civilians. The Chinese side hopes that all parties concerned will take concrete steps to implement the UN Security Council resolutions and the initiatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), resolve the crisis through political dialogue and bring stability and order back to Yemen as soon as possible.”



- **April 4, 2015 – Weekly Address: Reaching a Comprehensive and Long Term Deal on Iran’s Nuclear Program** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “In this week’s address, the President described the historic understanding the United States – with our allies and partners – reached with Iran, which, if fully implemented, will prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon and will make our country, our allies, and our world safer. The deal, announced on Thursday, meets our core objectives of cutting off every pathway that Iran could take to develop a nuclear weapon. It is both comprehensive and long-term, and includes robust and intrusive inspections of the country’s nuclear program.”

- **April 6, 2015 – Press Statement by Marie Harf: Condemning the Deaths of Red Cross/Red Crescent Staff in Syria and Yemen** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Attacks against innocent civilians and aid organizations by armed groups and the Syrian regime is unacceptable and must not be permitted by the international community. Impartial and neutral humanitarian organizations must be allowed to continue their critical work saving lives free from threats from armed groups.”

- **April 6, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Q: Is the U.S. and Iran on a very different page even in terms of this interim agreement?”

A: No, we’re not. We all recognize that -- we emphasize very strongly, we have to talk about the same agreement. We understand emphases may be different. [...] So it’s not so much inconsistent as it, as I would say, is emphasizing only certain parts of the agreement.”

- **April 6, 2015 – Remarks on Media Availability with Secretary Carter enroute to Japan by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter** ([U.S Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “My focus as secretary of defense is on the overall security of the region and on all of Iran’s behavior, and of all of our partners and allies in the region, and especially in particular our alliance with Israel. It’s a very strong security partner. [...] My conversation with the Saudi defense minister illustrated that earlier today. So we have lots of important interests in the region to watch out for and to work on. Again, as secretary of defense, I’m very focused on the entire picture and on working with our long-standing friends and allies there on issues of security concern very broadly in the region.”

- **April 8, 2015 – Chinese Naval Vessels Evacuate Hundreds from War-Torn Yemen** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China wrapped up its evacuation mission Tuesday by dispatching two naval vessels to evacuate the last batch of Chinese nationals from restive Yemen. [...] Lending a helping hand to its nationals as well as citizens of 15 other countries in need, China has shown a humanitarian spirit and great responsibility. [...] The successful evacuation mission reflects a significant growth in China’s comprehensive national power [...]. Moreover, the evacuation mission reaffirms the Chinese government’s commitment to making its people a top priority, and also demonstrates the Chinese government’s decisiveness and efficiency.”

- **April 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Media reports say that two Chinese citizens are detained in Turkey on suspicion of joining the “Islamic State”. Can you confirm this?”

A: I’d like to emphasize that the East Turkestan terrorist forces represented by the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) have posed grave dangers to the security and stability of regional countries and even the world for not only plotting terrorist attacks within China, but also ganging up with international terrorist forces and sending personnel to war zones. Clamping down on the ETIM is an integral part of the global fight against terrorism. China is willing to enhance cooperation with the international community including Turkey on combating terrorism and safeguarding security and stability of the region and the world.”

- **April 17, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: According to media reports, the new round of negotiation on the Iranian nuclear issue will be held in Vienna on April 22. What is China’s position on moving forward the Iranian nuclear talks? What does China expect from this round of negotiation?”

A: The Chinese side hopes that all parties would set store by what have been achieved so far, accumulate more favorable conditions, get rid of all distractions, make a political judgment promptly and strive to seal the comprehensive agreement as scheduled. It is hoped that all parties can move this round of negotiation forward for constant outcomes, and we are willing to work in tandem with all parties to this end.”



- **April 7, 2015 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “What we believe should be done in Yemen is that all sides to that conflict should participate in a U.N.-led process to bring an end to the violence and try to negotiate a political settlement to the conflict. And right now, I would concede that that seems something that’s unlikely to happen in the near term. But that should not be used as an excuse for anybody to resist the efforts of the international community to try to bring an end to the violence, to try to negotiate a political resolution to the crisis, principally because of the terrible impact it is having on hundreds of thousands, if not millions of innocent people in that chaotic region of the world.”

- **April 8, 2015 – Letter–Continuation of National Emergency with Respect to Somalia**([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “On January 17, 2013, the United States Government announced its recognition of the Government of Somalia. On February 24, 2015, I nominated the first U.S. Ambassador to Somalia in over two decades. Although these developments demonstrate progress with respect to Somalia's stabilization, they do not remove the importance of U.S. sanctions, especially against persons undermining the stability of Somalia. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to Somalia and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.”

- **April 8, 2015 – Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Readout of the Counter-ISIL Coalition Small Group Meeting in Jordan** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “On April 8 Special Presidential Envoy General John Allen and Deputy Special Presidential Envoy Brett McGurk participated in a meeting of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL in Jordan. The Small Group met at the Political Director level to review Coalition operations and progress along the various lines of effort to degrade and defeat ISIL. The leadership of the Coalition Working Groups gave briefings on their respective activities to date and discussed priorities for their efforts in the coming months. This meeting of the Coalition Small Group marked the first Coalition meeting since Working Groups were established in February 2015.”

- **April 9, 2015 – Remarks by Vice President Joe Biden on Iraq** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “[The fight against ISIL] is going to be a long haul. The ultimate success or failure is in the hands of the Iraqis. But as they stand up and stand together, this administration, this country, is committed to stand with them.”

- **April 22, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The Defense Ministry of Saudi Arabia announced on April 21 that the "Decisive Storm" campaign launched by the coalition in Yemen has met its objectives. It would cease at midnight and be replaced by the operation code named "Renewal of Hope". What is China's stance on that?”

A: The Chinese side welcomes the Saudi-led coalition's announcement of the cessation of the "Decisive Storm" campaign and the early restart of the political process in Yemen.”

- **April 23, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The P5+1 and Iran will hold a new round of negotiation on a comprehensive agreement at the political director-general's level in Vienna on April 24, following an experts' meeting. Deputy Director-General Kang Yong of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese Foreign Ministry will attend this round of negotiation as head of the Chinese delegation. The Chinese side hopes that all parties will keep up the good work after they have achieved consensus on the "key elements" of a comprehensive agreement, accommodate each other's concerns, completely resolve the outstanding issues at an early date and accumulate more favorable conditions for the conclusion of a comprehensive agreement on time.”

- **April 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The Afghan Taliban announced that their "spring offensive" against the Afghan government and foreign troops stationed in Afghanistan would begin today. What is China's comment on that?”

A: The Chinese side always believes that reconciliation is the realistic solution to the Afghan issue. The Chinese side supports the "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" reconciliation process, and calls on all parties concerned to figure a political way out through peaceful talks. The Chinese side is ready to play a constructive role to that end.”



- **April 10, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications Ben Rhodes** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Again, we have an agreement with the P5+1 and the Iranians on the framework of a comprehensive nuclear deal. And on those two specific issues, with respect to sanctions I think it’s very clear and understood that sanctions relief will be phased with respect to Iran; that they will have to conduct certain -- take certain steps as a part of earning the continued provision of sanctions relief.”

- **April 10, 2015 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on the Situation in Yarmouk Refugee Camp** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “We welcome UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s statement on the situation in Yarmouk refugee camp, and join him in calling for an end to hostilities, access for humanitarian assistance, and safe passage for civilians who wish to escape safely. [...] All parties must comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law. The siege of Yarmouk must be lifted and the safe evacuation of civilians must be allowed. [...] We further call on the Syrian regime to halt aerial bombardment in order to allow civilians to leave the camp.”

- **April 11, 2015 – Remarks by the President in the Press Conference after the Summit of the Americas** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “What we were able to obtain was a political framework between the P5+1 nations and Iran that provided unprecedented verification of what is taking place in Iran over the next two decades that significantly cuts back on its centrifuges, that cuts off pathways for it to obtain a nuclear weapon, and that calls for, in return, the rolling back of sanctions in a phased way that allows us to snap back if Iran violates the agreement. That’s the political framework.”

- **April 13, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Well, one of the things that we have indicated has been critical to our success in this diplomatic process has been the unity of the international community. And the United States and our partners in Europe have been able to work closely with both Russia and China to bring Iran to the negotiating table by putting in place and enforcing tough sanctions, and engaging in a negotiating position that has succeeded in getting Iran to make serious commitments about limitations and, in some cases, even rolling back specific elements of their nuclear program.”

- **April 28, 2015 – Ministry of Commerce Spokesman Shan Danyang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “Q: On April 22 and during the Asian-African Summit, President Xi Jinping announced to provide 100 thousand training places to the developing Asia and African countries in the next 5 years. Some media want to know the specific situations.

A: President Xi Jinping announced at the Asian-African Summit and Activities Commemorating the 60th Anniversary of the Bandung Conference in Indonesia that China would provide 100 thousand training places to the developing Asia and African countries in the next 5 years, which is an important measure for China to carry forward the Bandung spirit and deepen Asian-African Cooperation. As for the 100 thousand training places, our preliminary plan is to provide 20 thousand training places to Asian and African developing countries every year from 2015 to 2020, covering the sectors including politics, economy, agriculture, education, sanitation, science and technology, infrastructure construction and ecological environmental protection.”



- **April 14, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Al-Abadi** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “We expect Iran to have an important relationship with Iraq as a close neighbor. [...]once the coalition came in at the invitation of and in an agreement with a sovereign Iraqi government, [...] any foreign assistance that is helping to defeat ISIL has to go through the Iraqi government. That’s how you respect Iraqi sovereignty. That’s how you recognize the democratic government that was hard-earned and is being upheld in the work that Prime Minister Abadi is doing in reaching out to all the various factions inside of Iraq.”

- **April 15, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken: Remarks at the Council on Foreign Relations** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Yemen has been a very challenging situation for us, for Yemen’s neighbors [...] the Saudis stood up [...] for the GCC initiative and the transition plan. [...] And in that effort we have and we will continue to strongly support them. But the purpose of this engagement by the Saudis and other GCC countries with our support is and has to be to get the parties back to a political dialogue and a political process. There is not going to be a military solution to what ails Yemen.”

- **April 19, 2015 – Statement by National Security Council Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on Murders in Libya** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The United States condemns in the strongest terms the brutal mass murder purportedly of Ethiopian Christians by ISIL-affiliated terrorists in Libya. [...] people across all faiths will remain united in the face of the terrorists’ barbarity. The United States stands with them. [...] While these dehumanizing acts of terror aim to test the world’s resolve – as groups throughout history have – none have the power to vanquish the powerful core of moral decency which binds humanity and which will ultimately prove the terrorists’ undoing.”

- **April 20, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “The P5+1 remains united as we confront Iran over their nuclear program, and the P5+1 is going to insist that Iran shut down every pathway they have to a nuclear weapon and cooperate with the most intrusive set of inspections that have ever been imposed on a country’s nuclear program. That’s what a final deal will look like if we can reach it. But it’s going to require Iran to make some very serious commitments to both curtail and in some cases even roll back key elements of their nuclear program.”



- **April 21, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “What I’m saying is that the behavior that we’ve seen from Iran when it comes to their support for terrorist organizations, their anti-Semitic rhetoric against Israel, and their destabilizing activities in the region are already egregious. And that is why they reside on the state sponsor of terror list. It’s why Iran is subject to a wide range of economic sanctions that are not related to their nuclear program, but are actually related to their support for terror and their weapons programs and other things. [...] So we continue to be very concerned about Iran’s behavior. But that only makes the successful completion of diplomacy that would effectively prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon all that more important.”

- **April 29, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary Jacob J. Lew at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy 30th Anniversary Gala** ([U.S Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “Iran in possession of a nuclear weapon would directly threaten our security and that of our closest allies, increase the chance of nuclear terrorism, and risk setting off an arms race in the Middle East. [...] At first, there were many out there who said a sanctions regime would not work. That the United States — which had a near-total embargo on Iran for over a decade — had exhausted its sanctions tools. That countries like China and India would never agree to dramatically scale back their oil purchases. [...] Let me be absolutely clear: A comprehensive deal with Iran would not be based on trust. It would be based on intense verification and scrutiny – as well as the knowledge that if Iran does not keep its word, we have preserved all our options, including economic and military tools, to make sure that Iran can never acquire a nuclear weapon.”



Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Calls on China to Find a Peaceful Route to Resolving Territorial Disputes, Criticizes Use and Expressions of Force; China Deflects Criticism of Reclamation Work in South China Sea and Hong Kong Elections, Remains Steadfast on Claims to the Diaoyu Dao, Argues with the Philippines about the Nansha Islands

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 1, 2015 – Statement by the President on Executive Order “Blocking the Property of Certain Persons Engaging in Significant Malicious Cyber-Enabled Activities” (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “Today, I issued an Executive Order that provides a new authority to respond to the threat posed by malicious cyber actors. [...] This Executive Order authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of State, to impose sanctions on individuals or entities that engage in malicious cyber-enabled activities that create a significant threat to the national security, foreign policy, or economic health or financial stability of the United States. [...] I intend to employ the authorities of my office and this Administration, including diplomatic engagement, trade policy tools, and law enforcement mechanisms, to counter the threat posed by malicious cyber actors.” ● April 8, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and Japanese Minister of Defense Gen Nakatani at a Joint Press Conference (U.S. Department of Defense) Quote: “We think that the Japan and U.S. can more broadly contribute to the peace and security of the international society [...] Concerning Japan-U.S. cooperation in the South China Sea, the guideline shows this broad framework and direction concerning Japan-U.S. cooperation and roles capabilities. And so, it does not target any specific area, including the South China Sea. [...] in terms of Japan-U.S. cooperation in these specific fields including ISR, we are going to further study in these matters. In terms of the South China Sea, the Self-Defense Force is not conducting the surveillance activities on a persistent basis and we have no concrete plans for doing so [...] I think this is a terrific time in the U.S.-Japan alliance. It is a -- really allows us to open up many new opportunities to strengthen the alliance in areas where that strengthening is needed because the security situation has changed or in areas where we have new opportunities as a consequence of the guidelines.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● April 2, 2015 – China's Policy Paper on the EU: Deepen the China-EU Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Mutual Benefit and Win-win Cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Chinese side appreciates the position of the EU and its member states of recognizing Tibet as part of China's territory and not supporting “Tibet independence”. The EU side should properly handle Tibet-related issues based on the principle of respecting China's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and non-interference in China's internal affairs, not allow leaders of the Dalai group to visit the EU or its member states under any capacity or pretext to engage in separatist activities, not arrange any form of contact with officials of the EU or its member states, and not provide any facilitation or support for anti-China separatist activities for “Tibet independence”.” ● April 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: The U.S. government launched a new sanctions program to target individuals and groups outside the United States that use cyber attacks to threaten U.S. foreign policy, national security or economic stability. Given that China is often regarded as the major source of cyber attacks against the U.S., how do you respond to this move? A: China firmly opposes and combats any form of cyber attack, and this stance remains consistent and clear. Cyber security bears on the common interests of all countries. Cyber attacks, usually launched across nations, are hard to trace back, thus requiring the common efforts of the international community through dialogue and cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and trust. China always disapproves one country's wilful use of sanctions on citizens and entities of another country following its domestic laws.”



- **April 9, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Deputy Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Jeff Rathke** ([U.S Department of State](#))

Quote: “In our view, China’s land reclamation and construction activities are fueling greater anxiety within the region about China’s intentions amid concerns that they might militarize outposts on disputed land features in the South China Sea. So we’re watching these developments closely and we continue to raise our concerns with China, as well as with others in the region, to urge all parties to avoid destabilizing activities. And we encourage all claimants, as we have for a long time, to pursue peaceful and diplomatic approaches to maritime and territorial disputes in the South China Sea. We don’t take a position on the underlying sovereignty question in these territorial disputes, but it is certainly important for all claimants to pursue their claims peacefully.”

- **April 10, 2015 – Joint Press Conference with Secretary of Defense Ash Carter and South Korean Defense Minister Han** ([U.S Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: Japan has been boasting its territorial rights over the Dokdo Islands and it has been worsening the relationship. So in this situation, what kind of role can the United States play to enhance cooperation between the three countries? And also yesterday, at Osan Air Force Base, you mentioned that there will be new weapons deployed to the Asia-Pacific region. If you could be more specific with regard to what kind of weapons will be deployed for the Korean Peninsula?”

A: We have a lot of respect for historical legacy issues in this region. And you know, we think it’s important and we certainly hope for healing and reconciliation with respect to these issues. [...] We’re continuing to develop several new classes of naval vessels and deploy them rotationally to this region. [...] And in fact, a general point is our newest systems are being deployed out here. Now all course of this is being done in consultation with our allies because everything we do in the Asia-Pacific region is done with our strong network of allies -- Japan, the Republic of Korea and others, as well. That’s our style of doing things is through and with our security partners and allies. And that’s the biggest part of the rebalance is our continued work with our colleagues and our security alliances and partnerships.”

- **April 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The U.S. Defense Secretary yesterday voiced concerns about China’s activities in the South China Sea and the cyberspace. What is China’s response to that?”

A: We have repeatedly elaborated on China’s stance on issues relating to the South China Sea and cyber security. We hope that the American side would join China in carrying out positive and constructive dialogue and cooperation in the field of cyber security, so as to safeguard peace, security, openness and cooperation of the cyberspace. It is hoped that the U.S. side would respect the efforts made by countries in the region to safeguard peace and stability of the South China Sea.”

- **April 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: On April 6, the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology made public the result of its review on junior high schools’ textbooks, authorizing new textbooks to describe Diaoyu Dao as Japan’s “inherent territory”. Setbacks are also seen on the description of the Nanjing Massacre and other history issues. What is China’s comment on that?”

A: The Chinese side is deeply concerned about what is happening in Japan. Diaoyu Dao and its affiliated islands have been an integral part of China since ancient times. That is fully supported by historical and jurisprudential evidence. Whatever means the Japanese side may employ to advertise its wrong position, it cannot change the basic fact.”

- **April 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: First, Japan revised its description of China-Japan relations in the newly published Diplomatic Bluebook, putting more weight on the territorial dispute over Diaoyu Dao. What is China’s comment on that?”

A: On your first question, China holds a consistent position on China-Japan relations. We would like to advance China-Japan strategic relationship of mutual benefit based on the four political documents between the two countries, following the spirit of learning lessons from the history and looking into the future. We have been stressing that Diaoyu Dao belongs to China, and that China’s determination and will to safeguard territorial sovereignty admit of no doubt. We will stay committed to upholding China’s territorial sovereignty over Diaoyu Dao and properly handling and resolving the relevant issue through dialogue and consultation.”



- **April 21, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Marie Harf (State Department)**

Quote: “Q: Do you have comment on the Filipino activists who say that the Chinese have turned water cannon on their fishing boats?”

A: Yes. We are looking into these reports. I can’t independently confirm them, but if true, the use of water cannons against Philippine civilian vessels that have a longstanding practice of fishing in these waters at Scarborough Reef or in other disputed areas of the South China Sea would be a provocative act. It would represent a step backward in finding a diplomatic resolution to the dispute. Countries should not use force or coercion to support disputed territorial or maritime claims. We have continued to encourage South China Sea claimants to exercise restraint and to pursue diplomatic means to clarify their claims and to resolve disputes.”

- **April 23, 2015 – Briefing by Senior Director for Asian Affairs Evan Medeiros: Preview of the Official Visit of Prime Minister Abe of Japan (State Department)**

Quote: “In the last year, China has reclaimed more land than all the other claimants combined in over a decade. The speed, the scale, and the scope of this is very problematic. It’s raising anxiety in the region. It is undermining the prospect for diplomacy.”

- **April 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Diaoyu Dao and its affiliated islands have been China's inherent territory since ancient times. There are innumerable historical materials and records from home and abroad to prove that. China is the first to have discovered Diaoyu Dao and has exercised long-term and effective governance over the island. Diaoyu Dao has been clearly marked on maps dating back to the Ming and Qing dynasties. Before the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895, the name of Diaoyu Dao had been widely recognized by western countries who clearly defined Diaoyu Dao as China's territory on their maps. Taiwan and its affiliated islands, including Diaoyu Dao were put under the colonial rule of Japan for a long time in the wake of the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-1895. Diaoyu Dao was returned to China in accordance with relevant legal instruments after WWII. Japan, who struggles to deliberately misinterpret the materials it has got in disregard of the integrity of history, can by no means change the fact that Diaoyu Dao belongs to China. The Japanese side recently made a fuss about a 1969 Chinese map, which in the end served as a strong proof that Diaoyu Dao is a part of China. I would like to advise the Japanese side to be cautious with the records they are about to release, otherwise they may find themselves in another self-defeating scenario.”

- **April 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters. The Chinese government has been carrying out maintenance and construction work on some of the garrisoned Nansha islands and reefs with the main purposes of optimizing their functions, improving the living and working conditions of personnel stationed there, better safeguarding territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, as well as better performing China's international responsibility and obligation in maritime search and rescue, disaster prevention and mitigation, marine science and research, meteorological observation, environmental protection, navigation safety, fishery production service and other areas. The relevant construction, which is reasonable, justified and lawful, is well within China's sovereignty. It does not impact or target any country, and is thus beyond reproach.”



- **April 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "Diaoyu Dao and its affiliated islands are China's inherent territory. No matter what others say or do, the fact that Diaoyu Dao belongs to China will not be changed, and the determination and will of the Chinese government and people to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity will not be shaken. The U.S.-Japan alliance is a Cold War arrangement. We are firmly opposed to making use of this alliance against the interests of a third party. We urge the U.S. side to be discreet with what it says and does, honor its commitment of not taking sides on issues concerning territorial sovereignty, and do more to promote regional peace and stability, instead of the other way around."

- **April 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "Q: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a recent interview that peace and tranquility of the border areas is of great significance to the final conclusion of a mutually acceptable solution on the boundary question. He expects to reach such a solution in the near term. What is China's response to that?"

A: We have noted the remarks made by Prime Minister Modi. The Chinese side is always positive about resolving the boundary question between China and India. During his visit to India last September, President Xi Jinping said in public that the Chinese side is determined to resolve the boundary question at an early date through friendly consultation with the Indian side and is sincere about making joint efforts with the Indian side to maintain peace and tranquility of the border areas pending the final settlement."

- **April 14, 2015 – Remarks by Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Mr. Li Keqiang (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "On the issue of the South China Sea, China advocates a "dual-track" approach. We believe disputes should be addressed between countries directly concerned through dialogue and consultation and China and ASEAN countries should work together to promote stability in the South China Sea. The freedom and safety of navigation in the South China Sea are fully guaranteed."



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

Quote: "Q: On April 14, Philippine President Benigno Aquino said that China's efforts to stake its claim to the South China Sea sparked fear of all countries, and that China's reclamation activities threatened the access to international shipping lanes and fishing grounds there. While he did not believe that China intended to engage in military conflicts over the territorial disputes with the Philippines and other Asian nations, that remained a possibility. How does China comment on this?"

A: As a matter of fact, the international treaties that lay down the limits of the Philippines' national territory have never included China's Nansha Islands into its territory. Nevertheless, the Philippines has occupied some islands and reefs of China's Nansha Islands by force since the 1970s, which remains the crux and root of the South China Sea disputes between China and the Philippines. The Chinese side urges the Philippine side to respect China's territorial sovereignty, honor its commitment made in bilateral political documents and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, return to the right track of resolving the disputes through direct negotiation and do more things that contribute to China-Philippines relations and regional peace and stability."

- **April 16, 2015 – Transcript of Premier Li Keqiang's Interview with Financial Times Editor Lionel Barber** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: Mr. Premier, we are in the Hall of Hong Kong, are you satisfied that the package offered by the Beijing government will be adopted by the Hong Kong legislature? Or do you think we are still going to have problems, student unrest in Hong Kong? Are you worried about that?"

A: About Hong Kong, you know that we always follow the principles of "one country, two systems", "the people of Hong Kong administering Hong Kong" and a high degree of autonomy. The Chinese central government will continue to support the Hong Kong SAR government and the Hong Kong SAR Chief Executive in administering the region in accordance with law. In spite of what happened recently in Hong Kong, we believe that past progress has shown that the principle of "one country, two systems" is the right way to take and that Hong Kong will maintain long-term stability and prosperity."



- **April 17, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: Recent satellite images show that China is accelerating its construction of airstrips in the South China Sea, and neighboring countries are concerned about this. What is your comment?"

A: The Chinese side has made a systematic explanation on the construction work on some islands and reefs in the South China Sea last week. [...] Relevant construction, which is sensible, justifiable and lawful, falls entirely within China's sovereignty and does not affect or target any other country. What China has done is beyond any reproach, and we hope that relevant parties can take a proper look at this."

- **April 22, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: Reports say that the US State Department has recently urged the Chinese side to review its policy on the governance of Tibet and restart dialogues with the Dalai Lama or his representative with no preconditions attached. What is China's comment on that?"

A: Tibet affairs fall totally within China's domestic affairs, and foreign countries have no right to interfere. The Dalai Lama is not a pure religious figure, but a political exile who has long been engaged in activities aimed at splitting his homeland under the cloak of religion."

- **April 22, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: First, the Philippine side denounced China's coast guard for turning water cannon on Philippine fishing boats in disputed waters. How does China respond?"

A: Chinese government vessels perform guard duty in waters off the Huangyan Island to maintain the normal order of these waters in accordance with the law. Recently, we have seen a large number of Philippine fishing boats lingering in the waters off the Huangyan Island with no permission from the Chinese side and disobeying China's management. That constitutes a violation of China's sovereignty and jurisdiction, impedes the performance of duty by Chinese government vessels and endangers the order and security of navigation in waters off the Huangyan Island. The Chinese side calls on the Philippine side to show earnest respect for China's territorial sovereignty, step up its regulation and education of the fishermen and stop all actions infringing upon China's territorial sovereignty, and rights and interests."



- **April 23, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: The Hong Kong SAR government released its election plan yesterday. International rights groups once again bombarded the plan with criticism, saying that it rejects the international law and betrays the democratic aspiration of the Hong Kong people. How does China respond to that?"

A: These remarks are utterly unjustifiable. [...]The proposals are in line with the Basic Law of the Hong Kong SAR and the decision made by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), conform to the realities of Hong Kong and take into account the interests and aspirations of people from different social strata and sectors of Hong Kong. It is a lawful, feasible, sensible and practical plan. [...] I want to stress that Hong Kong affairs are China's domestic affairs. External forces have no right to interfere."

- **April 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: The Philippine fisheries bureau said on April 23 that Chinese coastguards who boarded two Philippine fishing boats in waters off the Huangyan Island on April 11 robbed the Philippine fishermen of their catch and tools at gunpoint and destroyed their fishing equipment. Can you tell us whether that is true or not?"

A: What we have learned shows that accusations made by the Philippine side are inconsistent with the fact. The Huangyan Island is an inherent part of China. Chinese government vessels perform guard duties and keep order in waters off the Huangyan Island in accordance with the law. The Chinese side once again urges the Philippine side to show earnest respect for China's territorial sovereignty, discipline and educate its fishermen and put an end to its illegal activities in waters off the Huangyan Island."

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

Quote: "The Chinese side has a clear and long-standing stance on the issue of the South China Sea. We have gone into details on the purposes and functions of the construction work on the islands and reefs of Nansha. What must be stressed is that relevant construction which is reasonable, justified and lawful, is well within China's sovereignty. [...] China is a staunch force upholding regional peace and stability. We will continue to support and advocate that the South China Sea issue be addressed with the "dual-track" approach. It is hoped that relevant countries will meet China halfway to jointly safeguard regional peace and stability as well as the overall interests of China-ASEAN relations."



- **April 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "It is our constant stance that the U.S. and Japan are responsible to ensure that their bilateral alliance does not jeopardize a third party's interests including China's, nor undermine peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific. We hold a clear and long-standing position on the Diaoyu Dao issue. Diaoyu Dao and its affiliated islands are China's inherent territory. No matter what others say or do, the fact that Diaoyu Dao belongs to China can not be changed. The Chinese government and people will firmly uphold their national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

- **April 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "Q: The Chairman's Statement of the 26th ASEAN Summit was released on April 28, expressing serious concerns on the land reclamation being undertaken in the South China Sea, reaffirming the importance of maintaining peace, stability, security and freedom of navigation and over-flight, asking all parties to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and urging that the consultations be intensified on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) to ensure the expeditious establishment of an effective COC. What is your comment on this?"

A: The Chinese side is gravely concerned about the statement of the 26th ASEAN Summit on the South China Sea issue. China holds a clear and long-standing stance on the South China Sea issue, which is not an issue between China and ASEAN. China firmly upholds territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests. [...] China's construction on the islands and reefs of Nansha is completely within China's sovereignty, and does not target or affect anyone. The Chinese side has repeatedly clarified its position. Relevant construction is lawful, justified and reasonable and thus beyond reproach."



- **April 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: Head of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Philippines reportedly said that China's construction on the islands and reefs of Nansha caused damage to the local coral reef and affected the livelihood of the Philippine fishermen. Does China have any response?"

A: China exercises indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and the adjacent waters. China carries out construction on its own islands and reefs, and attaches greater importance to protecting the ecological environment there than anyone else. [...] Philippines' argument that China's construction on the islands and reefs would cause damage to the Philippines is utterly unjustifiable."

- **April 28, 2015 –Statement by Ambassador Liu Jieyi at the Security Council Open Debate on Security Sector Reform**([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: "The maintenance of national security comes under the rubric of national sovereignty. When offering support for SSR efforts in countries emerging from conflict, the United Nations and the international community should always respect the principle of national ownership, and, on the basis of full respect for the wishes of the countries concerned, provide constructive capacity-building training and advisory assistance. There are no universally applicable best practices for SSR; there can only be the formula that best fits the specific situation of an individual country."

- **April 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The Chinese side stated its solemn position on the Chairman's Statement of the 26th ASEAN Summit yesterday. For quite a long time, a few ASEAN countries such as the Philippines and Vietnam have been carrying out large-scale construction on China's maritime features of Nansha illegally seized by them. Unlawful massive reclamation is underway, airport and other fixed facilities being built and offensive weapons including missiles being deployed. [...] China is gravely concerned about and firmly opposed to the aforementioned illegal activities, urging the countries concerned to immediately terminate all words and actions that infringe upon China's sovereignty and rights and interests."



- **April 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: “Q: At his joint press conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on April 28, U.S. President Barack Obama reiterated that the security treaty between the U.S. and Japan covers all territories under Japan's administration, including the Diaoyu Dao. He also expressed concerns about China's land reclamation and construction activities in the South China Sea. What is your response to that?”

A: Diaoyu Dao has been an inherent part of China since antiquity. This fact will not be changed no matter what others say or do. The Chinese government and people are resolved to uphold national sovereignty and territorial integrity. We urge the U.S. side to take a responsible attitude, honor its commitment of not taking sides on issues concerning territorial sovereignty, stop sending wrong signals and make constructive efforts for regional peace and stability. America and Japan are not parties to the South China Sea issue. They should be objective and impartial, and refrain from words and deeds that may complicate the dispute and sabotage regional peace and stability. Necessary construction by China on maritime features of Nansha is well within China's sovereignty. It is completely lawful and justified.”

- **April 30, 2015 – Code of Conduct Key to South China Sea** (China Daily)

Quote: “China's construction and maintenance works on some islands and reefs in the Nansha Islands fall within its sovereignty. The works are to improve the working and living conditions of its personnel stationed on those islands. There is no problem with overflights or freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. Countries, particularly, the Philippines are obviously behind ASEAN's finger-pointing at China. Since tensions over the maritime disputes flared up, it has been a routine trick in recent years for Manila to try to take ASEAN hostage and impose its own hidden agenda on the 10-member bloc. [...] ASEAN should be told that the price of allowing an obvious troublemaker in the South China Sea to take it hostage could be costly, as any attempt to breach the bilateral formula would not only complicate the situation but also increase the risk of interference by outside forces.”



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

- 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 Seungwan Kim (UC San Diego), Ju-young Ban (Boston College), Jihyun Ban (Oklahoma State University), Simon Godart (Catholic University of Lille), Albin Ringstad (Seoul National University), and Yiqing Xu (Seoul National University).

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

