

Keep Calm and Carry On

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With President Xi Jinping set to visit the U.S. in September, both sides seemed reluctant to strike a harsh chord that may cause distractions ahead of the important summit. But of course there were lingering scabs to pick at. In particular, China felt as if its old wounds were reopening given Japan's lack of remorse over deeds committed during World War II as the world marked the 70th anniversary of the end of that destructive conflict. The U.S. still feels victimized by cyber attacks against its government and businesses and blames China for many of these injuries. Yet despite these rumblings, the two were able to maintain a civil relationship and move forward as they prepare for both the tough negotiations and the pomp and circumstance which will surely be a part of the upcoming state visit. Here we have summarized key issue areas emphasized by the U.S. and China during August 2015.

Ebbing China-Japan Relations

This month marked the 70th anniversary of the Japanese surrender in World War II and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a closely watched statement reflecting on and expressing remorse over the role of Japan in the atrocities perpetrated during the war. China as well as South Korea were hoping Abe would not deviate from “the milestone 1995 speech by then Japanese prime minister Murayama Tomiichi.”¹ In the end, however, the Chinese were very disappointed by not only Abe’s remarks, which were called an “ultra-right ‘freak show,’”² but also by Japanese politicians’ decision to visit the Yasukuni Shrine.³ These statements stand in stark contrast to President Obama’s appraisal of Abe’s speech as he “commended the Prime Minister for his August 14 expression of deep

¹ UCR August Issue 2015 – Asia Pacific Issues, Issue 6 pg. [18](#)

² Ibid, pg. [19](#)

³ Ibid, pg. [18](#)

remorse for the suffering caused by Japan during the World War II era.”⁴ In addition to the tensions caused by history issues between China and Japan, the alleged oil exploration efforts in the East China Sea by China has caused diplomats and officials on both sides to make harsh comments.⁵ For the moment, China-Japan relations have definitely ebbed which does not bode well for U.S.-China relations either.

South China Sea Positions Set in Stone?

The 22nd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held on August 6, 2015 and this event served as an opportunity for the sharing of positions on the territorial conflicts in the South China Sea in addition to a host of other issues including the North Korean nuclear issue. The U.S. used the opportunity to call on parties to seek arbitration through The Hague or Law of the Sea.⁶ In addition, the U.S. continued to strongly assert its right to navigate the seas freely with Secretary of Defense Carter stating bluntly, “The United States will continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law permits.”⁷ China, on the other hand, argued that ARF was not a proper platform for discussing the South China Sea issues⁸ and hoped to resolve the issues through bilateral talks with individual countries.⁹ The positions of both countries seem to have solidified and neither appears to be willing to budge any time soon.

⁴ Ibid, pg. [20](#)

⁵ Ibid, pg. [17](#)

⁶ Ibid, pg. [20](#)

⁷ UCR August Issue 2015 – Sovereignty and Territorial Issues, Issue 9, pg. [27](#)

⁸ Ibid, pg. [26](#)

⁹ Ibid, pg. [27](#)



As Korean Peninsula Heats Up, China and U.S. Remain Calm

North Korean provocations led to a tense confrontation between South and North Korea in late August. As the situation unfolded, the U.S. reaffirmed its continuous commitment to security of South Korea on the basis of the U.S.-ROK alliance.¹⁰ China took a neutral position simply stating it “opposes any action that may escalate tension.”¹¹ The situation eventually cooled down after long talks and in the end South and North Korea were able to reach an agreement which was welcomed by the U.S.¹² While a more serious crisis was avoided for the time being, China also called for efforts on the North Korean nuclear issue in a similar fashion to the painstaking diplomatic process that eventually produced the Iranian nuclear deal.¹³

Cyberspace at the Center of Bilateral Relations

Accusations of cyber attacks by the U.S. against China are leaving a bad taste in everybody’s mouth as resolution seems unlikely. The U.S. government did not back down this month and stated, “We remain deeply concerned about Chinese Government-sponsored cyber-enabled theft of confidential business information and proprietary technology from U.S. companies.”¹⁴ The U.S. also stuck by its indictment of five Chinese military officers in connection to hacks against U.S. companies in the nuclear and solar energy industries in May 2014.¹⁵ China also had these indictments in mind and warned the U.S. not to make any similar mistakes,¹⁶ while Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying stated in a more

diplomatic manner that the issue of cyber security “should be a source of cooperation rather than confrontation for the two countries.”¹⁷ This issue will likely be a focus during President Xi Jinping’s visit to Washington D.C. in September and remain a sticky subject for some time.

A Ray of Sunshine Through the Smog

U.S.-China relations are not all doom and gloom and one area that continues to see significant levels of cooperation is environmental policy. President Obama touted this cooperation in his weekly address on August 29, 2015 by saying, “Since the United States and China worked together to set ambitious climate targets last year, leading by example, many of the world’s biggest emitters have come forward with new climate plans of their own.”¹⁸ The *People’s Daily* also highlighted the cooperation on the environment between the two great powers.¹⁹ This cannot be classified as pure rhetoric either as both governments have individually emphasized recent steps they have been taking to clean up air pollution in their respective countries²⁰ providing hope that the two can clean up their act in other issue areas as well.

¹⁰ UCR August Issue 2015 – Korean Peninsula, Issue 7, pg. [21](#)

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid, pg. [22](#)

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ UCR August Issue 2015 – Military and Security Relations, Issue 3 pg. [12](#)

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid, pg. [11](#)

¹⁷ Ibid, pg. [12](#)

¹⁸ UCR August Issue 2015 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues, Issue 5 pg. [16](#)

¹⁹ Ibid, pg [15](#)

²⁰ Ibid.



1. U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. and China Exchange Points of View on Presence of Chinese Agents in the U.S.; U.S. Seeks Cooperation during Xi Visit on Cyber Security

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 13, 2015 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Ned Price • August 17, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • August 26, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • August 31, 2015 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Ned Price on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice's Meetings in Beijing, China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 4, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: Creating a more inclusive global order • August 6, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i>: US needs clearer view in joint anti-terror fight • August 11, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: Sino-US ties far from showdown moment • August 18, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: US intrudes on China's anti-graft drive • August 28, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i>: Shared interests outweigh feuds and differences

2. U.S. – China Economic Relations: U.S. Continues to Encourage China to Make Market-oriented Reforms; China Sees TPP as Positive Way to Integrate Asian Economy and Devalues its Currency

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 21, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson on a Call Between Secretary Jacob J. Lew and Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang • August 24, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • August 26, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 4, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce • August 4, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce • August 13, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i>: Exchange rate changes aid internationalization • August 20, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: History proves gains from China-US cooperation

3. U.S. – China Military and Security Relations: U.S. Vows that its Focus of its Security Policy will Remain in the Asia-Pacific Region; China Renounces the U.S. for Baseless Accusations of Cyber Attacks

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 10, 2015 – Statement by the Press Secretary on the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit • August 21, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Assistant Secretary Shear • August 25, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook • August 31, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • August 31, 2015 – Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Josh Earnest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 3, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: U.S. should think twice before retaliating against China over unfounded hacking charges • August 12, 2015 – Position Paper of China on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) • August 13, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: US politicians hype up thorny issues ahead of Xi visit: experts • August 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on US Media Hying Up Cyber Security Issue Related to China • August 17, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: Can US hackers ever quit recriminating? • August 26, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: U.S. media flatters Chinese "aircraft carrier killer" • August 27, 2015 – Defense Ministry Spokesperson Yang Yujun's regular press conference



4. U.S. – China Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. and China Hold the 19th U.S.-China Human Rights Dialogue; China Provides Aid to Myanmar

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 3, 2015 – Remarks by Mark C. Toner at Daily Press Briefing • August 13, 2015– On-the-Record Briefing on the 19th U.S.-China Human Rights Dialogue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 10, 2015 – Official of the Foreign Assistance Department of the Ministry of Commerce Makes Comments on China’s Emergency Aid Materials for Myanmar’s Flood Disaster • August 31, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador Wang Min, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations at the Second Regular Session 2015 of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board

5. U.S. – China Climate Change and Environmental Issues: Both Countries Highlight Their Efforts on Fighting Air Pollution and Their Cooperation on Limiting Carbon Emissions

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 3, 2015 – Obama Administration Takes Historic Action on Climate Change/Clean Power Plan to protect public health, spur clean energy investments and strengthen U.S. leadership • August 3, 2015 – Remarks by the President in Announcing the Clean Power Plan • August 3, 2015 – Fact Sheet: President Obama to Announce Historic Carbon Pollution Standards for Power Plants • August 29, 2015 – Weekly Address: Meeting the Global Threat of Climate Change • August 31, 2015– Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • August 31, 2015– Press Roundtable in Anchorage, Alaska 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 18, 2015 – MEP releases air quality status of key regions and 74 cities in July • August 18, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Climate Change is Both a Challenge and an Opportunity • August 21, 2015 – MEP prints and distributes a circular on air quality support during the 70th anniversary celebration of the victory in World War II



6. Asia-Pacific Issues: U.S. and China Hold Strikingly Different Positions on Abe's Statement; U.S. Seeks to Closer Relations with ASEAN while China Vows to Settle South China Sea Disputes with ASEAN Countries Individually

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 4, 2015 – Readout of Vice President Biden's Call with Prime Minister Abe • August 4, 2015 – U.S.-India Partnership • August 4, 2015 – Remarks on America and the Asia Pacific: Partners in Prosperity • August 5, 2015 – Remarks at the U.S.-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting • August 5, 2015 – U.S.-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting • August 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • August 5, 2015 – Remarks at the U.S.-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting • August 6, 2015 – U.S. Engagement in the 2015 ASEAN Regional Forum • August 6, 2015 – Remarks With Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida • August 7, 2015 – Remarks With Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh • August 14, 2015 – Joint Statement: 2015 United States--India Cyber Dialogue • August 26, 2015 – Readout of the President's Call with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 4, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: Abe's 'China threat' cliché not tenable • August 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Private Advisory Panel Issuing Report on Statement at 70th Anniversary of End of Second World War • August 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Joint Communique of 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting • August 11, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i>: Abe has historic chance to seize • August 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Some Japanese Cabinet Members Visiting Yasukuni Shrine • August 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Statement on the 70th Anniversary of the End of the War • August 15, 2015 – <i>Xinhua</i>: Japanese appeal for future peace on 70th anniversary of WWII surrender amid ultra-right "freak show" • August 15, 2015 – <i>Xinhua</i>: Historical revisionism keeps Japan from being a "normal country" • August 15, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i>: Crafty rhetoric, insincere politics • August 19, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i>: US should live up to graft-fight promises • August 27, 2015 – Defense Ministry Spokesperson Yang Yujun's regular press conference • August 27, 2015 – Defense Ministry Spokesperson Yang Yujun's regular press conference

7. Korean Peninsula: Both Countries Call for the Reduction of Tensions and Praise Joint Statement Issued by North and South Korea

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 20, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • August 24, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • August 24, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Secretary James and Gen. Welsh on the State of the Air Force in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room • August 25, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on the Situation of the Korean Peninsula • August 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on DPRK and ROK High-level Talks Reaching Agreement • August 25, 2015 – <i>Xinhua</i>: For the two Koreas, dialogue always better than confrontation • August 26, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i>: Korean Peninsula needs more talks, not tension



8. Middle East and Africa: Both Countries Respond to Violence in Afghanistan and Iraq; the U.S. Continues to Build Support for Iran Nuclear Deal

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 5, 2015 – Remarks by the President on the Iran Nuclear Deal • August 5, 2015 – Treasury Designates Financial Supporters of Al-Qaida and Al-Nusra Front • August 5, 2015 – Written Testimony of Adam J. Szubin, Acting Under Secretary of Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, And Urban Affairs • August 6, 2015 – Intervention at the East Asia Summit • August 11, 2015– Interview With Scott Pelley of CBS Evening News • August 11, 2015– Interview With Sir Harold Evans, Thomson Reuters Editor-At-Large • August 13, 2015 – Lew Op-Ed: The High Price of Rejecting the Iran Deal • August 13, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing with Brigadier General Wilson Shoffner, Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications, Resolute Support Mission, Afghanistan • August 21, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing with Brigadier General Kevin J. Killea, chief of staff, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve via DVIDS from Southwest Asia on Operation Inherent Resolve 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Bombing Attack in Kabul • August 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Reconciliation Process in Afghanistan • August 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Bombing Attack in Iraq • August 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on the Peace Process in South Sudan

9. Sovereignty and Territorial Issues: U.S. Continues to Assert its Right to Freely Navigate in the South China Sea; China Continues to Deny Phillipino Calls to Settle South China Sea Territorial Dispute Through a Tribunal and Seeks Cooperation with ASEAN Countries Despite Territorial Disputes

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 3, 2015 – Remarks by Mark C. Toner at Daily Press Briefing • August 5, 2015 – Sheets Op-Ed: Ukraine Needs To Restructure Its Debt • August 6, 2015 – Intervention at the East Asia Summit • August 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • August 20, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing with Secretary Carter in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 4, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: ASEAN meeting improper platform for South China Sea issue • August 5, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: Disputes should not affect China-ASEAN big picture • August 6, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: The U.S. hyped South China Sea dispute to contain China: experts • August 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Joint Communique of 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting • August 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on the Release of the Transcript of the Oral Hearing on Jurisdiction by the South China Sea Arbitral Tribunal Established at the Request of the Philippines



Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. and China Exchange Points of View on Presence of Chinese Agents in the U.S.; U.S. Seeks Cooperation during Xi Visit on Cyber Security

United States	China
<p>• August 13, 2015 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Ned Price (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “At this time of tragedy, the United States extends its heartfelt condolences to the Chinese people over the deadly explosion that occurred on August 12 in Tianjin. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families, and with China’s first responders who are working to help those who were injured.”</p> <p>• August 17, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “Look, I’m not going to comment and we don’t comment on specific cases. And so while I’m not going to do that, generally speaking foreign law enforcement agents are not permitted to operate within the United States without prior notification to the Attorney General. And it’s a criminal offense, actually, under U.S. law for an individual other than a diplomatic or consular officer or attache to act in the United States as a law enforcement agent of a foreign power without that notification. But I think broadly in – with regard to China, we do – the United States does regularly engage on law enforcement matters of mutual concern, including fugitives and anti-corruption through what we call the U.S.-China Joint Liaison Group on Law Enforcement Cooperation. We also continue to emphasize to PRC officials that it is incumbent upon them to provide U.S. officials with significant, clear, and convincing evidence to allow our law enforcement agencies to proceed with investigations, removals, and prosecutions of fugitives.”</p> <p>• August 26, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest, 8/26/2015 (White House, Press Briefings) Quote: “The President has found engagement with China to be an effective way for the United States to advance our interests around the world.. And by engaging with China at a variety of levels, including at the highest level, the President was able to advance our interests by conducting that engagement.”</p>	<p>• August 4, 2015 – People’s Daily: Creating a more inclusive global order(People’s Daily) Quote: “President Xi Jinping once said that China vows to boost the development of world order and international system towards a more fair and rational direction. Xi mentioned “community of common interest” and “community of common destiny” in several occasions, raising the reflection and resonance of the world.As the major powers in the transformation of the international order, China and the U.S. should avoid mutually exclusive approaches in politics, security and economy. Meanwhile, China and the U.S. should give stronger support to the role that UN and regional multi-lateral organizations such as ASEAN play in building consensus.”</p> <p>• August 6, 2015 – China Daily: US needs clearer view in joint anti-terror fight (China Daily) Quote: “Against the backdrop that the world is facing an increasingly severe challenge from terrorism and extremism, anti-terror cooperation between China and the US not only caters to the interests of both countries, it also contributes to safeguarding security and stability in both the regional and international arenas. ”</p> <p>• August 11, 2015 – People’s Daily: Sino-US ties far from showdown moment (People’s Daily) Quote: “Frankly speaking, the environment for China-US relations is not so good, but is far from a “showdown moment.” Under such circumstances, the first state visit to be paid by Chinese President Xi Jinping to the US is extremely important, since it will dispel the noises and inject positive energy into the bilateral relations. On the US part, President Barack Obama is eager to secure his own diplomatic legacy and has high expectations for Xi’s visit.China and the US should grasp the opportunity to maintain strategic stability to ensure the relations on the right track, focus more on increasing mutual understandings and further expanding cooperation during Xi’s visit.”</p>



• **August 31, 2015– Statement by NSC Spokesperson Ned Price on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice's Meetings in Beijing, China** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: "Ambassador Rice held candid, fruitful and wide-ranging consultations with State Councilor Yang Jiechi in Beijing. Ambassador Rice and State Councilor Yang agreed on the importance of expanding cooperation on a range of issues, including Iran, North Korea, climate change, and global public health. In addition to discussing preparations for President Xi's visit, Ambassador Rice emphasized the need to confront differences constructively, including on issues of concern such as cyber, Chinese currency, maritime issues, and human rights."

• **August 20, 2015 –China Daily: US should live up to graft-fight promises** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "However, US media reports on Sunday claimed that the US State Department has warned China in recent weeks to stop its "Sky Net" operations in the United States, in which, they claim, Chinese law enforcement personnel enter the country on trade or tourist visas and use "various strong-arm tactics" to pressure suspects to return to China."

• **August 28, 2015 – China Daily: Shared interests outweigh feuds and differences** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "In fact, China has no intention of challenging the US' supremacy, it always looks to work with the US as cooperative partners. The fact that cooperation has outweighed confrontation during the vicissitudes in China-US ties indicates their shared interests prevail over their differences."



Issue 2 – U.S. – China Economic Relations: U.S. Continues to Encourage China to Make Market-oriented Reforms; China Sees TPP as Positive Way to Integrate Asian Economy and Devalues its Currency

United States	China
<p>• August 21, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson on a Call Between Secretary Jacob J. Lew and Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang (Department of the Treasury) Quote: “Secretary Lew stated the United States has seen progress by China towards financial reform, including new commitments secured this summer at the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue to move towards a more flexible, market-determined exchange rate; limit foreign exchange intervention to disorderly market conditions; and increase the transparency of its exchange rate policies. But, Secretary Lew emphasized that it is critical China continue with reforms which are necessary to move towards an economy driven primarily by household consumption rather than exports, which is in both China’s and America’s best interests.”</p> <p>• August 24, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (White House, Press Briefings) Quote: “Q: It’s a volatile day in the markets and I’m wondering what the level of concern the administration has about the slowdown in China and the potential ripple effects in the global economy and certainly in the U.S. economy. A: Well, as it relates to -- we’ve seen a lot of volatility in the China stock markets over the last several weeks, and China -- I’m sorry, the Treasury Department has been closely monitoring global markets, including those financial markets in China. You’ve also seen readouts that have been issued by the Treasury Department of conversations that Secretary Lew has had with senior Chinese officials in the last couple of weeks. Most of those conversations, however, have focused on the recent shift in the Chinese exchange rate regime and its economic reform agenda. And this is consistent with the case that we have long made to China that they should continue to pursue financial reform to increase exchange rate flexibility and to move rapidly toward a more market-determined exchange rate system. And so that is a case that we have continued to impress upon the Chinese as being a priority of the United States.”</p>	<p>• August 4, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce) Quote: “Q : We all pay close attention to China’s economic and trade cooperation with countries alongside “One Belt and One Road”. Could you introduce us the latest progress in the first half of 2015? A: In the first half year, China’s economic and trade cooperation with the countries alongside “Belt and Road” witnessed a steady promotion and active progress, and both the overall progress and results were better than the expected.”</p> <p>• August 4, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce) Quote: “Q :The Ministerial Meeting of the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPP) has concluded in the U.S., but no agreement was reached. What’s the opinion of the Ministry of Commerce? A: The Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement (TPP) is one of the most important FTA negotiations of the Asian-Pacific area, involving several important economies in the area. Once TTP was reached, it would exert profound effects to the framework of international trade and investment, as well as to the economic integration of the Asian-Pacific area. Therefore, China has always been paying attention to the TPP negotiations, and evaluating the progress of the negotiation. We noticed that the TPP Ministerial Meeting concluded on July 31st had not solved all the remaining issues of the negotiation. We hoped that TPP would still keep transparent and open, and enjoy a mutual promotion with the other free trade arrangements in the area, in order to make contributions to the liberalization and facilitation of trade and investment in the Asian-Pacific area.”</p> <p>• August 13, 2015– China Daily: Exchange rate changes aid internationalization (China Daily) Quote: “The timing may have surprised the markets. The move serves the country’s long-term ambition to build a more flexible and market-based exchange rate formation system that is, as the IMF said on Wednesday, “important for China as it strives to give market forces a decisive role in the economy and is rapidly integrating into global financial markets.”</p>



• **August 26, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “ At the same time, as we discussed a little bit yesterday -- or I guess it was Monday -- there is the economic instability that we’ve seen in China has contributed to some volatility in financial markets across the globe. And in this interconnected 21st-century economy, the President is mindful of that. At the same time, he is also mindful of the sovereignty of China and we certainly respect that sovereignty. At the same time, we’ve also advocated a variety of reforms that China should put in place because of the positive impact they would not just have on the Chinese economy but on the global economy. And I’m confident that the President will once again reiterate and even press China to make more rapid progress in implementing those reforms.”

• **August 20, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: History proves gains from China-US cooperation** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: "China-US economic and trade relations is a critical pillar for our bilateral relations. It is mutually beneficial in nature. As the biggest developing country and the biggest developed country respectively, China and the US enjoy great complementarities in terms of natural and human resources, market, capital and technology."



Issue 3 – U.S. – China Military and Security Relations: U.S. Vows that its Focus of its Security Policy will Remain in the Asia-Pacific Region; China Renounces the U.S. for Baseless Accusations of Cyber Attacks

United States	China
<p>• August 10, 2015 – Statement by the Press Secretary on the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “The Summit will continue discussion on the evolving threat and highlight steps that can be taken together to minimize the use of highly-enriched uranium, secure vulnerable materials, counter nuclear smuggling and deter, detect, and disrupt attempts at nuclear terrorism. The United States seeks a strengthened global nuclear security architecture that is comprehensive, is based on international standards, builds confidence in nations’ nuclear security implementation, and results in declining global stocks of nuclear weapons-usable materials.”</p> <p>• August 21, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Assistant Secretary Shear (Department of Defense) Quote: “One notable recent development in maritime Asia is China’s expansion of disputed features and artificial island construction in the Spratly Islands. While land reclamation is not new and China is not the only claimant to have conducted reclamation, China’s recent activities outweigh other efforts in size, pace, and nature. The Department of Defense is not standing still in light of the challenges we face in the maritime domain. There should be no doubt that the United States will maintain the necessary military presence and capabilities to protect our interests and those of our allies and partners against potential threats in maritime Asia.”</p>	<p>• August 3, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: U.S. should think twice before retaliating against China over unfounded hacking charges (People’s Daily) Quote: “The United States is on the brink of making another grave mistake under the name of protecting cyber security, as it is reportedly considering retaliatory measures against China for unfounded hacking accusations [...] the United States, which made a mistake last year with its false charges against the Chinese officers, should not repeat the mistake by taking retaliatory measures against China over the OPM incident. If it stubbornly implements retaliatory measures against China in cyber space, it will be known for being a cyber bully and will have to shoulder responsibility for escalating confrontation and disrupting the peaceful order in the cyber space.”</p> <p>• August 12, 2015 – Position Paper of China on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) (Permanent Mission to the UN) Quote: “It is crucial for all countries to work together through dialogue to keep the Internet safe and secure, on the basis of mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, and jointly build a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyber space. The international community should reach consensus as expeditiously as possible on a set of international rules governing the cyberspace. Cyber terrorism and crimes have become common threats to all countries, and should be dealt with by a joint international response. The international community should take robust measures to prevent terrorist organizations from using the Internet to broadcast terrorist and violent audiovisual materials, spread extremist ideology, recruit new members, raise funds, and instigate, plot and execute terrorist activities.”</p>



• **August 25, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: "Q: Obviously, there's a question about how it's going to impact the U.S., but China has been a big focus for the U.S. in the Pacific. How is this going to impact your strategy plan going forward, especially as you're looking to develop the FY '17 budget?"

A: It's a priority for him and -- and how, of course, we are keeping an eye on what's happening in China, its military development as well as, obviously, economic factors in the region that might affect it. But I can't tell you that there's anything specific to the FY '17 budget that's -- that's changing right now as a result of the most recent economic downturn or problems that China's having. So I think it's something that we'll just continue to watch. But what won't change is, again, the focus on the Asia-Pacific, the secretary's focus on it, and -- and I think that's going to be a priority for the remainder of -- of his time in office."

• **August 31, 2015– Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "Certainly, the United States, as we all know, has sharp disagreements with China over its actions in cyber space, and we've been pretty clear and consistent about addressing these disagreements with the Chinese. We remain deeply concerned about Chinese Government-sponsored cyber-enabled theft of confidential business information and proprietary technology from U.S. companies. And in addition to cyber theft, we're also concerned about actions that China's taking that violate personal privacy, undermine core freedom or core -- yeah, core freedoms for individuals online, and discriminate against U.S. technology firms[...] And that said, speaking broadly -- more broadly to the President Xi's visit, we've been very clear in all of our interactions with the Chinese to discuss the broad range of issues. Some we just -- we agree on, obviously, but also a lot we disagree on, and cyber security and cyber protection is obviously an issue where we seek better cooperation."

• **August 31, 2015– Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Josh Earnest, 8/31/15** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: "So the point is that it is no secret to leaders in China that President Obama and other leaders in the U.S. government have significant concerns with Chinese behavior in cyberspace. We've made that clear in high-level conversations with Chinese officials. I think it was pretty crystal clear in the Department of Justice announcement of the indictment of five Chinese military officials for their actions in cyberspace."

• **August 13, 2015 – People's Daily: US politicians hype up thorny issues ahead of Xi visit: experts** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Kerry also said that cyber attacks had been a topic of ongoing discussions with China and would be raised again when US President Barack Obama hosts Xi in Washington next month. 'With no proof, Kerry's accusation is irresponsible and aimed at indicating that the Chinese government is responsible for cyber attacks in the US,' Shi Yinhong, director of the Center for American Studies at the Renmin University of China, told the Global Times. Shi added that China has been a victim of cyber attacks and has been pushing back against such attacks. 'The US is always trying to paint itself as a cyber attack victim to cover up their repeated hacks on other countries,' said Li Haidong, a professor with the Institute of International Relations at China Foreign Affairs University. The US media recently reported that Chinese hackers have allegedly been snooping on the personal e-mail accounts of top US officials since 2010. In one of the latest attacks, the media reported in June that the personal data of 4 million federal employees was stolen."

• **August 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on US Media Hying Up Cyber Security Issue Related to China** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: " Q: The US media has been playing up China-related cyber security issue in recent days. How do you think this will affect the China-US relations? How should the two countries properly address this issue?"

A: The Chinese side has clarified its position on the cyber security issue on various occasions. The Chinese government staunchly upholds cyber security, firmly opposes and combats all forms of cyber attacks in accordance with law. As shown in a report recently issued by relevant Chinese cyber security company, China has long suffered from massive cyber attacks from abroad and severe threats to national security and interests. Cyber security is a complicated global issue given the fact that cyber attacks are conducted anonymously and across borders. The Chinese side calls for all parties to seek a common solution through enhanced dialogue and cooperation. Groundless speculation, hyping up or accusation is not helpful to solve the problem nor conducive to any party's interests. As major Internet countries, both China and the US share significant interests in cyber security. This should be a source of cooperation rather than confrontation for the two countries. We hope the US side can stop irresponsible attacks and accusations against China following a constructive spirit, create necessary conditions for bilateral cooperation in cyber security based on mutual respect and trust, and work together with the international community to build a cyber space that is peaceful, safe, open and cooperative. "



• **August 17, 2015 – *People's Daily*: US Can US hackers ever quit recriminating?**
([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "The US makes bold and ungrounded hypotheses to accuse China, while as the biggest hacker nation in the world, the US has been condemned by international community. Confessed by the people who work at the US intelligence department, the US government surveilles other countries' governments and organizations, and companies. Somehow now it turns and accuses China for hacking into US officers' mailboxes. Where is the evidence? And people might also like to know has the US ever hacked into Chinese officers' mailbox? Due to these unreasonable accusations, China is forced to build its own Internet power as to effectively defend network security. In the meantime, while the US keeps attacking China's Internet, China is attempting to make political and diplomatic dialogues with US, showing its willingness to cooperate with the US and face up to all the network security challenges together."

• **August 26, 2015 – *People's Daily*: U.S. media flatters Chinese "aircraft carrier killer"**
([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "It is well-known that the U.S. never stops its preparation for potential conflicts with China. U.S. media spare no efforts to hype Chinese DF-21D ballistic anti-ship missile is a trump card, a big threat to the U.S. It seems that China can stifle the U.S. just relying on DF-21D. The U.S. once did the same thing during the Cold War. It hyped that the nuclear submarine of the Soviet Union was a big threat to the U.S. while it developed aircraft carrier and submarine to build all-around sea power. Now the U.S. plays the same trick to distract China from evenly developing its navy."

• **August 27, 2015 – Defense Ministry Spokesperson Yang Yujun's regular press conference on Aug.27** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: " Q: How the recent consultations on the China-US rules of behavior for encounters between military aircraft are going on?

A: Last November, the defense ministers of China and the US signed the MOU on the two Confidence-building Mechanisms. These are two open mechanisms and the two sides can add annexes to expand their areas and scopes upon mutual consent. Since the beginning of this year, the two sides have conducted multiple rounds of consultations on adding two new annexes to the mechanisms, namely, the annex on rules of behavior for encounters between military aircraft and the annex on military crises notification. We are glad to see that relevant consultations are making positive progress."



Issue 4 – U.S. – China Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. and China Hold the 19th U.S.-China Human Rights Dialogue; China Provides Aid to Myanmar

United States	China
<p>• August 3, 2015 – Remarks by Mark C. Toner at Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “Q :This report in The New York Times on China’s asking for the extradition of this businessman, Ling Wancheng. Are you aware of this case, and has he asked for asylum? Where is he? Is he in the United States?</p> <p>A: Sure. First of all, because I’m not able to discuss individual cases such as this, more broadly I can say that we regularly engage with China on law enforcement matters of mutual concern, and that includes fugitives and also includes anti-corruption. And that’s through the U.S.-China Joint Liaison Group on Law Enforcement Cooperation. We continue to emphasize to Chinese officials, though, that it’s incumbent on them to provide U.S. officials with clear, significant, compelling, convincing evidence to allow our law enforcement agencies to proceed with investigations, removals, and prosecutions of fugitives. So I don’t want to get too much into the details of this specific case, but more broadly, that’s our approach.”</p> <p>• August 13, 2015– On-the-Record Briefing on the 19th U.S.-China Human Rights Dialogue (State Department) Quote: “Let me reiterate what some of my predecessors have also stressed. The Human Rights Dialogue is a chance for us to engage directly with the Chinese Government on human rights in an in-depth manner, focusing on specific issues and specific cases. This is not a venue where we simply agree to disagree, rather it is forum where we need to engage frankly and candidly and to chart a way forward on these important issues if and where possible. ”</p>	<p>• August 10, 2015 – Official of the Foreign Assistance Department of the Ministry of Commerce Makes Comments on China’s Emergency Aid Materials for Myanmar’s Flood Disaster (Ministry of Commerce) Quote: “Q : On August 6, the official of the Foreign Assistance Department of the Ministry of Commerce made comments on the emergency aid materials provided by the Chinese government to Myanmar for combating the flood. [...] To express the condolence and support of the Chinese government and its people to the Myanmar government and people, the Chinese government decided to provide a batch of emergency aid material valued RMB 10 million to Myanmar. This aid mainly included 100 steamboats which could be used for helping the affected people.”</p> <p>• August 31, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador Wang Min, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations at the Second Regular Session 2015 of UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Executive Board (Permanent Mission to the UN) Quote: “2015 is a critical year of transition. Thanks to the common efforts of all member states, the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development held last July adopted the Addis Ababa Agenda of Action while the UN Summit on Development to be held in September is scheduled to adopt the post 2015 development agenda, which will lay out new goals and set new direction for international cooperation for development. We hope that UNFPA will continue to focus on the priorities in its strategic plan and make use of its advantages to support the developing countries in their efforts to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development. ”</p>



Issue 5 – U.S. – China Climate Change and Environmental Issues: Both Countries Highlight Their Efforts on Fighting Air Pollution and Their Cooperation on Limiting Carbon Emissions

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• August 3, 2015 – Obama Administration Takes Historic Action on Climate Change/Clean Power Plan to protect public health, spur clean energy investments and strengthen U.S. leadership (Environmental Protection Agency)</p> <p>Quote: “President Obama announced the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s final Clean Power Plan today, which will cut U.S. carbon pollution from the power sector by 870 million tons, or 32 percent below 2005 levels, in 2030. Power plants are the largest drivers of climate change in the United States, accounting for roughly one-third of all carbon pollution emissions, but there were no national limits on carbon pollution until today.”</p> <p>• August 3, 2015 – Remarks by the President in Announcing the Clean Power Plan(White House, Speeches and Remarks)</p> <p>Quote: “And today, we’re here to announce America’s Clean Power Plan -- a plan two years in the making, and the single most important step America has ever taken in the fight against global climate change. [...]And today, after working with states and cities and power companies, the EPA is setting the first-ever nationwide standards to end the limitless dumping of carbon pollution from power plants. [...] With this Clean Power Plan, by 2030, carbon pollution from our power plants will be 32 percent lower than it was a decade ago. And the nerdier way to say that is that we’ll be keeping 870 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution out of our atmosphere.”</p> <p>• August 3, 2015 – Fact Sheet: President Obama to Announce Historic Carbon Pollution Standards for Power Plants (White House, Statements and Releases)</p> <p>Quote: “The Clean Power Plan significantly reduces carbon pollution from the electric power sector while advancing clean energy innovation, development, and deployment. It ensures the U.S. will stay on a path of long-term clean energy investments that will maintain the reliability of our electric grid, promote affordable and clean energy for all Americans, and continue United States leadership on climate action.”</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• August 18, 2015 – MEP releases air quality status of key regions and 74 cities in July (Ministry of Environmental Protection)</p> <p>Quote: “In general, the air quality turned for the better in July compared with the same period last year and degraded slightly from last month in the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region. It was improved from both last July and last month in Yangtze River delta. And it was somewhat improved from both last July and degraded from last month in Pearl River delta, according to Luo.”</p> <p>• August 18, 2015 – People’s Daily: Climate Change is Both a Challenge and an Opportunity (People’s Daily)</p> <p>Quote: “President Xi Jinping and China’s leaders support this understanding of climate change. Last year’s US-China agreement setting post-2020 emissions targets for the world’s top two emitters of greenhouse gases showed that global cooperation is both possible and mutually beneficial. President Xi’s visit to the U.N. headquarters in New York City in September offers an opportunity for China and the rest of the world to discuss the importance of international cooperation in combatting climate change.”</p> <p>• August 21, 2015 – MEP prints and distributes a circular on air quality support during the 70th anniversary celebration of the victory in World War II (Ministry of Environmental Protection)</p> <p>Quote: “In an effort to ensure good air quality during the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the victory in War of Resistance Against Japan & World War II, MEP recently printed and distributed an urgent circular, requiring the people’s governments of Beijing and Tianjin municipalities, Hebei, Shanxi provinces, Inner Mongolia region, and Shandong and Henan provinces to heighten attention and adopt fast and effective measures to help ensure good air quality during the celebration. The Circular stressed that the commemoration will be the first military parade since the successful convention of the 18th National Congress of the CPC, which has aroused high attention from domestic and international media outlets. The air quality support will be a test of the air pollution control efforts in recent years, and an important move to accomplish the air quality improvement goals of the year.”</p>



• **August 29, 2015 – Weekly Address: Meeting the Global Threat of Climate Change** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Since the United States and China worked together to set ambitious climate targets last year, leading by example, many of the world’s biggest emitters have come forward with new climate plans of their own. And that’s a good sign as we approach this December’s global climate negotiations in Paris.”

• **August 31, 2015– Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Let me start by saying this: One of the reasons that President Xi made a commitment when he was standing alongside President Obama to cap their carbon emissions is because the United States has made similar commitments. In fact, we’ve obviously made even more serious commitments to not just capping our carbon pollution, but actually starting to reduce it. And the President is committed to that. ”

• **August 31, 2015– Press Roundtable in Anchorage, Alaska** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We’re doing – you do exactly what President Obama is doing and what I’m proud to say as Secretary of State I’ve been doing, which is advocate powerfully for the Paris agreement, prepare for it by putting a team together. I went to China and negotiated with the Chinese to bring them onboard for the first time. They have agreed to setting a target. They wouldn’t do it if they didn’t take this issue seriously. But they are working with us now on reduction standards leading up to 2030 and so forth. They’ve put out their independent nationally determined targets. ”



Issue 6 – Asia-Pacific Issues: U.S. and China Hold Strikingly Different Positions on Abe’s Statement; U.S. Seeks to Closer Relations with ASEAN while China Vows to Settle South China Sea Disputes with ASEAN Countries Individually

United States	China
<p>● August 4, 2015 – Readout of Vice President Biden’s Call with Prime Minister Abe (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “Today, Vice President Biden spoke with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In the call, the Vice President underscored our strong commitment to the U.S.-Japan alliance and thanked Prime Minister Abe for his enduring partnership.”</p> <p>● August 4, 2015 – U.S.-India Partnership (State Department) Quote: “We are realizing this future in the growing commerce between our two nations: annual two-way trade is now over \$100 billion, five times what it was ten years ago, and we want to see it increase to \$500 billion. That goal is achievable, especially if we can move forward on a high-standard Bilateral Investment Treaty, the completion of which would help India attract more U.S. capital and technology. And we’re both working to advance regional connectivity through the creation of new transit corridors and the lowering of trade barriers. There’s also tremendous economic potential in clean energy. The United States and India have mobilized nearly three billion dollars in the last six years for projects in India. Together we are doing cutting-edge research on solar, biofuels, and energy efficient buildings. New energy storage technologies being developed in the United States could revolutionize how renewables are deployed and grids are built in India. Our civil nuclear cooperation continues to advance, and will be a vital part of India’s energy future.”</p> <p>● August 4, 2015 – Remarks on America and the Asia Pacific: Partners in Prosperity (State Department) Quote: “In America, it is not an exaggeration to say to you that we think of Singapore with admiration and respect. You are an important strategic partner to the United States, which is why I wanted to come here today to talk about American engagement and about our shared economic future. After all, the United States is also a Pacific nation. We have been for centuries, and we are proud of that. And we know that our security and our prosperity are increasingly linked to this region.”</p>	<p>● August 4, 2015 – People’s Daily: Abe’s ‘China threat’ cliché not tenable (People’s Daily) Quote: “Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chided China’s oil exploration in the East China Sea, hyping the so-called “China threat” several days ago. Abe’s government hyping “China threat” cliché shows his ulterior motive. The real threat to the regional peace is that Japan wants to break through the postwar system and seek a military rise [...] China and Japan are close neighbors connected by the same waters. If Abe’s government continues to go about it alone, they will impede the improvement in China-Japan ties in politics and security. They would create an atmosphere of bilateral conflict. The final result is to sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.”</p> <p>● August 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Remarks on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Private Advisory Panel Issuing Report on Statement at 70th Anniversary of End of Second World War – New law will benefit NGOs from overseas (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: On August 6, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s private advisory panel “blueprint of the 21st century” issued a report on the statement to be made at the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. How does China comment on this? A: This year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Asian countries including China and the international community all pay great attention to relevant statement to be made by the Japanese leader. We urge the Japanese side to squarely look at and deeply reflect upon the war launched by Japanese militarism, send a clear and correct message on the nature of the war and its responsibility for it in particular, and win the trust of its Asian neighbors and the international community with concrete actions. Only by doing this can Japan realize true reconciliation with its Asian neighbors and jointly develop future-oriented relations based on this.”</p>



• **August 5, 2015 – Remarks at the U.S.-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The future of the United States and the future of ASEAN are absolutely interconnected. Strengthening our decades-long partnership is a critical part of President Obama’s rebalance initiative, and that partnership reflects our many shared interests, and America’s conviction – believe me, we are absolutely convinced of this – that much of the history of the 21st century is going to be written right here in this region.”

• **August 5, 2015 – U.S.-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Today, Secretary Kerry led the United States’ delegation to the U.S.-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The United States has been an ASEAN partner for nearly 40 years and this meeting continues high-level engagement by the U.S. Secretary of State with the foreign ministers of the ten ASEAN Member States through open and constructive discussions. The United States remains deeply committed to close collaboration with ASEAN. Secretary Kerry highlighted activities the United States and ASEAN have jointly undertaken across ASEAN’s economic, political-security, and socio-cultural pillars. These activities include support for the ASEAN Economic Community and programs to strengthen people-to-people ties like the Young Southeast Leaders Initiative. He emphasized the need for sustainable growth and the importance of a rules based system so that countries can work together to address regional challenges like climate change, human trafficking, and marine conservation.”

• **August 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The Government of Japan has conveyed their concern or their sentiments about this (alleged spying by the American Government). I’ve been very circumspect in what I’ve said to address these allegations because I don’t want to speak to classified documents or allegedly classified documents, but we’ve been in touch with the Japanese. We’ve been talking through these issues, but we believe our relationship is strong.”

• **August 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Remarks on Joint Communique of 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting issued a joint communique, in which the South China Sea issue is included. Does China have any comment on this?”

A: The Chinese side has taken note of the joint communique. Foreign Minister Wang Yi has elaborated on China’s position concerning issues mentioned in it while attending the foreign ministers’ meetings of East Asia Cooperation in Kuala Lumpur. I’d like to underscore that the Chinese side is committed to resolving relevant maritime disputes through negotiation and consultation with countries directly concerned based on historical facts and pursuant to international law, and jointly safeguarding peace and stability of the South China Sea with ASEAN countries. The Chinese side is ready to work together with ASEAN countries to forge consensus, deepen cooperation, manage disputes and build the South China Sea into a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation.”

• **August 11, 2015 – China Daily: Abe has historic chance to seize** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Tensions will escalate if the widely anticipated and speculated about speech Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is due to deliver on the 70th anniversary of Japan’s surrender defies the calls for repentance and apology for the Japan’s past aggression and deviates from the milestone 1995 speech by then Japanese prime minister Murayama Tomiichi. His words were well received in both China and the Republic of Korea for their sincere appraisal of Japan’s wrongdoings.”

• **August 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Remarks on Some Japanese Cabinet Members Visiting Yasukuni Shrine** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “August 15 is the day when the Japanese militarism declared an unconditional surrender. Japan’s wrong attitude towards the history issue is once again revealed considering that some Japanese politicians choose this day to pay tribute to the Yasukuni Shrine which honors Class A criminals of the Second World War and beautifies the wars of aggression. The Chinese side is firmly opposed to and dissatisfied with this.”



• **August 5, 2015 – Remarks at the U.S.-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States remains deeply committed to ASEAN and to our shared vision of a stable, peaceful, and prosperous region that respects the rule of law and safeguards universal human rights. Yesterday in Singapore I was privileged to speak at the Singapore Management University and had an opportunity to lay out the principles of economic development, of innovation and entrepreneurship and transparency, accountability, working together, that could make a difference to all of our citizens in every single one of the countries sitting around this table and more. And that is why we are supporting the ASEAN Economic Community, which will help to sustain prosperity in this dynamic region and to generate well-paying jobs for people in all of our countries.”

• **August 6, 2015 – U.S. Engagement in the 2015 ASEAN Regional Forum** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “On August 6 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Secretary of State John Kerry led the United States’ delegation to the 22nd Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), an annual gathering of foreign ministers and senior officials representing 26 countries from Pakistan to the Pacific Rim and the European Union. The ARF is a regional foreign minister-level forum for promoting security, and this year it addressed pressing political and security issues including: marine environmental protection and conservation; the South China Sea; concerns over the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s proscribed nuclear and ballistic missile programs and human rights situation; the humanitarian crisis emanating from the irregular maritime movement of people in Southeast and South Asia and the Mediterranean; and regional cooperation on issues ranging from cyber-security to non-proliferation to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HA/DR). The ARF ministers adopted the U.S. co-sponsored Statement on Strengthened Cooperation on Marine Environmental Protection and Conservation and Secretary Kerry announced a new USAID Oceans and Fisheries Partnership with an initial commitment of \$4.3 million that will address the threat of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing in Southeast Asia.”

• **August 6, 2015 – Remarks With Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “And I think that our relationship today with Japan is one of the most important that we have in the world. We’ve found great democracies that work together and we share common values and a common vision for the future, and I think that today is really a great tribute to the remembrance but also the possibilities of the future.”

• **August 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Statement on the 70th Anniversary of the End of the War** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The question of history has a direct bearing on the political basis of China-Japan relations, and it affects the sentiments of the Chinese people. The Chinese side has always stood for taking history as a mirror to guide the future. Only by facing history squarely can one open up the future. The Chinese side urges the Japanese side to fully abide by the serious statements and commitments it has made to the Chinese side on the question of history since the normalization of China-Japan relations, face squarely the history of aggression and do serious soul searching about it, stick to the path of peaceful development, and take credible actions to win the trust of its neighbors in Asia and the international community.”

• **August 15, 2015 – Xinhua: Japanese appeal for future peace on 70th anniversary of WWII surrender amid ultra-right "freak show"** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “At Saturday's memorial service, Abe also shied away from expressing remorse for the suffering Japan had inflicted on the people of many countries before and during WWII, contrary to what Japanese premiers had done at the annual event since 1994. He did not pledge that Japan would never go to war again as he did in the two previous ceremonies.”

• **August 15, 2015 – Xinhua: Historical revisionism keeps Japan from being a "normal country"** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “Instead of teaching the younger Japanese generations to draw lessons from the country's war past, Abe said in his statement that it was unnecessary for them to keep apologizing in the future, which fully exposes his reluctance to face up to history and delivers a dangerous message to Japan's young people.”

• **August 15, 2015 – China Daily: Crafty rhetoric, insincere politics** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Abe's track record belies his claims of commitment to peace and good neighborly relations. That Abe and his advisers had reportedly struggled over whether or not to include Murayama's expressions, that the ruling parties had not agreed on the exact use of the expressions in the final transcript until the very last moment, that Abe managed to avoid directly referring to Japan's war as one of aggression and some of the perished Japanese as war criminals, and that his words became evasive when it came to Japan's colonial rule and the "comfort women" issue all betrayed a sense of reluctance.”



• **August 7, 2015 – Remarks With Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister/Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “And finally, with respect to a strategic relationship, we have great interests in the region. They begin, of course, with the current tensions over the South China Sea. The United States is deeply concerned about unilateral efforts of reclamation or militarization, and we believe that the issues of the South China Sea – the East Sea – need to be resolved through rule of law, need to be resolved through either the arbitration process or negotiation or through The Hague or through the Law of the Sea. There are plenty of options available, and we think it’s very important that those be adhered to.”

• **August 14, 2015 – Joint Statement: 2015 United States--India Cyber Dialogue** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The two delegations identified a variety of opportunities for increased collaboration on cybersecurity capacity-building, cybersecurity research and development, combatting cybercrime, international security, and Internet governance, and intend to pursue an array of follow-on activities to bolster their cybersecurity partnership and achieve concrete outcomes.”

• **August 26, 2015 – Readout of the President’s Call with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The President commended the Prime Minister for his August 14 expression of deep remorse for the suffering caused by Japan during the World War II era, and encouraged him to continue his efforts to promote reconciliation. President Obama and Prime Minister Abe reaffirmed their commitment to work together to conclude the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement as soon as possible, and to continue their cooperation in combating the impact of climate change.”

• **August 19, 2015 –China Daily: US should live up to graft-fight promises** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The attendance of Republic of Korea President Park Geun-hye at China’s celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression, which was confirmed on Thursday, sends the message that Beijing and Seoul stand on the same ground when it comes to historical issues.”

• **August 27, 2015 – Defense Ministry Spokesperson Yang Yujun’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: “The victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression is a victory for the whole Chinese nation. I have noticed that when the vehicles carrying the veterans of both the Communist Party and the Kuomintang Party passed the Tiananmen Square during the dress rehearsal on Aug.23, many people rose to their feet voluntarily. They either saluted or applauded to the veterans to pay their tribute to them. And I think this fully demonstrated all Chinese people’s respect and admiration for the veterans. In this new historical period, I hope that through commemorating the victory together, compatriots from across the Taiwan Strait can carry forward the spirit of the Anti-aggression War, keep the history in mind, cherish the memory of the martyrs and join hands to make contributions to the peaceful development of relations across the Taiwan Strait and also to the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.”

• **August 27, 2015 – Defense Ministry Spokesperson Yang Yujun’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: “The objective of the parade is to remember history, pay tribute to national martyrs, cherish peace and create the future. The parade is not targeting any other country, not targeting today’s Japan, not least targeting the Japanese people. The parade is not directly related to the Sino-Japanese relations either. As you have noticed that numerous countries will send their representatives to take part in the parade. This demonstrates the internationalism of commemorating the victory of the Global War against Fascism. China is ready to make joint efforts with other countries in the world to maintain historical justice, safeguard the victorious outcome of the WWII, and maintain peace, safety and stability in the world.”



Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: Both Countries Call for the Reduction of Tensions and Praise Joint Statement Issued by North and South Korea

United States	China
<p>• August 20, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “Q: John, there has been in the past few days another escalation of tension between North and South Korea, highlighted by an exchange of fire in the last 24 hours. Is it the position of this department that the North Koreans this, or do you see it as a regular flare-up related to annual U.S.-South Korean military drills, which have been ongoing since early this week?”</p> <p>A: We’re certainly closely monitoring this situation and we are concerned by the firing of a projectile into South Korea from the North. As we’ve said before, these kinds of provocative actions only heighten tensions, and we call on Pyongyang to refrain from actions and rhetoric that threaten regional peace and security. The other thing I’d say is the United States remains steadfast in its commitment to the defense, the security of the peninsula, to our alliance with South Korea, and we’re going to continue to closely coordinate with the Republic of Korea.</p> <p>Q: Yeah. It is announced that South Korea President Park is going to travel to China next month to – in order to participate in the commemoration of the 70th anniversary of World Anti-Fascist War. So what is your assessment about that?</p> <p>A: Participation in these kinds of events, that’s a sovereign decision for each country. I would tell you, we respect the Republic of Korea’s decision. And for anything else, I’d refer you to their government.”</p> <p>• August 24, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “I think the ROK has remained pretty resolute in the face of continued North Korean aggressive action and rhetoric. And I don’t know that I would characterize anything as backing down. They’ve been strong and they’ve been resolute, and we have an ironclad commitment through an alliance with South Korea to help contribute to peace and security on that peninsula. But this was, as most agreements are, a compromise. And I would point you to the South Koreans to speak to the specific items that they agreed to. What’s important here is that the two sides did get together, they did come to an agreement that they both found mutually satisfactory, and that’s the important thing.”</p>	<p>• August 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on the Situation of the Korean Peninsula (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “As a close neighbor to the Korean Peninsula, China follows the situation of the Korean Peninsula very closely, and is deeply concerned about what has happened recently. China staunchly safeguards regional peace and stability and opposes any action that may escalate tension. We urge relevant parties to remain calm and restrained, properly deal with the current situation through contact and dialogue, and stop doing anything that may make the tension even worse. The Chinese side is willing to work with relevant parties to jointly ensure peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula.”</p> <p>• August 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on DPRK and ROK High-level Talks Reaching Agreement (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “After long hours of negotiations, the DPRK and the ROK reached a series of agreements on easing tensions and improving inter-Korea relations. The Chinese side welcomes that and hopes that the DPRK and the ROK can carry on dialogues and consultations, promote reconciliation and cooperation, earnestly implement relevant agreements, and jointly safeguard peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula.”</p> <p>• August 25, 2015 – Xinhua: For the two Koreas, dialogue always better than confrontation (Xinhua) Quote: “Veteran observers of the Korean Peninsula affairs believe there are many reasons behind the lamentable recurring escalation of tension on the peninsula, with the two sides' lack of basic trust in each other being a prominent one.”</p>



• **August 24, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Secretary James and Gen. Welsh on the State of the Air Force in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room**
([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q : And separately, in terms of North Korea, there's been a lot of developments on the peninsula. Are you seeing any worrisome developments in terms of their nuclear program, their ballistic missile program and how close are they to being able to field a missile that could reach the United States?”

A : In Korea, I think there's a lot of worrisome things about Korea, but I don't think any of it's new news. I don't know where they are relative to developing nuclear weapon or mating it with a delivery system. I don't know exactly what their intentions are with ballistic missile -- ballistic missile strike capabilities, but we know where they're going toward -- where they're moving towards and so we have to ready for that eventuality as well. I think that if you talk to General Scaparrotti at U.S. Forces, Korea he would -- he would tell you in great detail all of his preparations to counter each of the things you just mentioned. I think it's something we have to pay a lot of attention to and I think we do each and every day.”

• **August 25, 2015– Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “ It matters most that north and south have accepted this agreement. This was a discussion between them, and they came to this conclusion, to this agreement. And now our expectation is that we want to see it implemented, and we want to see the tensions decrease. We weren't in the room and weren't a party to the discussions, and I think that's wholly appropriate. And so I think it – your questions would be better placed to people that were in the room and not to the U.S. State Department. What – as I said, we're – yesterday – we welcome this agreement, we want to see the tensions decrease. And as for what was agreed to on either side and how they feel about it or characterize it, that's for the sides to speak to.”

• **August 26, 2015 – *China Daily*: Korean Peninsula needs more talks, not tension**
([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The major breakthrough the international community achieved in resolving the Iranian nuclear issue last month could help in finding a solution to the DPRK nuclear issue as well. The strong political will and the spirit of diplomacy, which were the keys to breaking the Iran deadlock, should also be given a chance to resolve the DPRK nuclear issue. In the meantime, as events in the past have shown, restraint is still important to prevent tensions from flaring up again and spinning out of control. The latest tensions should also sound the clarion call for diplomatic efforts from all the parties concerned so as to build the momentum for an early resumption of the Six-Party Talks. No party will stay unharmed if a war breaks out on the peninsula.”



Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa: Both Countries Respond to Violence in Afghanistan and Iraq; the U.S. Continues to Build Support for Iran Nuclear Deal

United States	China
<p>• August 5, 2015 – Remarks by the President on the Iran Nuclear Deal (White House, Speeches and Remarks) Quote: “The agreement now reached between the international community and the Islamic Republic of Iran builds on this tradition of strong, principled diplomacy. After two years of negotiations, we have achieved a detailed arrangement that permanently prohibits Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. It cuts off all of Iran’s pathways to a bomb. It contains the most comprehensive inspection and verification regime ever negotiated to monitor a nuclear program. As was true in previous treaties, it does not resolve all problems; it certainly doesn’t resolve all our problems with Iran. It does not ensure a warming between our two countries. But it achieves one of our most critical security objectives.”</p> <p>• August 5, 2015 – Treasury Designates Financial Supporters of Al-Qaida and Al-Nusrah Front (Department of the Treasury) Quote: “The U.S. Department of the Treasury today imposed sanctions on Sa’d bin Sa’d Muhammad Shariyan al-Ka’bi (al-Ka’bi), a Qatari financier of al-Qaida’s Syria-based affiliate, al-Nusrah Front (ANF), and also on a Qatari al-Qaida facilitator, ‘Abd al-Latif Bin ‘Abdallah Salih Muhammad al-Kawari (al-Kawari). Both have been designated as Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs) pursuant to Executive Order 13224. Any assets these individuals may have under U.S. jurisdiction are frozen, and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from doing business with them.”</p> <p>• August 5, 2015 – Written Testimony of Adam J. Szubin, Acting Under Secretary of Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, And Urban Affairs (Department of the Treasury) Quote: “Having spent more than a decade at the Treasury Department working to strengthen our diplomatic efforts by imposing sanctions pressure on Iran, I will focus on the global sanctions coalition built and led by the United States that gave us the leverage necessary to secure unprecedented nuclear concessions from Iran. I will then discuss the nature of the sanctions relief in this deal, and how the JCPOA is designed to keep pressure on Iran to fulfill its nuclear commitments. Lastly, I will explain the tough sanctions that will remain in place to combat a range of malign Iranian activity outside the nuclear sphere—including its support for terrorism and militant proxies in the Middle East, its missile program, and its human rights abuses.”</p>	<p>• August 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Bombing Attack in Kabul (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: According to media reports, a truck bomb blasted in a residential area in central Kabul, Afghanistan on August 7, killing 8 civilians and wounding over 400, mostly women and children. What’s China’s comment on this? A: The Chinese side strongly condemns this terrorist attack, extends condolences to the victims and their families, and expresses sympathies to the wounded. The Chinese side firmly objects to all forms of terrorism, staunchly supports the Afghan government in safeguarding national security and stability, and stands ready to help Afghanistan realize peace, stability and development at an early date together with the international community.”</p> <p>• August 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Reconciliation Process in Afghanistan (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: Recent days have seen terrorist attacks in Afghanistan, and various parties are questioning its reconciliation process. How does China comment on this? A: The Chinese side has always stood for the "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" reconciliation process, believing that the peace talk is the realistic way out to solve the Afghanistan issue. China encourages and supports the peace talk between the Afghan government and the Taliban, and commends the important role in pushing forward the peace talk played by relevant parties and Pakistan in particular. It is hoped that all parties would stick to the right direction, build up confidence and determination on the peace talk, and make continuous efforts to realize lasting peace in Afghanistan. The Chinese side is ready to cooperate with all parties and play a constructive role in the extensive and inclusive peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan as always.”</p> <p>• August 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Bombing Attack in Iraq (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China strongly condemns the bombing attack in Baghdad, Iraq on August 13. We express condolences to the victims and extend sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured. The Chinese side is firmly against all forms of terrorism, and supportive of efforts by the Iraqi government to maintain national security and stability.”</p>



• **August 6, 2015 – Intervention at the East Asia Summit** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Under its terms, Iran has agreed to remove 98 percent of its stockpile of enriched uranium, dismantle two-thirds of its installed centrifuges, and the existing core of its heavy-water reactor. Iran has agreed to refrain from producing or acquiring both highly enriched uranium and weapons-grade plutonium for at least the next 15 years. Iran has also agreed to accept the Additional Protocol, which requires extensive access and significant additional transparency measures. If Iran fails to comply, we will know it quickly and be able to respond accordingly. And many of these measures will be in place not just for 10 or 15 or 20 years but for the lifetime of Iran’s nuclear program, which will enable us to verifiably ensure it remains exclusively peaceful. I encourage all EAS members to support the proposed EAS Foreign Ministers’ Statement on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.”

• **August 11, 2015 – Interview With Scott Pelley of CBS Evening News** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We’re not asking anybody to trust Iran. Iran doesn’t trust us; we don’t yet trust them. And who knows what the future brings? So this agreement is built on real-time verification now. Iran, in order to get any sanctions relief, has to reduce its program very significantly; it has to destroy its core reactor at its plutonium heavy water reactor; it has to take all of its enrichment out of other facilities; it has to hold its program back to 300 kilograms of stockpile of low-enriched material for 15 years. We are convinced through our intelligence community and through our Energy Department, which is responsible for nuclear weaponry, that we will know what Iran is doing.”

• **August 11, 2015 – Interview With Sir Harold Evans, Thomson Reuters Editor-At-Large** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “What the Gulf states said very clearly is that if this agreement is fully implemented, and we obviously intend to do that, it will prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon and it will increase the stability of the region. That is their statement. It’s very bold, very straightforward. And I’m not going to tell you that people don’t have concerns. I mean, our friends in Israel obviously have concerns. I mean, I have – 28 and a half – 29 years in the United States Senate, I have 100 percent voting record for Israel. I understand the existential challenge to Israel. And I’ve talked with the prime minister many times about this. We’ve agreed to disagree. He has a different point of view. I respect that. He represents his country, but we represent the United States, which also has huge stakes in that region.”

• **August 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on the Peace Process in South Sudan** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: It is reported that President Salva Kiir of South Sudan signed an agreement in Juba on August 26 to resolve the conflict in South Sudan. What is China's comment on that?”

A: The Chinese side welcomes the agreement on the resolution of the conflict in South Sudan officially signed by warring parties in South Sudan. This represents a major step forward toward peace in South Sudan. The Chinese side commends efforts made by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in Eastern Africa and all relevant parties of the international community. It is hoped that conflicting parties in South Sudan could take concrete actions to implement the agreement, improve the humanitarian situation there, kick start the process of reconstruction, and restore peace and stability. The Chinese side will stay in communication and coordination with all relevant parties to play a constructive role in advancing the peace process in South Sudan.”



• **August 13, 2015 – Lew Op-Ed: The High Price of Rejecting the Iran Deal**

([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “This outraged our foreign partners, particularly the European Union, which threatened retaliatory action and referral to the World Trade Organization and passed its own law prohibiting companies from complying. The largest oil companies of Europe and Asia stayed in Iran until, more than a decade later, we built a global consensus around the threat posed by Iran and put forward a realistic diplomatic means of addressing it. The deal we reached last month is strong, unprecedented and good for America, with all the key elements the international community demanded to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. Congress should approve this deal and ignore critics who offer no alternative.”

• **August 13, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing with Brigadier General Wilson Shoffner, Deputy Chief of Staff for Communications, Resolute Support Mission, Afghanistan** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “What we are seeing is an increase in IEDs, use of IEDs in high-profile attacks here in Kabul. (inaudible) -- you see that, Kabul remains the area of strategic importance for the insurgency, as a -- as a very important center of the government of Afghanistan's authority, and these attacks are an attempt to garner widespread coverage that, for the Taliban, for them, leads to a perception that the Afghan government is unable to provide adequate security.”

• **August 21, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing with Brigadier General Kevin J. Killea, chief of staff, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve via DVIDS from Southwest Asia on Operation Inherent Resolve**

([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q : Are you investigating, are you looking into any other instances of chemical weapons attack, both in Iraq or in Syria?”

A: I am not aware of any that we are investigating at this time, beyond the 11th of August attack that we had a positive field test on. “



Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Issues: U.S. Continues to Assert its Right to Freely Navigate in the South China Sea; China Continues to Deny Phillipino Calls to Settle South China Sea Territorial Dispute Through a Tribunal and Seeks Cooperation with ASEAN Countries Despite Territorial Disputes

United States	China
<p>• August 3, 2015 – Remarks by Mark C. Toner at Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “Generally speaking, any issue that’s – that ASEAN considers important for the security of the region is a topic for conversation. And I think that it’s safe to say developments in the South China Sea are a critical aspect of regional security. So I think it’s natural in that context that they could be raised in ASEAN, in the ARF and EAS meetings. We have interests at stake. We’ve been clear about that. The claimants, various claimants do, and the international community has interests at stake because it’s a critical waterway. And as we’ve been very clear, the U.S. supports freedom of navigation, overflight, and while we don’t take a position on the competing claims for sovereignty of the islands, we do observe that it would – that – sorry, on the competing claims to sovereignty on the – over the land features in the South China Sea, it’s our strong opinion that a claimant not undertake actions that significantly increase the physical size or functionality of disputed features, or to militarize them. We would view that as provocative.”</p> <p>• August 5, 2015 – Sheets Op-Ed: Ukraine Needs To Restructure Its Debt (Department of the Treasury) Quote: “To sustain this recovery, Ukraine also needs to restructure its government debt. Ukraine’s debt did not precipitate its economic crisis and was at a manageable level as recently as late 2013. But Russian aggression over the past 18 months has delivered a blow to economic activity and productive capacity that has left Ukraine’s debts unsustainable. Creditors involved in the ongoing debt restructuring negotiations should heed the long view, and not treat this as a zero-sum game. We urge these creditors to move swiftly in the coming weeks to reach an agreement with the Ukrainian authorities that satisfies the three criteria outlined in Ukraine’s IMF program — including the debt-sustainability targets.”</p>	<p>• August 4, 2015 – People’s Daily: ASEAN meeting improper platform for South China Sea issue (People’s Daily) Quote: “During the Tianjin meeting, China and ASEAN countries agreed to cooperate in such areas as combating transnational crimes to implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), and bring the Code of Conduct (COC) consultation into a new phase of discussing crucial and complex issues [...] In sum, China is committed to resolving the disputes peacefully through negotiation and consultation, managing differences by establishing rules and mechanisms, safeguarding freedom of navigation and flyover, and generating win-win results through cooperation.”</p> <p>• August 5, 2015 – People’s Daily: Disputes should not affect China-ASEAN big picture (People’s Daily) Quote: “Although sovereignty disputes remain, ASEAN countries still take the economy as a major focus. After China initiated the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in 2013, the Philippines and Vietnam were among the first countries to join as founding members of the multilateral institution designed to finance infrastructure building in Asia. China and Southeast Asian countries were linked with each other by the ancient maritime Silk Road, and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, proposed by President Xi Jinping in 2013 and aimed at reviving the ancient trade routes that span Asia, Africa and Europe, will provide a new cooperation platform for China and the ASEAN.”</p> <p>• August 6, 2015 – People’s Daily: The U.S. hyped South China Sea dispute to contain China: experts (People’s Daily) Quote: ““U.S. Think Tank hyped that China may be preparing a second airstrip on an island in the disputed South China Sea during ASEAN Foreign Minister’s Meeting. The move is to distract the meeting from Asian cooperation and development,” Wu Shicun, head of China National Institute for South China Sea Studies, told Global Times . He added that China’s construction activities on its own islands and reefs in the South China Sea is lawful, justified and within China’s sovereignty and have nothing to do with any other matters. Moreover, China is constructing civil facilities in order to improve local public rescue.”</p>



• **August 6, 2015 – Intervention at the East Asia Summit** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Freedom of navigation and overflight are among the essential pillars of international maritime law. Despite assurances that these freedoms will be respected, we have seen warnings issued and restrictions attempted in recent months. Let me be clear: The United States will not accept restrictions on freedom of navigation and overflight, or other lawful uses of the sea. These are intrinsic rights that we all share. It doesn’t matter whether a vessel is a large warship or a tiny fishing boat. The principle is clear: The rights of all nations must be respected.”

• **August 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Again, we’ve been very clear that we want to see all building stop in that area (South China Sea). We want to see a reciprocal halt among claimants to land reclamation, new construction, further militarization of outposts, and we want to see, basically, an overall easing of tensions that create space for diplomatic solutions to many of these claims. So as much as China’s willing to take those steps, we would welcome it. But I don’t know that we can confirm that.”

• **August 20, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing with Secretary Carter in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “The United States will continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law permits. As we’ve always the right to do, we will continue to do that, and none of this is going to change our conduct in anyway. Second thing is that the -- we are very actively pursuing not only what I just described, which is our unilateral activities, but our multilateral activities with other countries in the South China Sea and others in the Asia-Pacific area for the very reason that they are very concerned about this Chinese behavior, which is not only concerning to us, but is also having the effect of strengthening our alliances and increasing the number and strength of our partnerships, and it’ll -- will -- that will continue as well. And the last thing is that we have called for all countries -- not just China, because there’re others, but China is by far and away the one that has done the most, especially in the last year to stop dredging, stop any further militarization, not just stop temporarily, but stop permanently that.”

• **August 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Remarks on Joint Communique of 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting issued a joint communique, in which the South China Sea issue is included. Does China have any comment on this ?

A: The Chinese side has taken note of the joint communique. Foreign Minister Wang Yi has elaborated on China’s position concerning issues mentioned in it while attending the foreign ministers’ meetings of East Asia Cooperation in Kuala Lumpur. I’d like to underscore that the Chinese side is committed to resolving relevant maritime disputes through negotiation and consultation with countries directly concerned based on historical facts and pursuant to international law, and jointly safeguarding peace and stability of the South China Sea with ASEAN countries. The Chinese side is ready to work together with ASEAN countries to forge consensus, deepen cooperation, manage disputes and build the South China Sea into a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation.”

• **August 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Remarks on the Release of the Transcript of the Oral Hearing on Jurisdiction by the South China Sea Arbitral Tribunal Established at the Request of the Philippines** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The South China Sea Arbitral Tribunal established at the request of the Philippines recently released the Transcript of the Oral Hearing on Jurisdiction. What is China’s comment on that?

A: The Chinese side has consistently expounded its position of neither accepting nor participating in the South China Sea arbitration unilaterally initiated by the Philippines. This position is solidly grounded in international law and will not change. On 7 December 2014, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs was authorized to release the Position Paper of the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Matter of Jurisdiction in the South China Sea Arbitration Initiated by the Republic of the Philippines. This Paper pointed out that the Arbitral Tribunal established at the request of the Philippines has no jurisdiction over the case and elaborated on the legal grounds for China’s non-acceptance and non-participation in the arbitration.”



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