

# **Autumn Chill**

## **October 2015**

---

Benjamin Engel  
ASI Research Center

November 2015

## **Autumn Chill**

*While British Prime Minister David Cameron and Chinese President Xi Jinping enjoyed a friendly beer during the latter's visit to the UK at the end of October, U.S.-China relations took a completely different tone as the USS Lassen conducted a so-called freedom of navigation operation in waters claimed by China in the South China Sea. This set off a wave of condemnations from the Chinese government and media and counterclaims by the U.S. that it had merely sailed through international waters. Compounding the tensions were calls by the U.S. for the release of political prisoners in China and demands for Chinese action on halting cyber attacks aimed at American companies. It seems an early autumn chill has arrived in U.S.-China relations and with winter quickly approaching a thaw seems unlikely in the short-term. Below is a summary of key issue areas emphasized by the U.S. and China during October 2015.*

### **Freedom of Navigation Operation Causes Stir in South China Sea**

The United States is a strong proponent of the rules related to the freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce in international waters. And because China is also interested in protecting the free flow of commerce in the South China Sea,<sup>1</sup> the U.S. hopes these mutual interests can lead to a peaceful and diplomatic solution to territorial disputes in the South China Sea. But China continues to reiterate that it has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters.<sup>2</sup>

While these types of comments have been repeated heavily during previous months, the U.S. made a move which is changing the outlook of the South China Sea dispute. The U.S. sailed a military vessel through waters surrounding the Nansha Islands that China claims as its territorial seas in what the U.S. is calling a freedom of navigation operation. These operations, U.S. claims, are for protecting

<sup>1</sup> UCR October Issue 2015 – Sovereignty and Territorial Issues, Issue 9 pg. [41](#)

<sup>2</sup> pg. [42](#)

“the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea and airspace guaranteed to all nations under international law.”<sup>3</sup> The Chinese government responded by calling this move a “grave political provocation against China.”<sup>4</sup> The U.S. firmly disagrees with this comment, saying that to sail a ship through international waters is not a provocative act and it should not be taken as a provocative act.<sup>5</sup>

### **Trilateral Summit and Competing for Friends in Asia**

A trilateral summit between China, Japan, and South Korea took place to which the U.S. responded positively by stating that it was in support of the dialogue and that the strong and constructive relations between the aforementioned countries would support regional peace and stability.<sup>6</sup> In relation to this, China also responded positively by echoing that the trilateral meeting would be seen as an opportunity to chart the course of future trilateral cooperation.<sup>7</sup>

The U.S. and China also competed with each other to build closer ties with states in the Asia-Pacific region whilst reaffirming their relations. Amid the U.S. acknowledgment of the importance of its relations with China, it simultaneously held dialogues with its allies, Japan and Australia, to strengthen its bilateral security relations.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, the U.S. reaffirmed that its commitment to the defense and security of the ROK will never waver and that the U.S.-ROK alliance remains a linchpin of peace and security during a summit meeting between President Obama and ROK President Park Geun-hye.<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile, China also showed its commitment to India and ASEAN respectively by performing a joint counter-terrorism exercise with India in Kunming, Yunan, and by promoting a China-ASEAN defense security cooperation.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>3</sup> pg. [43](#)

<sup>4</sup> pg. [46](#)

<sup>5</sup> pg. [43](#)

<sup>6</sup> UCR October Issue 2015 – Asia Pacific Issues, Issue 6 pg. [23](#)

<sup>7</sup> pg. [24](#)

<sup>8</sup> pg. [22](#)

<sup>9</sup> UCR October Issue 2015 – Korean Peninsula, Issue 7 pg. [29](#)

<sup>10</sup> UCR October Issue 2015 – Asia Pacific Issues, Issue 6 pg. [22, 23](#)



### U.S. and Chinese Position on Russian Role in Syria

The U.S. and China remained deeply concerned with the Syrian civil war, ISIL (which is now being called “Daesh” by some to further undercut the group’s legitimacy), and Russia’s role in both struggles. The U.S.’s main concern is that Russia is not so much fighting against ISIL, as it is bolstering Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his controversial regime.<sup>11</sup> The U.S. policy is to support the moderate opposition in Syria against both ISIL and Assad.<sup>12</sup> China, on the other hand, seems to support Russia more, or at least recognize that Russia faces a more direct security threat that the U.S. may not be taking into account.<sup>13</sup>

Meanwhile, Obama also announced a planned reduction of troops stationed in Afghanistan.<sup>14</sup> China praised this announcement as showing “respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan”<sup>15</sup> In addition, both countries also made note of the entry into force of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran’s nuclear program.<sup>16</sup>

### U.S. Demands Action Not Words on Cyber Threats

Cyber threats and security continue to be a sticky subject. The U.S. firmly stated that it expected actions and not just words from China that it would abide by the international code of conduct regarding cyber activities.<sup>17</sup> Furthermore, the U.S. emphasized that it would constantly monitor China’s cyber activities and press China to abide by its commitments.<sup>18</sup> In the event that Beijing’s illegal cyber activity continues, the U.S. will take additional action.<sup>19</sup> On the other hand, China

made an announcement that it too was fundamentally against cyber attacks and espionage and demonstrated its will to cooperate with the U.S. in relation to the issue.<sup>20</sup> With regard to this, it was brought up that the Chinese hackers who were accused of cyber espionage by the U.S. were arrested in China.<sup>21</sup>

Despite these disagreements, China was keen to mention that it and the U.S. were both cooperating in their fight against terrorism,<sup>22</sup> and China announced that the visit of the U.S. officers to the Liaoning, China’s first aircraft carrier, was a positive step as it displayed both sides’ willingness for more military exchanges.<sup>23</sup>

### Accusations and Rebuttals on Human Rights Violations

The U.S. released reports on China’s human rights and China’s international religious freedom. Generally, the U.S. called for the release of detained and imprisoned people including Mr. Zhang Kai, a Chinese Christian human rights lawyer who was detained in August.<sup>24</sup> The U.S. stated that the Chinese government has detained nearly 300 lawyers and activists without filing charges or holding a trial. The U.S. also criticized coercive birth limitation policies, which can be related to universal human rights upon China’s decision to allow Chinese families to have two children.<sup>25</sup> On the other hand, China criticized the prejudice and ignorance of some Americans hostile to China,<sup>26</sup> and instead wished to be on equal-footing when communicating with the U.S.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>11</sup> UCR September Issue 2015 – Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8 pg. [31](#)

<sup>12</sup> pg. [31](#)

<sup>13</sup> pg. [32](#)

<sup>14</sup> pg. [35](#)

<sup>15</sup> pg. [33](#)

<sup>16</sup> pg. [37](#)

<sup>17</sup> UCR September Issue 2015 – Military and Security Relations, Issue 3 pg. [17](#)

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> pg. [16](#)

<sup>20</sup> pg. [16](#)

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> pg. [17](#)

<sup>23</sup> pg. [17](#)

<sup>24</sup> UCR September Issue 2015 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, Issue 4 pg. [18](#)

<sup>25</sup> pg. [18](#)

<sup>26</sup> pg. [18](#)

<sup>27</sup> Ibid



Time Period: October 1 ~ October 31, 2015

Main Issue

1. U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. Stresses Positive Achievements in Bilateral Relations; China Appreciates U.S. Cooperation in Repatriation of Corrupt Official

|   |   |
|---|---|
| United States   | China   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 7, 2015 – New Frontiers for Northeast Asia</b></li> <li>• <b>October 14, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 19, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 9, 2015 – Anti-graft test for the US</b></li> <li>• <b>October 9, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce on October 8, 2015</b></li> </ul> |

2. Economic Relations: U.S. Works on Selling Merits of Concluded TPP Agreement; China Welcomes TPP if it Contributes to Free Trade in the Region

|   |   |
|---|---|
| United States   | China   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 4, 2015 – Summary of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement</b></li> <li>• <b>October 5, 2015 – Statement by the President on the Trans-Pacific Partnership</b></li> <li>• <b>October 5, 2015 – Treasury Secretary Jacob J.Lew Statement Regarding The Conclusion of Negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership</b></li> <li>• <b>October 5, 2015 – Trans-Pacific Partnership Ministers’ Statement</b></li> <li>• <b>October 5, 2015 – Transcript of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Atlanta Ministerial Closing Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</b></li> <li>• <b>October 6, 2015 – Cross Post: Remarks by the President on the Trans-Pacific Partnership</b></li> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</b></li> <li>• <b>October 9, 2015 – Remarks by Treasury Secretary Jacob J.Lew At The IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings</b></li> <li>• <b>October 9, 2015 – U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman, Sen. Tom Carper, and Sen. Chris Coons Highlight Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement’s Impact on Delaware’s Local Economy and Jobs</b></li> <li>• <b>October 10, 2015 – Weekly Address: Writing the Rules for a Global Economy</b></li> <li>• <b>October 14, 2015 – U.S. Democracy Support: 2016 and Beyond</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Prolific Chinese Synthetic Drug Traffickers</b></li> <li>• <b>October 17, 2015 – U.S. Foreign Policy in a Changing World</b></li> <li>• <b>October 27, 2015 – The Road Ahead for TPP</b></li> <li>• <b>October 27, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to the Atlantic Council</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 7, 2015 – Successful global trade agreements require China's participation</b></li> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015 – Only trade growth will define merits of TPP</b></li> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015 – MOFCOM Spokesman comments on the conclusion of TPP negotiations</b></li> </ul> |



3. Military and Security Relations: U.S. Hopes for China to Abide by Code of Conduct on Cyber Security; China Continues to Deny Involvement in Cyber Raids on U.S. Companies

| United States   | China  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 2, 2015 – U.S. Priorities in East Asia and the Pacific</b></li> <li>• <b>October 19, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 19, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</b></li> <li>• <b>October 23, 2015 – Remarks at the 70th UN General Assembly First Committee Thematic Discussion on Outer Space, Disarmament Aspects</b></li> <li>• <b>October 29, 2015 – Remarks on Receiving the Woodrow Wilson Award</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015 – Statement by Mr. Li Yongsheng on Measures to eradicate international terrorism at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly</b></li> <li>• <b>October 19, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 21, 2015 – Aircraft carrier Liaoning tour by US navy demonstrates China's sincerity</b></li> </ul> |

4. Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Calls for Release of Political Prisoners in China; China Blasts U.S. Government for Ignorance Regarding Human Rights Situation in China

| United States   | China  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 14, 2015– Remarks at the Rollout of the 2014 Report on International Religious Freedom</b></li> <li>• <b>October 14, 2015 – Remarks at the Fortune Most Powerful Women Summit</b></li> <li>• <b>October 29, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</b></li> <li>• <b>October 30, 2015 – Remarks at the 70th UN General Assembly Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian &amp; Cultural) Item 72 (b) and (c): Promotion and Protection of Human Rights</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 21, 2015 – Statement by Counsellor Shaojun Yao at the Third Committee's Dialogue with the High Commissioner on Human Rights</b></li> </ul> |

5. Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. Continues to Search for Support on Climate Change Policy Ahead of Paris Talks

| United States  | China   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015– Remarks With UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change Michael Bloomberg at Our Cities, Our Climate: A Bloomberg Philanthropies-U.S. Department of State Partnership Working Luncheon</b></li> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015– Interview With Chuck Todd of MSNBC Meet the Press Daily</b></li> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015– All Climate Change Is Local</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> </ul> |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015– Conversation With Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Professor Graham Allison</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015– Remarks at Indiana University's School of Global and International Studies</b></li> <li>• <b>October 29, 2015– Paris Climate Conference is a Rare Opportunity - Grab It</b></li> </ul> |  |
|--|--|

6. Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Reaffirms Strong Ties with Australia, Working with Japan on New Military Base; China Participates in Trilateral Meeting with ROK and Japan

| United States  | China  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015 – 2015 Australia-United States Ministerial (AUSMIN) Joint Statement</b></li> <li>• <b>October 17, 2015 – U.S. Foreign Policy in a Changing World</b></li> <li>• <b>October 26, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to the U.S.-Indonesia Investment Summit</b></li> <li>• <b>October 27, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 9, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce</b></li> <li>• <b>October 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 12, 2015 – Sino-Indian military drill unfairly targeted</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015 – Talks help to warm up Sino-Japanese ties</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 22, 2015 – Japan's huge stockpiles of plutonium pose risks</b></li> <li>• <b>October 26, 2015 – Trilateral summit needed for regional cooperation</b></li> <li>• <b>October 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 27, 2015 – China-Japan-ROK meeting resumption reflects Beijing's neighborhood commitment</b></li> </ul> |

7. Korean Peninsula: U.S. Hosts ROK President Park Geun-hye; China Welcomes Development of U.S.-ROK Relations

| United States  | China   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 6, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary Carter at a Troop Event at Moron Air Base, Spain, October 6, 2015</b></li> <li>• <b>October 6, 2015 – Remarks With First Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yong at ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs</b></li> <li>• <b>October 7, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</b></li> <li>• <b>October 7, 2015 – New Frontiers for Northeast Asia</b></li> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015– Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Australian</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 19, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> </ul> |



|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 14, 2015 – Preview of the visit of Republic of Korea President Park Geun-hye</b></li> <li>• <b>October 14, 2015 – Preview of the visit of Republic of Korea President Park Geun-hye</b></li> <li>• <b>October 16, 2015 –Remarks by President Obama and President Park of the Republic of Korea in Joint Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 16, 2015 – Joint Fact Sheet: The United States-Republic of Korea Alliance: Shared Values, New Frontiers</b></li> <li>• <b>October 16, 2015 – 2015 United States-Republic of Korea Joint Statement on North Korea</b></li> <li>• <b>October 20, 2015 – U.S. Policy on North Korean Human Rights</b></li> <li>• <b>October 20, 2015 – Assessing the North Korea Threat and U.S. Policy</b></li> </ul> |  |
|--|--|

8. Middle East and Africa Issue: U.S. Pushes Russia to Engage ISIL in Syria, Continues to Push Forward with the Iranian Nuclear Deal; China Offers Assistance for Countries Dealing with Refugee Crisis, Supports Russian Efforts in Syria

| United States   | China   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 2, 2015– Interview With Bahman Kalbasi of BBC Persia</b></li> <li>• <b>October 2, 2015– Interview With Bahman Kalbasi of BBC Persia</b></li> <li>• <b>October 2, 2015– Interview With Amaro Gomez-Pablos of Television Nacional de Chile</b></li> <li>• <b>October 2, 2015– Interview With Abderrahim Foqaraa of Al Jazeera Arabic</b></li> <li>• <b>October 5, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 6, 2015– Joint Press Availability With Haitian President Michel Martelly</b></li> <li>• <b>October 6, 2015– Africa: Decisive Moment for Democracy</b></li> <li>• <b>October 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 6, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</b></li> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 9, 2015 – Press Call on the Counter-ISIL Campaign</b></li> <li>• <b>October 10, 2015 – Statement by the NSC Spokesperson Ned Price on Today’s Terrorist Attack in Ankara, Turkey</b></li> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015– Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne</b></li> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015– Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne</b></li> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015– Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne</b></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 8, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador WANG Qun, Director-General of the Arms Control Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 70th Session of the UNGA</b></li> <li>• <b>October 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li> <li>• <b>October 14, 2015 – Sensible strategic move by Russia to give Assad support</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015 – Statement by Mr. Li Yongsheng on Measures to eradicate international terrorism at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on October 15, 2015</b></li> <li>• <b>October 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press</b></li> </ul> |



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015– Conversation With Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Professor Graham Allison</b></li> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 13, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</b></li> <li>• <b>October 14, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015– Remarks at Indiana University's School of Global and International Studies</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015– Remarks at Indiana University's School of Global and International Studies</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015 –Statement by the President on Afghanistan</b></li> <li>• <b>October 15, 2015 – On-the-Record Conference Call on Afghanistan</b></li> <li>• <b>October 17, 2015 – Background Briefing on the JCPOA Adoption Day</b></li> <li>• <b>October 18, 2015 – Statement by the President on the Adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action</b></li> <li>• <b>October 22, 2015– Remarks Before Meeting With German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier</b></li> <li>• <b>October 23, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</b></li> <li>• <b>October 27, 2015 – Statement on the U.S. Military Strategy in the Middle East and the Counter-ISIL Campaign before the Senate Armed Services Committee</b></li> <li>• <b>October 28, 2015– Remarks at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace</b></li> <li>• <b>October 28, 2015– Remarks at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace</b></li> <li>• <b>October 29, 2015 – United States and India Joint Statement on the Trade Policy Forum</b></li> <li>• <b>October 30, 2015– Joint Press Availability with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura</b></li> <li>• <b>October 30, 2015– Joint Press Availability with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura</b></li> <li>• <b>October 30, 2015 – Message to the Congress – Notification to the Congress on AGOA Program Change</b></li> </ul> | <p><b>Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>October 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Iranian Nuclear Issue</b></li> <li>• <b>October 26, 2015 – Full Text: Outcome list of President Xi Jinping's state visit to the United States</b></li> </ul> |
|--|---|



9. Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Conducts Freedom of Navigation Operation in Waters Surrounding Nansha Islands; China Condemns U.S. Move as Political Provocation

| United States   | China  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 13, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• October 13, 2015– Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne</li> <li>• October 14, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• October 14, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• October 16, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• October 26, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• October 26, 2015 – Joint Statement by the United States of America and the Republic of Indonesia</li> <li>• October 27, 2015 – Press Gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz en route Chicago, IL</li> <li>• October 28, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• October 29, 2015 –Remarks on Receiving the Woodrow Wilson Award</li> <li>• October 29, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• October 29, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• October 30, 2015 – Media Availability with Secretary Carter en route to Fort Wainwright, Alaska</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Start of Operation of Huayang and Chigua Lighthouses</li> <li>• October 10, 2015 – U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander's 'blunt warning' to China is not constructive</li> <li>• October 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 15, 2015 – Firm reaction for US sea provocation</li> <li>• October 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 19, 2015 – US' logic back to front</li> <li>• October 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 21, 2015 – Aircraft carrier Liaoning tour by US navy demonstrates China's sincerity</li> <li>• October 22, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• October 28, 2015 – US imprudently making trouble out of nothing</li> </ul> |



|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>October 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press</b></li><li>• <b>October 28, 2015 – After the show, it's time for US destroyer to leave</b></li><li>• <b>October 29, 2015 – Commentary: The U.S. should never play with fire in South China Sea</b></li><li>• <b>October 29, 2015 – US no hope to win S.China Sea showdown</b></li><li>• <b>October 29, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference</b></li><li>• <b>October 29, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference</b></li><li>• <b>October 29, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference</b></li><li>• <b>October 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li><li>• <b>October 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b></li><li>• <b>October 30, 2015 – US sea patrols won't challenge China's long-term vision</b></li></ul> |
|--|---|



## Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. Stresses Positive Achievements in Bilateral Relations; China Appreciates U.S. Cooperation in Repatriation of Corrupt Official

### United States

- **October 7, 2015 – New Frontiers for Northeast Asia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “As President Obama has made clear, we welcome China’s peaceful rise—but it matters how it rises. [...] We’ve sought to broaden and deepen our cooperation with China. We’ve encouraged China to contribute more—to take up its share of the regional and global burden commensurate with a rising economic and political power. And when our two nations disagree, we don’t ignore the differences. We work forthrightly and directly to narrow—if not resolve—them. Over the past year, this approach has led to real progress on important issues.”

- **October 14, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We obviously want to have a constructive relationship with China, and we do on many matters. I mean, China was enormously helpful in the Iran deal negotiations and President Xi when he was here signed with President Obama new clean energy and climate goals – all very useful. And we have been able to cooperate and to discuss things like humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and they share a concern about piracy on the high seas, as do we. So there’s lots of areas where we can cooperate diplomatically, economically, and even militarily on occasion.”

- **October 19, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “After all, the United States, like the rest of the world, welcomes a rising China and a China that is ready to assume the obligations and responsibilities that go along with significant economic, political and military strength. And so obviously, whether it’s working with China to limit Iran’s nuclear program, or enlisting China’s influence to try to get North Korea to live up to their international obligations, there are a variety of ways where China has started to use their influence to advance international priorities. And we would welcome the continuation of that trend.”

### China

- **October 9, 2015 – Anti-graft test for the US** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “His (Yang Jinjun’s) repatriation is a sign that important progress has been made in anti-graft cooperation between China and the US, and China has expressed its appreciation of this. The US has become a top destination for corrupt Chinese officials looking to evade arrest by fleeing overseas. It should continue to cooperate with China and honor its commitment in this regard so that China’s global hunt for corrupt officials and economic criminal suspects can be carried out smoothly.”

- **October 9, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce on October 8, 2015** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “The memorandum of understanding on development cooperation and establishment of communication mechanism signed by China and the United States enhances the level of communication and cooperation in the field of international development, adds new contents for Sino-US bilateral relations, and reflects the common aspiration that both countries would like to work together to promote the global development.”



## Issue 2 – Economic Relations: U.S. Works on Selling Merits of Concluded TPP Agreement; China Welcomes TPP if it Contributes to Free Trade in the Region

### United States

• **October 4, 2015 – Summary of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “On October 4, 2015, Ministers of the 12 Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) countries – Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States, and Vietnam – announced conclusion of their negotiations. The result is a high-standard, ambitious, comprehensive, and balanced agreement that will promote economic growth; support the creation and retention of jobs; enhance innovation, productivity and competitiveness; raise living standards; reduce poverty in our countries; and promote transparency, good governance, and enhanced labor and environmental protections. We envision conclusion of this agreement, with its new and high standards for trade and investment in the Asia Pacific, as an important step toward our ultimate goal of open trade and regional integration across the region.”

• **October 5, 2015 – Statement by the President on the Trans-Pacific Partnership** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “Over the summer, Democrats and Republicans in Congress came together to help the United States negotiate agreements for free and fair trade that would support our workers, our businesses, and our economy as a whole. When more than 95 percent of our potential customers live outside our borders, we can’t let countries like China write the rules of the global economy. We should write those rules, opening new markets to American products while setting high standards for protecting workers and preserving our environment.”

• **October 5, 2015 – Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew Statement Regarding The Conclusion of Negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “The Trans-Pacific Partnership is a comprehensive and high-standard agreement that will increase opportunities for American workers and businesses, encourage competition, promote open trade and investment, and lift up our middle class in a rapidly evolving global economy. I applaud Ambassador Froman and our international partners for delivering an agreement that lives up to our ambitions and will deliver more high-quality jobs for Americans, as well as closer economic integration across the TPP region.”

### China

• **October 7, 2015 – Successful global trade agreements require China's participation** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “The TPP is likely to have an impact on China in a short term, but its importance may be overblown. The TPP is only a regional agreement. Each of the 12 countries has a different development level. Although the US said the pact will have new members, the TPP will have limited vitality without the participation of the world's second largest economy. [...] The TPP is not an opportunity China cannot miss. Any global trade framework will not be perfect without China's participation. We have nothing to be insecure about.”

• **October 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: On October 5, trade ministers of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) nations announced a successful conclusion to the TPP negotiation, [...] “set the standards for the 21st century for trade”.

A: The Chinese side is open to regional trade arrangements that are conducive to economic integration in the Asia-Pacific. It is believed that relevant trade arrangements should fall in line with WTO rules, reinforce multilateral trade regimes, promote the Doha round of negotiations and serve the global development agenda. [...] Chinese side stays committed to pressing ahead with the building of the Asia-Pacific free trade area with others from the region so as to create an open economic landscape for the Asia-Pacific and inject new impetus to the sound growth of global economy.

• **October 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Q: What impact does the signing of the TPP agreement sponsored by the US and Japan have on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) that China takes part in?

A: China will continue to work with countries in the region, follow the spirits of mutual trust, inclusiveness, and win-win cooperation, and move forward all forms of free trade arrangements within the region.”



• **October 5, 2015 – Trans-Pacific Partnership Ministers’ Statement** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “We, the trade ministers of Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, United States, and Vietnam, are pleased to announce that we have successfully concluded the Trans-Pacific Partnership. After more than five years of intensive negotiations, we have come to an agreement that will support jobs, drive sustainable growth, foster inclusive development, and promote innovation across the Asia-Pacific region. Most importantly, the agreement achieves the goal we set forth of an ambitious, comprehensive, high standard and balanced agreement that will benefit our nation’s citizens.”

• **October 5, 2015 – Transcript of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Atlanta Ministerial Closing Press Conference** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “TPP brings higher standards to nearly 40 percent of the global economy. In addition to liberalizing trade and investment between us, the agreement addresses the challenges our stakeholders face in the 21st century while taking into account the diversity of our levels of development. We expect this historic agreement to promote economic growth, support higher-paying jobs, enhance innovation, productivity, and competitiveness, raise living standards, reduce poverty in our countries, and to promote transparency, good governance, and strong labor and environmental protections.”

• **October 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “The President has made a quite overt case that if the United States were to scale back our engagement in the Asia Pacific, we risk a scenario where China comes in, lowers standards and writes the rules of the road economically inside of Southeast Asia to put the United States, U.S. businesses and U.S. workers, principally, at a significant disadvantage. And the President has chosen the opposite tack, which is to go and engage throughout the Asia Pacific and to raise standards and write the rules of the road of the economy that levels the playing field for American businesses and American workers. That will have a positive impact on our economy. [...] there’s no denying that this does put pressure on China to raise environmental standards, to raise labor standards, and to incorporate the kind of intellectual property protections that are included in the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement.”

• **October 8, 2015 – Only trade growth will define merits of TPP** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China sincerely hopes the TPP pact and other free trade arrangements in the region can strengthen each other and boost trade, investment and economic growth in the Asia-Pacific, to benefit not just the region but also the rest of the world. [...] However, if the deal is based on the political priority of one partner, rather than the shared benefit of all partners, it would be hard to believe that it can ensure free market trade as it is being touted.”

• **October 8, 2015 – MOFCOM Spokesman comments on the conclusion of TPP negotiations** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) countries released joint statement, announcing the conclusion of the five-year Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement negotiation. The MOFCOM spokesman said that the Agreement is one of the most important FTA in Asia-Pacific region. China holds an open attitude toward the system construction that adapts to the WTO rules and contributes to the Asia-Pacific regional economic integration, and hopes that the Agreement and other free trade arrangements among this region could facilitate each other and jointly contribute to the Asia-Pacific trade, investment and economic development.



• **October 6, 2015 – Cross Post: Remarks by the President on the Trans-Pacific Partnership** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “TPP makes us more competitive by eliminating about 18,000 taxes, tariffs that are placed on America’s products in these other countries. Just to give you a couple examples, Japan puts a 38-percent tax on American beef before it ever reaches market. Malaysia currently puts a 30-percent tax on American auto parts. Vietnam puts a tax of as much as 70 percent on every car American automakers sell in Vietnam. Under this agreement, all those foreign taxes will fall. Most of them will fall to zero. So we are knocking down barriers that are currently preventing American businesses from selling in these countries and are preventing American workers from benefitting from those sales to the fastest-growing, most dynamic region in the world.”

• **October 8, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “You might also say that by completing a TPP agreement, that the actions of the administration are certainly having an impact in protecting our interests around the world, particularly in the Asia Pacific region. And I know that the instinct of China is to feel that way, but the fact is, our policy continues to be -- and this is something the President strongly believes in -- that we welcome a rising China, and that there are responsibilities associated with countries that are rising and looking to expand their influence around the world. One example of that would be not bullying your neighbors just because you happen to be stronger and more influential and have a more advanced military, but that you actually seek to resolve disputes, even when those disputes are relevant to territorial claims. That’s certainly what we have encouraged China and everyone else in the region to do.”

• **October 9, 2015 –Remarks by Treasury Secretary Jacob J.Lew At The IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “Emerging market growth is also slipping, especially in commodity exporters, which I discussed with many countries, including in this hemisphere. Countries that have stronger macroeconomic frameworks are managing this shock well, but even well managed countries are slowing. China’s growth is slowing, and as it continues to manage a transition to a more consumption-oriented economy, it remains critical to implement their economic reform plan. We appreciate President Xi’s recent pledge not to devalue the Renminbi for competitive purposes.”



• **October 9, 2015 – U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman, Sen. Tom Carper, and Sen. Chris Coons Highlight Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement’s Impact on Delaware’s Local Economy and Jobs** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “When approved by Congress and implemented, the agreement will usher in an unprecedented era of trade between countries of the Pacific Rim that represent some 40% of the world’s economy, by reducing tariffs, protecting intellectual property and eliminating non-tariff regulatory burdens. Removing these barriers to trade allows companies like DuPont to bring our innovations and global science to more markets in every corner of the world.”

• **October 10, 2015 – Weekly Address: Writing the Rules for a Global Economy** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Without this agreement (TPP), competitors that don’t share our values, like China, will write the rules of the global economy. They’ll keep selling into our markets and try to lure companies over there; meanwhile they’re going to keep their markets closed to us. That’s what’s been going on for the last 20 years. That’s what’s contributed so much to outsourcing. That’s what has made it easier for them to compete against us. And it needs to change.”

• **October 14, 2015 – U.S. Democracy Support: 2016 and Beyond** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The prospect of the recently completed Trans-Pacific Partnership has encouraged Vietnam to foster a more free and open society. As part of TPP, for instance, Vietnam will allow—for the first time—the creation of independent grassroots trade unions that can bargain collectively, organize, and lead strikes. We have been very clear with our Vietnamese partners that our relationship will grow only as Vietnam’s commitment to human rights does the same.”

• **October 15, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Prolific Chinese Synthetic Drug Traffickers** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated Chinese national Bo Peng (alias Kevin Peng) and the company Kaikai Technology Co., Ltd. (Kaikai) as Specially Designated Narcotics Traffickers pursuant to the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (Kingpin Act) for their significant role in international synthetic drug trafficking. Kaikai, a purported pharmaceutical and chemical products company based in China, is controlled or directed by, or acting for or on behalf of, Bo Peng.”



---

- **October 17, 2015 – U.S. Foreign Policy in a Changing World** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “TPP also matters for reasons far beyond trade. The Asia Pacific includes three of the globe’s four most populous countries and its three largest economies. Going forward, that region is going to have a big say in shaping international rules of the road on the Internet, financial regulation, maritime security, the environment, and many other areas of direct concern to the United States.”

- **October 27, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to the Atlantic Council** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “TPP will promote inclusive development to expand the current order so that its benefits are both greater and broadly shared. TPP’s high standards, including its labor and environmental standards, its provisions on good governance and anti-corruption, will encourage sustainable growth and development in the region, helping to alleviate poverty and promote stability.

- **October 27, 2015 – The Road Ahead for TPP** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “He(President Obama) recognized that America is a Pacific nation, and that the Asia-Pacific region was emerging as the driver of global economic growth. [...] The Trans-Pacific Partnership is the economic component and the crown jewel of the rebalance. [...] It anchors us to a region that is vital to our security and our national well-being. And it is received in the region as a proof point that America will continue to lead; that we are in the Asia-Pacific region to stay.”

---



### Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: U.S. Hopes for China to Abide by Code of Conduct on Cyber Security; China Continues to Deny Involvement in Cyber Raids on U.S. Companies

#### United States

- **October 2, 2015 – U.S. Priorities in East Asia and the Pacific** ([State Department](#))  
 Quote: “On the issue of cyber, as you saw, the Chinese leader made very important commitments, and we have now an expanded mechanism whereby we (US) can pursue those issues and help to ensure by working together that those commitments are fulfilled.”
- **October 6, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary Carter at a Troop Event at Moron Air Base, Spain, October 6, 2015** ([Department of Defense](#))  
 Quote: “And just for those of you who don’t know the background of this, China has been conducting basically raids on intellectual property in the United States, companies and also government databases, for quite some time and we’ve got that very well documented. [...] And my own view is, we’ll have to see whether that changes their conduct or not. And if it doesn’t, then we’ll have to take additional action, so we’ll have to see.”
- **October 19, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))  
 Quote: “Regarding China, regarding cyber security, we’ve been very clear – we continue – we have and will continue to raise our concerns regarding cyber security with China. These efforts have already led to a set of key cyber security initiatives – or commitments, rather, that we announced during the Xi visit – President Xi – which included bilateral commitments that neither government will conduct or knowingly support cyber-enabled economic espionage for commercial gain. And moving forward, we’re going to continue to monitor China’s cyber activities closely and press China to abide by its commitments.”

#### China

- **October 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))  
 Quote: “Q: India and the US kicked off the Malabar naval exercise today and invited Japan to join them. Reports from India say that India and the US are considering turning Japan into a permanent partner in this exercise. Do you have a comment on this exercise? Do you think the drill is aimed at China?”  
  
 A: We don't think all these activities are targeting China. China-US and China-India relations are on a track of sound development. We hope that the development of relations and cooperation between relevant parties can make positive contributions to regional peace and stability.”
- **October 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))  
 Quote: “Q: It is reported that the Chinese side arrested in accordance with information offered by the US some hackers suspected of cyber espionage. [...] If it is true, is that an example of cyber security cooperation between China and the US, or is that just a quick fix to hold back US sanctions against China?”  
  
 A: The Chinese government holds a clear-cut and consistent position on opposing cyber attacks and espionage and combating all forms of hacking activities in accordance with the law [...] During President Xi Jinping's visit to the US, the two sides had thorough discussions and reached important consensus on the issue of cyber security. We hope that the two sides would work in concert to implement the consensus and make the issue of cyber security a new point of cooperation between China and the US instead of a source of friction.”



• **October 19, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Q: There are reports that hackers associated with the Chinese government have tried to hack at least seven U.S. companies in the past three weeks. And I'm wondering what the awareness is at the White House about this issue, and whether this breaks the agreement that President Obama and President Xi made during his visit.

A: I don't have a specific comment on the conclusions that were reached by this private sector organization. [...] President Obama made clear that the United States would judge China not based on its words, not based on any verbal commitments, but based on its actions. And so you can rest assured that the relevant agencies in the United States government are closely monitoring China's actions in this regard. This is obviously a priority, and it's something that the United States government follows closely.”

• **October 23, 2015 – Remarks at the 70th UN General Assembly First Committee Thematic Discussion on Outer Space, Disarmament Aspects** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “In considering options for international cooperation to ensure space security and sustainability, some nations would prefer to pursue a new legally binding arms control agreement, such as the June 2014 draft “Treaty on the Prevention of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space, the Threat or Use of Force against Outer Space Objects,” or PPWT, offered by Russia and China at the CD. The United States continues to believe that the PPWT is a fundamentally flawed document and cannot form the basis for negotiations in Geneva. We have provided our views on the draft PPWT many times and so will not repeat them here.”

• **October 29, 2015 –Remarks on Receiving the Woodrow Wilson Award** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “We're also staying vigilant in other domains. Even as the United States and China recently agreed to work together with other nations to promote international rules of the road for appropriate conduct in cyberspace, the Defense Department will continue to defend our networks. That's our most important cyber-mission.”

• **October 15, 2015 – Statement by Mr. Li Yongsheng on Measures to eradicate international terrorism at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly** ([Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN](#))

Quote: “The Chinese government attaches great importance to cooperation with the international community in the fight against terrorism. To this end, it has constantly sought to improve institutionalized exchanges and cooperation with countries and international organizations concerned in areas of investigation of terrorism-related cases, intelligence and information exchange and personnel training. [...] As recent as last month, China and the United States successfully held a seminar on Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), which issued a joint statement on the two countries' effort to address the threat of IEDs.”

• **October 19, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Hackers associated with the Chinese government have attacked at least seven US companies in the past three weeks, according to the US Cyber security firm CrowdStrike. What is China's comment?

A: The Chinese government will neither encourage companies to carry out cyber theft for commercial secrets, nor take part in such activities. It is hoped that relevant parties can uphold the spirit of mutual respect and mutual trust, and have more dialogue and cooperation in the field of cyber security in a constructive manner.”

• **October 21, 2015 – Aircraft carrier Liaoning tour by US navy demonstrates China's sincerity** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “A delegation of US navy officers visited the Liaoning, China's first aircraft carrier, on Monday. The tour is part of an annual exchange program between the Chinese and US navies. Amid the simmering South China Sea disputes, the US tour to the Liaoning sent a positive signal as it displays both sides' willingness for more military changes [...] The tour to the Liaoning by the US delegation is a good step which displays China's sincerity in military exchanges with the US and China's military confidence.”



## Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Calls for Release of Political Prisoners in China; China Blasts U.S. Government for Ignorance Regarding Human Rights Situation in China

### United States

• **October 14, 2015– Remarks at the Rollout of the 2014 Report on International Religious Freedom** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “In that connection, I (Secretary Kerry) urge the release of men and women detained or imprisoned anywhere in the world for the peaceful expression and practice of their religious beliefs. This includes Mr. Zhang Kai, a Chinese Christian human rights lawyer who was detained in late August just prior to a scheduled meeting with Ambassador Saperstein, and whose present whereabouts are unknown.”

• **October 14, 2015 – Remarks at the Fortune Most Powerful Women Summit** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “China was convening at the UN a celebration of Beijing +20, but at the same time that they were hosting, President Xi was hosting this huge kind of a little bit of a backslapping event, China and many countries around the world were locking up women – bloggers and lawyers and people protesting sexual harassment or people protesting poor child safety or whatever on products – and nobody really in diplomatic circles was necessarily going to note that at this celebration of 20 years since Beijing.”

• **October 29, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Well, while this recent policy change (eliminating the one child policy in China) does represent a positive step, we also look forward to the day when birth limits are abandoned altogether. The United States and our work around the world continues to oppose coercive birth limitation policies, including things like forced abortion and sterilization. So this would fall in the category of policies that are directly related to universal human rights, and the kind of human rights that the President of the United States and that this government advocates for around the world, including in our dealings with China.”

### China

• **October 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China released its 2015 report on human rights, criticizing human rights and the rule of law in China. What is China's comment?”

A: More than 1.3 billion people in China are in the best position to talk about China's human rights situation. It is hoped that you can travel more and have more talks with the Chinese public, and tell the true situation in China to the congressmen, officials and people in the US so that they can have an objective and fair understanding of China.”

• **October 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The US Congressional-Executive Commission on China released its 2015 report on human rights, saying that the unsettling deterioration of China's human rights and rule of law will have an impact on the national interests of the US and US-China relations. What is China's comment?”

A: What is really unsettling is the prejudice and ignorance held by some people in the US against China. [...] We would like to have equal-footed communication and exchanges with the US based on mutual respect, help them develop a better understanding of China and promote China-US relations.”

• **October 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese government protects citizens' freedom of religious belief and all kinds of normal religious activities in accordance with the law. [...] We urge the American side to discard political prejudice, respect the facts, stop issuing such kind of report and desist from interfering in China's domestic affairs under the pretext of religion. [...] Separatism, extremism and terrorism pose threat to national security and social stability of all countries as well as safety of people's life and property. The Chinese government cracks down on the “three evil forces” because it is what needs to be done to uphold national sovereignty, security and social stability, as well as regional peace and stability.”



• **October 30, 2015 – Remarks at the 70th UN General Assembly Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural) Item 72 (b) and (c): Promotion and Protection of Human Rights** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “The Chinese government has arbitrarily detained nearly 300 lawyers and activists since July without filing charges or holding a trial; we call for the immediate release of more than 20 such people who remain in custody, as well as Ilham Tohti, Khenpo Kartse, Zhang Kai, Pu Zhiqiang, Gao Yu, and Liu Xiaobo. The National Security Law codifies an expansive and vague definition of “national security” that is inconsistent with the principle of legality and invites arbitrary and situational interpretation by security forces. The Draft Foreign NGO Management Law would unreasonably constrict civil society and undermine people-to-people exchange. We urge China to respect religious freedom and to cease undue restrictions on religious practices in Tibet and Xinjiang and stop church demolitions and cross removals in Zhejiang.”

• **October 21, 2015 – Statement by Counsellor Shaojun Yao at the Third Committee's Dialogue with the High Commissioner on Human Rights** ([Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN](#))

Quote: “In promoting the cause of human rights at the international level, the OHCHR should always adhere to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respect the sovereignty of member states and refrain from interfering in their internal affairs. It must not regard itself as a prosecutor or judge when it comes to the human rights situation of specific countries, but should, on the basis of prior consultation with the countries concerned, address the relevant questions in a prudent, objective and appropriate manner through dialogue and cooperation.”



## Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. Continues to Search for Support on Climate Change Policy Ahead of Paris Talks

### United States

• **October 8, 2015– Remarks With UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change Michael Bloomberg at Our Cities, Our Climate: A Bloomberg Philanthropies-U.S. Department of State Partnership Working Luncheon** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States and China – two of the world’s largest emitters, number one and number two – we used to be number one; now we’re number two. China has surpassed us. And we fully understand this, which is why, in the early days of my stewardship here at the Department, I went to China and we began the process of changing our relationship, and President Obama ultimately was able to negotiate an agreement with China geared specifically to bring the less developed world to the table. And that’s what we’re doing, so that we hopefully head into Paris in December able to achieve a global agreement that can help to send a signal to the marketplace that the world is serious.”

• **October 8, 2015– Interview With Chuck Todd of MSNBC Meet the Press Daily** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I mean, China just stood up with the President of the United States in the Rose Garden and announced they are going to introduce a cap and trade program in China. They are committing to reductions. We’ve increased our solar production in this country twentyfold. We’ve increased the electricity that comes from wind by threefold. We’re moving in that direction. And the faster we move and take the lead, the faster our economy will be the lead technology and the lead job creator.”

• **October 8, 2015– All Climate Change Is Local** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The unprecedented degree of climate cooperation taking place between countries like the U.S. and China is encouraging -- but partnerships like the joint sustainability push Los Angeles and Shenzhen announced last month are also critical in achieving the outcome we seek.”

### China

• **October 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: A Chinese woman was reportedly charged in a Tanzanian court with trafficking in ivory. Earlier reports said that another Chinese female was tried in the same court for ivory smuggling. Can you confirm that? What is China's comment on Chinese citizens' alleged involvement in ivory smuggling in Africa?”

A: I am not aware of the two specific cases you mentioned. [...] The Chinese government holds a clear-cut position on the relevant issue. It is the shared responsibility of countries around the world to protect endangered wild species including elephants and crack down on poaching as well as related illegal trafficking. International cooperation is required in this regard. [...] Together with other countries, we will continue to contribute to the efforts to protect endangered wild species and contain illegal trade.”

• **October 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: It is learnt that the 2015 Arctic Circle Assembly will soon be held in Iceland. Will the Chinese side send a delegation to the assembly?”

A: The 2015 Arctic Circle Assembly will be held on October 16-18 in Reykjavik, Iceland. [...] Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Ming will make a keynote speech at the country session as head of the Chinese delegation, elaborating China's activities and stance in the Arctic. Chinese experts will talk about China's practices in Arctic scientific research, shipping, oil and gas exploration and Arctic-related study on climate change at the country session. The Chinese delegation will also present the photo exhibition “China and the Arctic” on the sidelines of the assembly.”



• **October 13, 2015– Conversation With Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Professor Graham Allison** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "It (agreement with China on national reductions in emissions) resulted in our getting an agreement in Lima, Peru this year – this last year that has empowered us to go into Paris with some momentum, and China is working with us – genuinely committed and working with us in this effort."

• **October 15, 2015– Remarks at Indiana University's School of Global and International Studies** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "It (US and Chinese agreement on setting greenhouse gas emissions targets) was a dramatic moment of transformation, where China and the United States joined together, and it took away the excuse from less-developed countries. And the symbolic breakthrough of this coordination was bigger than many of us maybe even anticipated. Since then, every major economy in the world and 150 nations have come forward with their own set of targets or, in the case of India, unveiled a plan to make massive new investments in alternative energy."

• **October 29, 2015– Paris Climate Conference is a Rare Opportunity - Grab It** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "President Barack Obama has taken ambitious steps to curb our own emissions; his target is that by 2025, U.S. greenhouse gas emissions will be 26-28 per cent lower than they were 20 years earlier. As secretary of state, I (John Kerry) have made climate action a diplomatic priority, engaging directly with the world's largest emitters. The joint announcements the U.S. has made with China, Mexico, Brazil and others have generated critical momentum."



## Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Reaffirms Strong Ties with Australia, Working with Japan on New Military Base; China Participates in Trilateral Meeting with ROK and Japan

### United States

- **October 13, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I can say that both the U.S. and the Japanese Government remain committed to implementing the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to Camp Schwab on Henoko Bay. [...] it’s – this construction of the Futenma Replacement Facility at Camp Schwab is a meaningful result of many, many years of sustained work between the U.S. and Japan. It’s a critical step towards realizing our shared vision for the realignment of U.S. forces on Okinawa.”

- **October 13, 2015 – 2015 Australia-United States Ministerial (AUSMIN) Joint Statement** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Both countries(Australia-United States) reaffirmed the importance of a constructive relationship with China through dialogue, cooperation, and economic engagement. They discussed the strength of their bilateral security relationships with Japan, and commitment to enhancing trilateral cooperation, including through the Trilateral Strategic Dialogue (TSD). They reaffirmed their intent to work with the Republic of Korea to support global and regional growth and stability, and to address security challenges in the region, including on the Korean Peninsula.”

- **October 26, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to the U.S.-Indonesia Investment Summit** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “Indonesia’s attraction is undeniable, but at the same time, it is true that foreign companies, including U.S. firms, have had serious concerns about the investment environment in recent years. To realize the full potential of our economic partnership, we need to be frank and address those concerns. Creating a better business environment in Indonesia will require hard work. It will require improvements in the regulatory regime and more legal certainty. It will require maintaining policy stability and eliminating the complex web of approvals and red tape. And it will require addressing various localization barriers, including local content, local manufacturing, and local packaging requirements. Eliminating import and export restrictions, protecting intellectual property rights, and maintaining an open services market are also keys.”

### China

- **October 9, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “At present, the relevant railway in China and Laos are under active preparation for construction; after the China-Thailand railway is completed and connected with the said railway, it will facilitate the linkage of channels in the entire Trans-Asian Railway, form a big channel for personal rapid transit and large capacity logistics transportation that runs through the Great Mekong Sub-region, and play a driving role in propelling the construction of “One Belt and One Road” between China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), improving transportation conditions between China and Laos, Thailand and other ASEAN countries, gradually building a safe and smooth rail transport network between China and ASEAN, and deepening the cooperation of countries along the line in economic and trade, industry, energy and resources, and so forth.”

- **October 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “According to the annual plan of exchanges, Chinese and Indian armies are having a joint counter-terrorism exercise in Kunming, Yunan in October under the name of “Hand in Hand 2015”, which is the 5th round of exercise between the two armies. [...] We stand ready to continue to strengthen communication and cooperation with the Indian side in the field of national defense, and instill positive energy to the sound and stable development of China-India relations.”

- **October 12, 2015 – Sino-Indian military drill unfairly targeted** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “The Indo-China Combined Military Training Exercise “Hand-in-Hand 2015” kicks off Monday in Kunming, Yunnan Province. In order to match Chinese troops’ combat skills, officers and soldiers from elite Indian forces are drafted into the exercise. [...] as representatives of emerging economies and members of the BRICS countries, both Beijing and New Delhi should boost their cooperation while improving themselves, in order to jointly create an Asian century, make breakthroughs in the current financial order, and forge a new global economic order that is more in line with emerging markets’ interests.”



• **October 27, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q : South Korea and Japan and China will hold trilateral summit talks next week. What is the United States view of these three lateral summit talks?”

A : We welcome conversations and opportunities for nations, those three in particular, to get together and discuss security issues. So, I mean, we’re very supportive of this, but obviously the goals and agenda is for those three nations to speak to. But we continue to believe that strong and constructive relations between all of those states will eventually and could support – should support – regional peace and prosperity.”

• **October 15, 2015 – Talks help to warm up Sino-Japanese ties** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and visiting Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi in Tokyo on Wednesday signals both countries are making efforts to ease tensions and melt the ice in their bilateral ties [...] During their meeting, they agreed to continue to use the high-level dialogue to improve their relations. There has been a lot of talk as well about the possible resumption of the trilateral talks between the leaders of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea [...] All these positive signs show the possibility of a sustained thaw in Sino-Japanese ties. Especially because economic ties and people-to-people exchanges have remained vibrant, despite their disputes over the Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea and the historical issues that have strained political ties. So there is still a solid foundation for relations between the two neighbors.”

• **October 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on October 15, 2015** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Japan's storage of an excessive amount of sensitive nuclear materials and the associated safety risks such as nuclear proliferation have long been the concern of the international community. These academic reports (in China and the U.S.) have shown that there are a lot of solutions to the issue of Japan's nuclear materials. We hope that the Japanese side will responsibly address the international community's concerns with concrete actions.”

• **October 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on October 16, 2015** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Defense ministers of China and ASEAN countries had an informal meeting today in Beijing. [...] Chang Wangquan (State Councilor and Defense Minister) put forward a five-point proposal on promoting China-ASEAN defense security cooperation under the theme of entering the China-ASEAN community of shared destiny and enhancing defense security cooperation. First, joint efforts shall be made to stick to the general direction of cooperation [...] Second, joint efforts shall be made to safeguard regional security and stability [...] Third, joint efforts shall be made to advance the building of security mechanism and push forward the building of an open, inclusive, transparent and equal framework of regional security cooperation. Fourth, joint efforts shall be made to deepen practical cooperation [...] Fifth, joint efforts shall be made to properly address disputes and manage risks. The Chinese side and ASEAN countries will hold a joint training on the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea as well as a joint exercise for maritime search and disaster relief in 2016 in the South China Sea.”



• **October 22, 2015 – Japan’s huge stockpiles of plutonium pose risks** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “China is justified in raising concerns over Japan’s excessive accumulation of sensitive nuclear materials and its imbalance in the supply and demand of nuclear materials. And the international community has good reason to ask how the island country is going to use its huge stockpile of plutonium. [...] Given Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is leading Japan along an ultra-rightist road and constantly challenging the post-war international order, there is no guarantee that Japan will never use its massive plutonium stockpile for more dangerous purposes.”

• **October 26, 2015 – Trilateral summit needed for regional cooperation** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “ The resumption of trilateral talks between China, Japan and the Republic of Korea marks a significant step forward in East Asia cooperation and is another sign of the thaw in ties between Beijing and Tokyo [...] The upcoming trilateral talks are a golden opportunity to break the deadlock in trilateral cooperation and promote trilateral interaction, which is essential for the countries’ own economic growth and that of the region at large [...] For the sake of Japan’s own economic development, as well as the larger picture of peace and development in the region, it should shore up a shared belief in controlling and tackling the divisive issues related to history. It is to be hoped that Japan, in particular, will refrain from making any reckless move at this stage as it would easily squander what has been painstakingly achieved by the three nations in ushering in signs of reconciliation.”

• **October 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference on October 26, 2015** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China, Japan and the ROK are major economies in East Asia and important Asian countries. Trilateral cooperation between China, Japan and the ROK is part and parcel of East Asian cooperation and the major driving force for regional cooperation, delivering tangible benefits to people from the three countries. Trilateral cooperation over recent years has encountered some obstacles because of reasons known to all. [...] We hope that all parties will properly handle sensitive issues including the issue of history in the spirit of facing squarely the history and looking into the future, so as to ensure the sound and steady growth of trilateral cooperation and bring benefits to the three countries and people of the region.”



---

• **October 27, 2015 – China-Japan-ROK meeting resumption reflects Beijing's neighborhood commitment** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Facing the complicated international situation and the weak recovery of the world economy, strengthening trilateral cooperation, maintaining regional peace and stability, and powering the economic development of Asia and the world is very important," said Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin [...] This meeting follows thawing relations between China and Japan, and closer ties between China and the ROK."

---



**Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: U.S. Hosts ROK President Park Geun-hye; China Welcomes Development of U.S.-ROK Relations****United States**

- **October 6, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary Carter at a Troop Event at Moron Air Base, Spain, October 6, 2015**

([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “You know, first of all, this (Kim Jong-Un) is someone whom we need to watch very closely, because his behavior like that of his father can be quite provocative and quite erratic [...] Now, you ask about their connection with the Russians and a little story that goes with that. The longest supporters of North Korea were actually China, but it looks to me like the Chinese have gotten fed up with them, which is not hard to imagine, and so they're looking for others friends. They used to have a friend in the Soviet Union long ago and I think they'd like to recreate that. So that probably explains why he's talking to Vladimir Putin, but I think the main thing that has happened in the last year is that China has recognized that North Korea is a ball and chain for China and that supporting North Korea is an embarrassment for them, and North Korea constantly does things that could right on China's border that could be destabilizing and they've gotten tired of it.”

- **October 6, 2015 – Remarks With First Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yong at ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The statements that North Korea has made about the possibility of a missile test in violation of the UN Security Council resolutions, [...] it's very clear that there will be strong actions taken by the international community [...] We are united with the United States and South Korea, but also, I believe, with Japan. We've had conversations with Russia and with China and all feel strongly that not only should North Korea not take this step, but it must return to meaningful efforts at denuclearization.”

- **October 7, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Obviously, the United States values the strong alliance that we have with South Korea. And we've been able to work effectively with other countries in the region -- including China, by the way -- to encourage North Korea to live up to their international obligations. Unfortunately, we haven't seen the kind of cooperation instructive -- cooperation that we'd like to see from the North Koreans. But we continue to stand strong and shoulder-to- shoulder with our close allies in South Korea [...] I certainly wouldn't rule out a continuation of those (Six-Party) talks. But we have not seen the kind of willingness on the part of the North Koreans to engage in those discussions constructively.”

**China**

- **October 19, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side is committed to forging a new type of international relations with win-win cooperation at its core [...] The Chinese side welcomes the development of US-ROK relations and hopes that such development can help maintain regional peace and stability. [...] Chinese side welcomes the development of ROK-Japan relations and hopes that such development can help maintain regional peace and stability and help the relevant country stay on the track of peaceful development.”



• **October 7, 2015 – New Frontiers for Northeast Asia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Our alliance with South Korea is at the core of this rebalance. It was forged in the shared sacrifice of war more than 60 years ago. Today, our commitment to a secure, stable, and prosperous Korean Peninsula continues to animate the alliance. We can take great pride in our work to strengthen its pillars. We’ve strengthened our shared prosperity with a high-standard free trade agreement that will spur growth both in South Korea and the United States. We’ve strengthened our shared security by modernizing key defense agreements.”

• **October 8, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q : North Korea demands on the peace treaty with United States, recently they explained all this. How did you response on this?

A : Look, the onus is on North Korea to come to the table and resume Six-Party Talks. They have not expressed a willingness to do that. We’re still committed to that framework and that process.”

• **October 13, 2015– Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “And let me be clear – the United States remains committed to the verifiable and peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. And we are absolutely committed as well to the defense of our allies, the Republic of Korea, and Japan.”

• **October 14, 2015 – Preview of the visit of Republic of Korea President Park Geun-hye** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “[...] the United States has long supported the improvement in relations between Seoul and Beijing. [...] But today in the 21st century and 2015, it’s more important than ever that not only for economic reasons but for strategic reasons as well the Republic of Korea and the People’s Republic of China have a robust relationship and dialogue. The Republic of Korea is a friend and an ally of the United States. We have no qualms, we have no trepidation about more contact and more high-level dialogue between our ally and friend and an important neighbor, and frankly, an important regional actor: China. ”



• **October 14, 2015 – Preview of the visit of Republic of Korea President Park Geun-hye** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We’ve long welcomed and recognized the important role that China plays in the Six-Party Talks process. We’ve long called on China to use its influence vis-a-vis North Korea to encourage North Korea to return to a path of denuclearization, and I anticipate that that will be a topic of conversations as well. [...] And President Xi stated that China remains committed to the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. And so that will be our expectation of China going forward.”

• **October 16, 2015 –Remarks by President Obama and President Park of the Republic of Korea in Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “In recent years, President Park and I have worked together to strengthen our alliance for the future, and today I want to reaffirm that the commitment of the United States to the defense and security of the Republic of Korea will never waver. Our alliance remains a linchpin of peace and security -- not just on the Korean Peninsula, but across the region. And so South Korea plays a central role in America’s rebalance to the Asia Pacific. And we continued that work today.”

• **October 16, 2015 – Joint Fact Sheet: The United States-Republic of Korea Alliance: Shared Values, New Frontiers** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “Washington and Seoul are working together to manage a range of complex issues on the Peninsula, in the region, and around the world. Over the past year we have deterred and defended against the North Korean threat, rallied the international community to condemn North Korean human rights violations, negotiated a state-of-the-art civil nuclear agreement, delivered humanitarian assistance to those in dire need, conducted anti-piracy maritime operations, and fought against the threat of Ebola and the menace of ISIL. We have worked to enhance economic ties and implement our bilateral U.S.-ROK Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA). Taken together, it is clear why the U.S.-ROK relationship enjoys deep and broad support among both the American and Korean people. Our partnership, which is based on mutual respect and common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, has never been stronger.”



• **October 16, 2015 – 2015 United States-Republic of Korea Joint Statement on North Korea** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The United States-Republic of Korea alliance remains committed to countering the threat to peace and security posed by North Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs as well as other provocations. We will maintain our robust deterrence posture and continue to modernize our alliance and enhance our close collaboration to better respond to all forms of North Korean provocations [...] The United States and the Republic of Korea maintain no hostile policy towards North Korea and remain open to dialogue with North Korea to achieve our shared goal of denuclearization [...] The United States appreciates President Park’s tireless efforts to improve inter-Korean relations, including through repeated overtures to North Korea, and welcomes President Park’s principled approach that resulted in a peaceful resolution of the August tensions [...] The Republic of Korea and the United States join the international community in condemning the deplorable human rights situation in North Korea as documented in the 2014 UN Commission of Inquiry report. We look forward to supporting the work of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (Seoul).”

• **October 20, 2015 – U.S. Policy on North Korean Human Rights** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “One of the most important steps we have taken to date is supporting the creation of a field office under the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights to strengthen monitoring and documentation of the human rights situation in the D.P.R.K. and to support the work of the UN Special Rapporteur on D.P.R.K. human rights issues. [...] We welcome the decision to open this office, which will play an important role in maintaining visibility and encouraging action on human rights in the D.P.R.K..”

• **October 20, 2015 – Assessing the North Korea Threat and U.S. Policy** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “As we maintain the strongest possible deterrence capabilities, we have also increased the costs to the D.P.R.K. of its destructive policy choices by applying sustained pressure on the regime, both multilaterally and unilaterally. [...] Our financial sanctions are always more effective when supported by our partners, and so we’ve also focused on strengthening multilateral sanctions against North Korea. [...] Equally important is North Korea’s political isolation, driven by the overwhelming international consensus that North Korea cannot fully participate in the international community until it abides by its obligations and commitments.”



## Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S. Pushes Russia to Engage ISIL in Syria, Continues to Push Forward with the Iranian Nuclear Deal; China Offers Assistance for Countries Dealing with Refugee Crisis, Supports Russian Efforts in Syria

### United States

• **October 2, 2015 – Interview With Bahman Kalbasi of BBC Persia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Where you need to resolve a war, there’s always a way for people to find a way to weigh in and have their impact felt. But the Saudis are supporting the moderate opposition. Everybody has been very strict about where that support is coming from and going now. And we are opposed to Nusrah, we’re opposed to these other groups. There is only one group that we feel is appropriate to have at the table, and that is the legitimate Syrian opposition represented through the SOC and through the Free Syrian Army.”

• **October 2, 2015 – Interview With Bahman Kalbasi of BBC Persia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We are not seeking any bases in Syria – evidently, Russia, may be. We are not seeking to have our foreign troops in Syria, but others are. There is IRGC there, Hizballah is there, and that is extremely dangerous with respect to the boil of sectarian, religious extremism that is threatening to create even a wider and more dangerous conflict.”

• **October 2, 2015 – Interview With Amaro Gomez-Pablos of Television Nacional de Chile** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We are the largest resettlement country in the world. We take more refugees each year for resettlement than any other country in the world. What Germany has done is taken a group of refugees for the time being and offered them safety and shelter. Now, will they all be resettled there? I don’t know the answer to that yet. Will some of them go back to Syria? That’s very possible. So in the emergency moment, Germany deserves enormous praise for having stepped up in a remarkable way because it’s on the front line of this wave.”

• **October 2, 2015 – Interview With Abderrahim Foqaraa of Al Jazeera Arabic** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Is Russia’s presence automatically a threat? No; not if it chooses to be part of the fight against Daesh, but also part of a legitimate effort to have a transition and to bring about peace in Syria. That’s what we want – peace in Syria. And we’d like to see proof from Russia and the Iranians that they’re genuinely ready to move to the Geneva process which calls for a transition in Syria.”

### China

• **October 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “We (China) urge Israel and Palestine to exercise maximum restraint, take concrete actions to avoid the flareup of conflicts and more casualties. The Chinese side also believes that peace talks remain the only way out of conflicts and calls on Israel and Palestine to rebuild mutual trust and restart peace talks at an early date.”

• **October 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “We have noted that the relevant military action, as the Russian side put it, is taken at the request of the Syrian government with the purpose of combating terrorist and extremist forces inside Syria. [...] The Chinese side always believes that a political resolution is the fundamental way out of the Syrian crisis.”

• **October 8, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador WANG Qun, Director-General of the Arms Control Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, at the General Debate of the First Committee of the 70th Session of the UNGA** ([Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN](#))

Quote: “As a victim of chemical weapons and a state party to Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) with the largest amount of declared chemical facilities, China has faithfully implemented its obligations under the CWC, and made its best in the provision of assistance, through international cooperation, to other state parties for enhancement of the latter’s the compliance capacity. China has provided experts and facilities for the verification of destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons and taken part in the joint shipments escorting of Syria’s chemical weapons and made its due contribution in facilitating the destruction of Syria’s chemical weapons. As a state member to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), China has submitted timely CBM declaration materials, continued to improve its national compliance mechanism, and actively conducted international exchanges and cooperation in the biological field.”



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

Quote: “We have great respect for the Iraqi Kurds in the fight that they’re waging against ISIL in Iraq. Our position on Russian airstrikes, I think, has been made painfully clear over the last four or five days since the very first airstrikes were carried out. We said many times that we would welcome a constructive role for Russia if it takes the fight to ISIL. Thus far, we’ve not seen that that’s the case. We’ve seen no indication that they’re actually hitting ISIL targets – ISIL targets.”

• **October 6, 2015 – Joint Press Availability With Haitian President Michel Martelly** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “What we have said and I repeat again, that if Russia’s intent is to focus more on shoring up Assad and his regime, rather than legitimately narrowing the focus to ISIL and its affiliates, that will make it impossible to find the political solution that they say they want because it will inevitably wind up attracting more jihadis and creating more destruction, more refugees, more division within Syria itself.”

• **October 6, 2015 – Africa: Decisive Moment for Democracy** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “There is no question that this is a decisive moment for democracy in Africa. Later this month, four countries – Guinea, Tanzania, Côte d’Ivoire, and the Central African Republic – are scheduled to hold presidential elections, and soon after we hope to see elections in Burkina Faso. People across Africa must seize this opportunity to make their voices heard; and leaders across the continent must listen.”

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

Quote: “We were concerned from the outset that these airstrikes are being carried out against moderate Syrian opposition – the very opposition that we’ve been supporting, who have been waging now a four-year valiant fight against Assad. And again, let’s widen the lens here. Let’s get back to where we find agreement with Russia on several areas when it comes to Syria. We agree ISIL needs to be defeated, needs to be destroyed; it’s a threat to the region, it’s a threat to Russia, it’s a threat to the United States, it’s a threat to the West.”

• **October 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Cooperation between China and Pakistan in the field of civil nuclear energy is totally for peaceful purposes and is in line with their respective international obligations.”

• **October 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “We believe that the international community should forge a synergy in fighting against terrorism and safeguarding security of countries concerned as well as regional peace and stability. It is our long-standing position that political settlement is the fundamental way out of the Syrian issue [...] We urge Israel and Palestine to exercise maximum restraint, take concrete actions to avoid the flareup of conflicts and more casualties. The Chinese side also believes that peace talks remain the only way out of conflicts and calls on Israel and Palestine to rebuild mutual trust and restart peace talks at an early date.”

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

Quote: “The Chinese government is always prudent and responsible on the issue of arms trade [...] The normal cooperation between the two sides (China and Pakistan) in the field of military industry and trade is in line with their respective international commitment.”

• **October 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The motion titled “Iran’s Plan for Reciprocal and Proper Action in Implementing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action” was deliberated and adopted by Iran’s parliament on October 13 and will be submitted to the Guardian Council of the Constitution within this week. What is China’s comment on that?”

A: [...] The approval of the relevant motion by Iran’s parliament marks an important step taken by the Iranian side to validate and enforce the agreement. The Chinese side appreciates that. Going forward, we hope that all parties will continue to build mutual trust, follow through on their commitment in a comprehensive and balanced manner and make sure that the agreement will be put into effect as scheduled.”



• **October 6, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “General Campbell did indicate that the strike in the hospital (in Kunduz) was a mistake. And there still is more that needs to be learned, however, about how exactly this happened. The President has called for the kind of investigations that will yield a full accounting of what transpired. There is already underway an investigation that’s being conducted by the \*Justice [Defense] Department. There are also investigations that are ongoing that are being led by NATO and a separate third investigation that is a joint investigation that’s being carried out both by the United States and Afghan officials [...] And I say all of that to make clear to you and to people around the world that this is something that the United States takes quite seriously. In fact, the Department of Defense goes to greater lengths than any other military organization in the world to prevent civilian casualties. And that is what leads General Campbell to conclude that this was a mistake.”

• **October 8, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Syria’s a neighbor, Iran is a neighbor. Iran has interests in Iraq. And our message to all those countries that are involved or want to play a role inside Iraq, whether they’re next door or somewhere else, the message is the same: If you’re going to act unilaterally or bilaterally and not part of a coalition – the coalition – then we want you to do it in a way that doesn’t further inflame sectarian tensions and make the situation worse inside Iraq.”

• **October 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “This final text comes after months of tireless negotiations by courageous Libyans, and it is an important step in restoring peace and stability to Libya through the establishment of a government that will unify the country. [...] Libya continues to face many challenges, and we urge the house of representatives and the general national congress to immediately and conclusively endorse the final framework text and the senior Government of National Accord leaders. We encourage all Libyans to come together and support the formation of the unified government the country needs.”

• **October 14, 2015 – Sensible strategic move by Russia to give Assad support** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Russia’s direct military involvement in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria could have a far-reaching impact on both international anti-terror efforts in the Middle East and the political terrain in the region. [...] To some extent, persistent US support to arming moderate opposition forces in the Middle East and its half-heartedness in fighting the IS group have aggravated Russia’s security outlook and reduced the strategic space of its allies in the region.”

• **October 15, 2015 – Statement by Mr. Li Yongsheng on Measures to eradicate international terrorism at the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly** ([Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the UN](#))

Quote: “China is a victim of terrorism. In July this year, the Chinese Embassy in Somalia suffered a terrorist attack, resulting in one death and three injured. Apart from incidents like this, China faces the perennial threat posed by “the East Turkistan” terrorist forces headed by “the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement”. In recent years, this group has grown in strength and stepped up its efforts to gang up with international terrorist forces to incite violent extremist terrorists inside China to go to the Middle East for training. Some of them have either secretly returned to China or gone to other countries and regions, posing a threat to the security of China and other countries. The Chinese government has taken multifaceted measures to deal with this problem. [...] In so doing, China has made its contribution to the international counter-terrorism cause.”

• **October 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference on October 15, 2015** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The issue of refugees faced by Europe and the Mediterranean has drawn extensive public attention. The UN Security Council has recently adopted a resolution on illegal immigration taking place on the Mediterranean Sea. Is China planning to take actions to help relevant countries resolve this issue?

A: Yesterday, when talking with Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović, President Xi Jinping said that the Chinese side follows closely the issue of refugees, sympathizes with the plight of the refugees, commends efforts made by all relevant European countries including Croatia to relocate the refugees and stands ready to offer another batch of assistance to refugees of relevant countries so as to help mitigate the humanitarian crisis. Vice Foreign Minister Wang Chao briefed journalists from home and abroad about China’s humanitarian assistance to relevant countries when asked about the issue of refugees.”



• **October 9, 2015 – Press Call on the Counter-ISIL Campaign** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Generally speaking, as we've looked at the situation in Iraq and then particularly in Syria, we've been pursuing an effort that aimed to counter ISIL and degrade its safe havens and dislodge it from areas where it has established itself. At the same time, in Syria, we have made clear that we continue to believe that only a political resolution can bring lasting stability and ultimately create the conditions for the defeat of ISIL. And we've been working with international partners, of course, to provide a significant amount of humanitarian support to the Syrian people, including those who have been harmed and displaced by the ongoing conflict [...] Over the last several months, we have made progress in degrading ISIL in both Iraq and in Syria. [...] Clearly, we have had significant challenges associated with our training-and-equip program related to the counter ISIL mission, and we have been looking at ways to address those deficiencies. At the same time, we have seen opportunities emerge where we've been able to equip forces fighting ISIL on the ground in Syria and seen them make significant gains, particularly in northeastern Syria.”

• **October 10, 2015 – Statement by the NSC Spokesperson Ned Price on Today's Terrorist Attack in Ankara, Turkey** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The United States condemns in the strongest terms today's horrific terrorist attack in Ankara, Turkey. The fact that this attack occurred ahead of a planned rally for peace underscores the depravity of those behind it and serves as another reminder of the need to confront shared security challenges in the region.”

• **October 13, 2015 – Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Before I begin, I just want to say a quick word, if I may, about the situation in Israel and the West Bank. The United States condemns, in the strongest terms possible, the terrorist attacks against Israeli civilians. And they have resulted in the murder now of three Israelis and left numerous others wounded, and this is on top of violence that has gone back and forth over a number of weeks now.”

• **October 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: US President Barack Obama said in a speech on October 15 that given the changes to conditions in Afghanistan, the US would maintain the current force of 9,800 troops in Afghanistan through most of next year, and then draw down to 5,500 troops after 2016. What is China's comment on that?”

A: Relevant measures should show respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and contribute to Afghanistan's peaceful reconstruction and regional security and stability.”

• **October 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Iranian Nuclear Issue** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The comprehensive agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue entered into force today. How does the Chinese side view the process of implementing the agreement? What has China done for the implementation of the agreement?”

A: Effective communication among China, the US, Iran and other parties on the issue of the Arak heavy-water reactor, in particular, has vigorously pushed forward preparations for the redesign of the reactor. Today, China, the US and Iran issued a joint statement of intent on trilateral cooperation concerning the redesign of the Arak reactor, showcasing the political readiness of the three countries to jointly work for the smooth implementation of the redesign. Meanwhile, the Chinese side also stays in communication with the other parties of the P5+1 and Iran to advance consultations on the "official document" on the redesign of the Arak reactor, creating necessary conditions for the redesign.”



• **October 13, 2015 – Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Our nations (US and Australia) are among the largest contributors to the counter-ISIL coalition. And we are determined to move forward with each of the lines of effort to which we are committed in order to shrink Daesh’s territory, cut its funding, curb its recruiting, and expose its lies. Overall, Daesh is less capable now than it was a year ago. But we have known from the outset this campaign is going to require persistence, patience, and a firm will to prevail. I think we possess all of that, and no one should doubt that our coalition is committed and determined to win this victory.”

• **October 13, 2015– Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Well, with respect to Jason Rezaian (US hostage in Iran), not a meeting went by – literally, not a meeting – where we did not raise the issue of our citizens who are being held in Iran. And clearly, we are tracking extremely closely the news coming out of Iran regarding the trial and the fact of a conviction. [...] We call on the Government of Iran to release these individuals, to drop all the charges, and to see them reunited with their families here in the United States.”

• **October 13, 2015– Conversation With Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Professor Graham Allison** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “And already we see the impact of the refugees leaving and going to Europe. There are 12 million people displaced, 4 million in various camps, about 2 million in Jordan having a profound impact on the life of Jordan which is already fragile, and by the way critical to the stability of Israel and to the long-term capacity for peace in the region. It has a profound negative impact on Lebanon, where you have about a million-plus who are not in refugee camps but wandering around inside of Lebanon and in the Bekaa Valley on the border. And then you have about 2 million in Turkey, where it’s having a profound impact on Turkey, which already faces a number of other challenges. So that destabilization coupled with the rest of it is dangerous to everybody, folks.”

• **October 26, 2015 – Full Text: Outcome list of President Xi Jinping's state visit to the United States** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China and the United States decided to maintain communication and cooperation with one another on Afghanistan to support peaceful reconstruction and economic development in Afghanistan, support an “Afghan-led, Afghan-owned” reconciliation process, and promote trilateral dialogue among China, the United States and Afghanistan. Together with Afghanistan, China and the United States will co-chair a high-level event on Afghanistan’s reconstruction and development on the margins of the UN General Assembly on September 26. This event will convene Afghanistan’s neighbors and the international community to discuss the importance of continuing robust regional and international support for the Afghan government and regional economic cooperation. China and the United States jointly renew their call on the Taliban to enter into direct talks with the government of Afghanistan. China and the United States also noted their mutual interests in supporting peace, stability, and prosperity in neighboring countries of Afghanistan, and to working in partnership with these countries to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region.”



- **October 13, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Turkey is a NATO ally, a strong partner in the region. They’re allowing us now to carry out airstrikes from Incirlik. In fact, they’ve carried out their own airstrikes in northern Syria against ISIL. But of course, we take their security concerns seriously, and of course, we have a dialogue and discussion about them. [...] What we want to see ultimately resolve the situation in Syria is a political resolution. And that’s something we’ve talked about in terms of the Geneva communique.”

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

Quote: “Well, first of all, the missile tests that we did see over the weekend are -- we’ve got strong indications that those missile tests did violate a U.N. Security Council resolution that pertain to Iran’s ballistic missile activities [...] But this is altogether separate from the nuclear agreement that Iran reached with the rest of the world. In contrast to the repeated violations of the U.N. Security Council resolution that pertains to their ballistic missile activities, we’ve seen that Iran over the last couple of years has demonstrated a track record of abiding by the commitments that they’ve made in the context of the nuclear talks.”

- **October 14, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I think it’s important to remember the Iran deal was about stopping their pathways to a nuclear weapon, which it does, and that an Iran without nuclear weapons is certainly better for the region and better for our allies and partners to deal with than an Iran with nuclear weapons. [...] let me just make it clear that we have tools at our disposal across the levers of government to continue to deal with the malicious and destabilizing activities that we know Iran’s capable of.”

- **October 15, 2015– Remarks at Indiana University's School of Global and International Studies** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “In recent days, we have, however, seen an eruption of tragic, outrageous, and unjustified attacks on innocent civilians who were simply trying to go about their daily business in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem. And it is important that we all remain deeply concerned about this recent violence. We strongly condemn the terrorist attacks against innocent civilians, and there is absolutely no justification for these reprehensible attacks. And we will continue to support Israel’s right to defend its existence.”



• **October 15, 2015– Remarks at Indiana University's School of Global and International Studies** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We are also committed to the people of Afghanistan as they strive to build a more stable, secure, and prosperous country. And just a few minutes ago, while you were sitting here waiting for me to come out, President Obama went out publicly to announce that the United States will retain 5,500 troops in Afghanistan beyond the end of 2016. This decision is the result of an extended process of review designed to ensure that our fundamental interests in that country and in the region are protected. Our continued military presence there is essential to give the new government of national unity the support that it needs to implement reforms and defend its population against violent extremists who seek to impose their will. And it is important to us as Americans who understand what happens when you don’t have governed spaces anywhere and the vacuum is filled by extremists.”

• **October 15, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “What’s important to us is that we’re going to continue to support the Government of Iraq as that government faces and deals with the challenge of ISIL inside their country, and through the Government of Iraq we’ll continue to provide the necessary support that needs to be given to those Peshmerga forces that are fighting up in the north and have been quite successful on the ground.”

• **October 15, 2015 –Statement by the President on Afghanistan** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “But as I’ve said before, while America’s combat mission in Afghanistan may be over, our commitment to Afghanistan and its people endures. As Commander-in-Chief, I will not allow Afghanistan to be used as safe haven for terrorists to attack our nation again. Our forces therefore remain engaged in two narrow but critical missions -- training Afghan forces, and supporting counterterrorism operations against the remnants of al Qaeda. Of course, compared to the 100,000 troops we once had in Afghanistan, today fewer than 10,000 remain, in support of these very focused missions.”



• **October 15, 2015 – On-the-Record Conference Call on Afghanistan** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “What’s important to stress here is that our mission is not going to change. We’ve got a mission now, as I said, and we’ll continue to have two narrow missions (in Afghanistan). One is, of course, our counterterrorism mission. We’re going to continue to go after al Qaeda to deal with terrorist threats that present to the United States and any resurgence of al Qaeda, we want to be in a posture to address that. And we’re going to continue to build up and train, advise, and assist the Afghan forces to ensure we’ve got a partner there. This is entirely consistent with what the President has talked about as being in our national security interest, which is to have a network of sustainable partnerships around the globe [...]”

• **October 18, 2015– Adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The IAEA has confirmed that on October 15 Iran completed its required Roadmap steps to address issues of past concern, and Iran has notified the IAEA of its intent to provisionally apply the Additional Protocol. As well, Iran will now begin taking all of the necessary steps outlined in the JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) to restrain its nuclear program and ensure that it is exclusively peaceful going forward. This will include significant changes to its Arak reactor, substantial reductions to its uranium enrichment capacity as well as its enriched uranium stockpiles, and increased access to and continuous monitoring of Iran’s declared nuclear facilities by the IAEA.”

• **October 18, 2015 – Statement by the President on the Adoption of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “I have directed that the heads of all relevant executive departments and agencies of the United States begin preparations to implement the U.S. commitments in the JCPOA, in accordance with U.S. law, including providing relief from nuclear-related sanctions as detailed in the text of the JCPOA once the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has verified that Iran has completed all of its nuclear steps. We will also be closely monitoring Iran’s adherence to its commitments, working closely with the IAEA and the other JCPOA participants, to ensure Iran fully fulfills each and every one of its commitments.”



• **October 22, 2015– Remarks Before Meeting With German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We (Iran, Russia, US, Germany, and Europe) agree that Syria should be united [...] It should be secular. We agree that it should be pluralistic. We agree that the people of Syria should be able to choose their future leadership. We believe that it is essential for all countries to focus efforts against Daesh and any extremist element that is unwilling to be part of a peaceful democratic solution. We agree on criticality of keeping together all of the institutions of the government and of engaging in a political process, because everybody has agreed there is no military solution, but engaging in a political process that brings about the implementation of the Geneva communique.”

• **October 23, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I would just go back to what I just said, which is Russia can play a constructive role in countering ISIL. Thus far we’ve not seen that from their actions in Syria. So if it wants to change its focus, we would welcome that, but we just haven’t seen that thus far. [...] I can only speak to the fact that we continue to have close train, advise, assist relationship with the Iraqi armed forces, and we’re going to continue to work with the 65-member anti-ISIL coalition.”

• **October 27, 2015 – Statement on the U.S. Military Strategy in the Middle East and the Counter-ISIL Campaign before the Senate Armed Services Committee** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “The Middle East presents a kaleidoscope of challenges, but there, as everywhere, our actions and strong military posture are guided by what’s in America’s interests. That’s our North Star. And amid this region’s complexity and uncertainty, those interests are to deter aggression; to bolster the security of our friends and allies, especially Israel; to ensure freedom of navigation in the Gulf; to check Iran’s malign influence even as we monitor the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; and, to degrade and ultimately defeat ISIL. This last one, ISIL, poses a threat to our people and to friendly countries not only in the Middle East but around the world.”

• **October 28, 2015– Remarks at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States absolutely remains prepared to do what we can to make that two-state (Israel and Palestine) – two peoples living side by side in peace and security – to make it possible.”



• **October 28, 2015– Remarks at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Now, I want to underscore as well that military operations are but one of the many components of what the coalition is doing. We’re working hard to counter Daesh’s propaganda and to deter potential foreign fighters from joining it. In partnership with the UAE, we have established a center in Abu Dhabi that is offering positive messages across the region on the internet and all through social media, talking about politics, religion, and the responsibilities of faith. And we’re striving to cut off Daesh’s funding so that it becomes bankrupt politically, just as it is morally [...] But ultimately, to defeat Daesh, we have to end the war in Syria. And that is America’s goal.”

• **October 30, 2015– Joint Press Availability with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States position is there is no way that President Assad can unite and govern Syria. And we believe that Syrians deserve a different choice, and our goal is to work with Syrians from many factions to develop that choice. But we can’t allow that difference to get in the way of the possibility of diplomacy to end the killing and to find the solution. And that is a significance of the decision that was really made here today was that even though we acknowledge the difference, we know it is urgent to get to the table and to begin the process of real negotiations.”

• **October 30, 2015– Joint Press Availability with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Pursuant to the 2012 Geneva communique and UN Security Council Resolution 2118, we invited the UN to convene representatives of the Government of Syria and the Syrian opposition for a political process leading to a credible, inclusive, non-sectarian governance followed by a new constitution and elections. We agreed that these elections must be administered under UN supervision to the satisfaction of the government and to the highest international standards of transparency and accountability, free and fair, with all Syrians, including the diaspora, eligible to participate.”



• **October 30, 2015 – Message to the Congress – Notification to the Congress on AGOA Program Change** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “I am providing notification of my intent to terminate the designation of the Republic of Burundi (Burundi) as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under AGOA. [...] In particular, the continuing crackdown on opposition members, which has included assassinations, extra-judicial killings, arbitrary arrests, and torture, have worsened significantly during the election campaign that returned President Nkurunziza to power earlier this year. In addition, the Government of Burundi has blocked opposing parties from holding organizational meetings and campaigning throughout the electoral process. Police and armed youth militias with links to the ruling party have intimidated the opposition, contributing to nearly 200,000 refugees fleeing the country since April 2015.”



## Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Conducts Freedom of Navigation Operation in Waters Surrounding Nansha Islands; China Condemns U.S. Move as Political Provocation

### United States

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

Quote: “The fact is that the Department of Defense regularly conducts freedom-of-navigation operations around the world. [...] In 2014, the Department of Defense challenged the excessive maritime claims of 18 different nations. These are nations as diverse as Iran, around the Strait of Hormuz, and other nations with whom we have much warmer relations -- nations like Nicaragua, India and Brazil. So there are a variety of reasons that the Department of Defense would carry out operations like this, so it’s certainly not a situation where the Chinese would be singled out [...]”

• **October 13, 2015– Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, and Australian Defense Minister Marise Payne** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We also held in-depth talks on the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the East and South China Seas. Freedom of navigation and overflight are among the most essential pillars of international maritime law. And that is why we urge the claimants in that region [...] to halt any further reclamation, construction, and militarization of features. It doesn’t matter how big a country is; the principle is clear: The rights of all nations are supposed to be respected with respect to maritime law.”

• **October 14, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The U.S. military [...] will fly, will sail, and will operate wherever it needs to in accordance with international law to protect our national security interests and the interests of our allies and partners, period.”

• **October 14, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “The United States does not make any territorial claims in the South China Sea. Rather, what we insist on is that rules related to the freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce in international waters is an important principle. It’s an important principle primarily because in the South China Sea we’re talking about a region of the world where a significant portion of the world’s commerce flows. [...] China is interested in protecting the free flow of commerce in the South China Sea. And it’s those mutual interests that we hope will allow for an effective diplomatic resolution to the tensions in that region of the world.”

### China

• **October 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The overall situation in the South China Sea is stable. The freedom and safety of navigation has not been affected. At present, China and ASEAN countries are properly handling the South China Sea issue following the dual-track approach, and are committed to fully and effectively implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), moving forward consultations on the code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC), and jointly maintaining peace and stability of the South China Sea. [...] China and the US remain in contact at different levels on the South China Sea issue. The US is clear about China’s principled stance. [...] We urge relevant party to refrain from saying or doing anything provocative and act responsibly in maintaining regional peace and stability.”

• **October 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Start of Operation of Huayang and Chigua Lighthouses** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “In accordance with China’s Maritime Traffic Safety Law and international practices, the relevant department in China has issued a navigation notice and a navigation warning concerning the start of functioning of Huayang and Chigua Lighthouses.[...] The two lighthouses will provide highly effective route guidance and navigation aid to vessels passing these waters, and greatly improve navigation safety in the South China Sea. In the future, China will continue to build other civil facilities for the public interest on the stationed islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands so as to provide littoral countries and all passing vessels with better services.”

• **October 10, 2015 – U.S. Pacific Fleet Commander's 'blunt warning' to China is not constructive** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The two countries (China and U.S.) support the freedom of navigation and overflight that countries enjoy according to international law and the management of differences through dialogue, he (President Xi) added. He also noted that both support the comprehensive and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea and an earlier completion of negotiations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea based on consensus. [...] China will resolutely defend its legitimate interests at sea, but will never follow the U.S. to seek hegemony and will never create a “maritime threat”. China and the U.S. should maintain constructive communication to guard against real “maritime threats.”



• **October 16, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We are always calling for measures to lower tensions. And we certainly welcome and support ASEAN’s call for negotiations toward a code of conduct. We’d like to see that intensify. We believe such a code of conduct would help reduce tensions arising from territorial maritime claims or disputes in the South China Sea. [...] It’s China’s right to propose these kinds of joint exercises. Our major concern about South China Sea remains freedom of navigation and Law of the Sea and that we see a de-escalation in intentions – in tensions in the area.”

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

Quote: “Without confirming any sort of operational decisions have been made, but the President -- actually when he was standing next to President Xi out in the Rose Garden -- indicated that the United States would operate, fly or sail anywhere that international law allows. And that certainly includes the ability of our Navy to operate in international waters. This is a critically important principle, particularly in the South China Sea, because there are billions of dollars of commerce that flow through that region of the world every year, and maybe even more than that, and ensuring the free flow of this commerce and that freedom of navigation of those vessels is protected is critically important to the global economy.”

• **October 26, 2015 – Joint Statement by the United States of America and the Republic of Indonesia** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The two Presidents (of the U.S. and Indonesia) expressed their shared concern about recent developments in the South China Sea that have increased tensions, eroded trust, and threatened to undermine peace, security, and the economic well-being of the region. Both countries believe it is vital for all parties to refrain from actions that raise tensions in the South China Sea. Both Presidents affirmed the importance of safeguarding maritime security and upholding internationally recognized freedoms of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea. Both countries support the peaceful resolution of disputes in conformity with international law, including as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (UNCLOS), and recognize the importance of full and effective implementation of the Declaration on Conduct of Parties in the South China, as well as efforts to quickly conclude the Code of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.”

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

Quote: “The 10th SOM (Senior Officials’ Meeting) on the Implementation of the DOC (of Parties in the South China Sea) will be held in Chengdu from October 19 to 20. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin and senior diplomatic officials from ASEAN countries will attend the meeting, during which the 15th Joint Working Group (JWG) Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC will be held. Participants will have in-depth discussions on fully and effectively implementing the DOC and forging ahead with practical maritime cooperation, and explore ways to take forward negotiations on the code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC) within the framework of implementing the DOC.”

• **October 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “I have noted the Australia-United States Ministerial (AUSMIN) consultations. I would like to reiterate that China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters. [...] There certainly are a limited amount of necessary military facilities for defense purposes only. They fit well with the security environment around relevant Chinese islands and reefs. There is no such thing of China “militarizing” relevant islands and reefs. [...] We hope that relevant countries could stop playing up the issue of South China Sea, make good on their commitment of not taking sides on issues concerning territorial sovereignty, be discreet with words and deeds, respect efforts by China and relevant regional countries in safeguarding peace and stability in the South China Sea, and play a constructive role to that end.”

• **October 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side remains a staunch force in safeguarding regional peace and stability. Construction conducted by the Chinese side on relevant islands and reefs in the South China Sea is mainly to meet civilian needs, better fulfill China's international responsibility and obligation and provide more public goods and services to the region and the international community. [...] There have been high-profile display of military strength and frequent and large-scale military drills by certain countries and their allies in the South China Sea, which makes it completely understandable for the Chinese side to have a limited amount of necessary military facilities for defense purposes only.”



• **October 27, 2015 – Press Gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz en route Chicago, IL** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “I would tell you that freedom of navigation operations serve to protect the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea and airspace guaranteed to all nations under international law. Our freedom of navigation operations do not assert any special U.S.-specific rights. I’m not going to comment or confirm any specific military activity, but I will tell you that the United States conducts routine operations in the South China Sea in accordance with international law, as we do around the globe.”

• **October 28, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: The Chinese ambassador to the United States accused the U.S. of militarizing the disputed South China Sea region by sending military vessels. Are you aware of his comments, and what’s your response?”

A: I’ve seen the comments. We would just flatly disagree. To sail a ship through international waters is not a provocative act in any way whatsoever and it should not be taken as a provocative act.”

• **October 29, 2015 –Remarks on Receiving the Woodrow Wilson Award** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “One reason for that is because we’re also taking a stand for freedom of flight and navigation, the very rules and customs that have helped so many nations in the region rise. We’re making it clear, that the United States continues to favor peaceful resolutions to ongoing disputes, and that we will continue to fly, sail, and operate whenever and wherever international law allows. We mean what we say. The South China Sea is not – and will not – be an exception.”

• **October 29, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “This may be an appropriate time for me to just repeat a couple of things I said before, which is that the United States takes no position on competing sovereignty claims to land features in the South China Sea. Rather what we have done is we have urged all countries with claims on territory in the South China Sea to work through diplomacy to try to resolve those differences. And no country, including China, should be trying to use their size or influence to try to resolve those confrontations militarily or through some other means. They should resolve them diplomatically.”

• **October 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side always respects and stands up for the freedom of navigation and over-flight in the South China Sea and other major international passages all countries are entitled to under international law. However, we firmly oppose any country using the freedom of navigation and over-flight as an excuse to undermine other countries' sovereignty and security. We urge the US side to work with China and play a responsible and constructive role in maintaining peace and stability of the South China Sea.”

• **October 19, 2015 – US’ logic back to front** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Countries such as the United States have deliberately played up the issue (of China’s development activities in the Nansha islands) and criticized China's legitimate rights to build civilian and public facilities in its own territorial waters [...] Washington's real intention is to mislead the public and shrug off its responsibility for raising tensions with China. However, it is the US frequent military maneuvers in the South China Sea that pose the real threat to regional peace and stability.”

• **October 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The construction activities on the relevant islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands are carried out fully within the range of the Chinese sovereignty. By setting up civilian facilities and facilities for public interests on its territory, the Chinese side aims to better serve the littoral countries of the South China Sea and vessels passing through these waters. There is no such a thing as “changing actual conditions”.”

• **October 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “From October 19 to 20, the 10th Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC was held in Chengdu. Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin and Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Singapore Chee Wee Kiong co-hosted the meeting, during which the 15th Joint Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC was held. [...] All parties reiterated their common political readiness to fully and effectively implement the DOC and work toward the early conclusion of a COC on the basis of consensus, and stated that continued efforts will be made to enhance practical maritime cooperation, strengthen mutual trust, properly handle differences and make the South China Sea a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation.”



• **October 29, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q : Do you have anything on this decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague to hear the Philippines-China case?”

A : We don’t take a position on the claims, do take a position on coercion, want all of these disputes to be resolved peacefully, diplomatically, and through international legal mechanisms such as arbitration. So in this regard we take note of today’s unanimous decision by the arbitral tribunal in the case brought by the Philippines against China under the 1982 Law of the Sea Convention. [...] the decision of the tribunal will be legally binding on both the Philippines and China.”

• **October 30, 2015 – Media Availability with Secretary Carter en route to Fort Wainwright, Alaska** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “That the United States doesn’t take a position on disputing land claims, but we do take the position that they should be resolved peacefully, without militarization, and in that connection, have called for a permanent halt -- by all claimants who are doing this -- to further dredging and militarization in the South China Sea.”

• **October 22, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China’s oil and gas exploration activities in the East China Sea are all carried out in undisputed waters under China’s jurisdiction. There is no such a thing as unilateral exploration. It is hoped that the Japanese side can correctly understand the principled consensus on the issue of the East China Sea and stop raising unreasonable demands.[...] During the 3rd round of China-Japan high-level consultations on maritime affairs held in January this year, the two sides agreed in principle to hold the 4th round of consultations in the latter half of the year in China. The two sides are consulting with each other on the time and place and other specific matters.”

• **October 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The USS Lassen illegally entered waters near relevant islands and reefs of China’s Nansha Islands without the permission of the Chinese government on October 27. Relevant authorities of the Chinese side monitored, followed and warned the US vessel. Relevant actions by the US naval vessel threatened China’s sovereignty and security interests, put the personnel and facilities on the islands and reefs at risk and endangered regional peace and stability. The Chinese side hereby expresses strong opposition. [...] The Chinese side has stressed on many occasions that China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters. China’s sovereignty and relevant rights over the South China Sea have been formed over the long course of history and upheld by successive Chinese governments.”

• **October 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Strait of Tanaga is for international sailing. In accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the geographic condition of the Strait, all ships passing the Strait have the right of transit passage. What Chinese naval vessels have done is in line with the international law and international practice. The US naval vessel took the liberty to sail across waters off islands and reefs of China’s Nansha Islands. It is completely different from transit passage and is nothing close to the so-called exercise of navigation freedom. Instead, it is a threat to China’s sovereignty and security. The Chinese side is firmly opposed to that.”



**• October 28, 2015 – US imprudently making trouble out of nothing** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "The US calls itself a Pacific country and claims it too has a stake in peace and stability in the region. If that is the case it should be playing a more constructive role in the waters, rather than stirring the waters at the risk of regional peace and stability. If the US still deems itself a responsible power, it should refrain from making further provocations."

**• October 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The Chinese side maintains that disagreements between China and other countries, including the US should be resolved through dialogues. Leaders of China and the US reached important consensus last month in Washington, that is, problems between the two countries should be properly settled through constructive dialogues and consultations. But let's make it clear, it calls for the efforts of not only China but also the US."

**• October 28, 2015 – After the show, it's time for US destroyer to leave** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "We should stay calm. If we feel disgraced and utter some furious words, it will only make the US achieve its goal of irritating us [...] In face of the US harassment, Beijing should deal with Washington tactfully and prepare for the worst. This can convince the White House that China, despite its unwillingness, is not frightened to fight a war with the US in the region, and is determined to safeguard its national interests and dignity."

**• October 29, 2015 – Commentary: The U.S. should never play with fire in South China Sea** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "There is no doubt that the U.S. made such a move for strategic reasons: first, it deliberately created tensions in the South China Sea so as to impede China's safeguarding of its legal rights in the area; second, the move contributes to the implementation of U.S. regional strategy of "Asia-Pacific Rebalance"; third, the U.S. can take the chance to cozy up to its allies [...] China is determined to defend its sovereignty and safety and has taken actions to cope with the move of the U.S. warship which has threatened China's sovereignty and safety."

**• October 29, 2015 – US no hope to win S.China Sea showdown** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "The Americans must keep in mind that when it comes to China's core interests, their determination to preserve certain strategic interests will have no chance to win in a showdown against China's determination to protect the integrity of its sovereignty."



• **October 29, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** (Ministry of National Defense)

Quote: “The data published by the Japanese side reminds me of the Japanese long-time shadowing, monitoring and interfering on the Chinese aircraft and warships, which endangers the safety of the Chinese aircraft and ships, which can easily cause maritime and aerial security incidents between China and Japan. The Chinese military aircraft enjoy the freedom of over-flight according to law in relevant airspace, and we urge Japanese side to stop any activity hampering such freedom.”

• **October 29, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** (Ministry of National Defense)

Quote: “The US sent its missile destroyer USS Lassen to waters near the features of China's Nansha Islands. Such kind of action by the US side has threatened national sovereignty and security of China, endangered safety of personnel and facilities on the islands and reefs as well as safety of routine operation of Chinese fishery workers in the area, and also damaged regional peace and stability [...] The US action has threatened China's national sovereignty and security, endangered safety of personnel and facilities on the islands and reefs, and is a grave political provocation against China. The action by the US side is also against such international laws as the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and the domestic laws of China.”

• **October 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: “The Chinese Foreign Ministry has released a statement this morning on the South China Sea arbitration. I want to stress that as a sovereign state and a State Party to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), China is entitled to choose the means and procedures of dispute settlement of its own will. To solve disputes peacefully through dialogues, negotiations and consultations is a dispute settlement approach promoted by international law including the UN Charter. In the practice of international law, disputes over territory and maritime rights and interests between a large majority of countries have been resolved in this way which is quite effective. Of course, we have noted that some countries, based on consensus through consultations, submit their disputes for international judiciary or arbitration. However, there is plenty of means to settle disputes, and international arbitration is just the one of them which is subject to the approval of parties concerned in strict accordance with the principle of nation's consent. We hope that relevant parties will develop an objective, impartial and sensible view on the South China Sea issue.”



• **October 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** (*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*)

Quote: "Despite disputes caused by relevant countries' illegal occupation of China's islands and reefs in the South China Sea in the 1970s, the overall state of the South China Sea has been peaceful and stable over the past 40 plus years. Some countries' argument about the so-called problem of navigation freedom and safety is untenable. We have been asking these countries to specify when and where have any such kind of problems took place in the South China Sea, but are yet to get any explanation or example. The Chinese side has worked out, with maximum sincerity, a dual-track approach to the South China Sea issue with relevant countries in the region. The approach maintains that disputes should be resolved by countries directly concerned through negotiations and consultations, and that peace and stability in the South China Sea should be jointly upheld by China and ASEAN countries. And we have got the DOC. I believe that if all relevant parties could fully implement the DOC, peace and stability of the region can be preserved."

• **October 30, 2015 – US sea patrols won't challenge China's long-term vision** (*People's Daily*)

Quote: "China's core interests are challenged, these islands can serve a military role. Such potential unnerves countries such as the US. The US has no solutions to prevent China from land construction, because such obstruction does not work in the sense of international law. [...] In the issue of land construction, China has overwhelming advantages over the US, as China has legitimacy to construct land and it is illegitimate for the US to obstruct this."



## References

### 1. United States

#### (1) Official Government Websites

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 2. China

#### (1) Official Government Website

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

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

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

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

#### (2) Government Managed Media

*China Daily* <<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn>>

*Xinhua* < <http://www.chinaview.cn>>

*People's Daily* <<http://en.people.cn>>



## Knowledge-Net for a Better World

---

- This report is the result of the East Asia Institute's research activity of the Asia Security Initiative Research Center.
- We hope to see this material in wide use, including areas that relate to policy making, academic studies, and educational programs. Please use full citations when using the information provided in this factsheet.
- The views and ideas in this material are those of the author and do not represent official standpoints of the East Asia Institute.
- This report was produced with the help of Jihye An (Dongguk University), Elizabeth Burris (Yonsei University), Bokyung Choi (Korea University), Geun Park (Seoul National University), Kyuhyun Park (Yonsei University), Heerang Woo (Korea University).

**The East Asia Institute**  
909 Sampoong B/D, Eulji-ro 158,  
Jung-gu, Seoul 04548,  
Republic of Korea

