

# **Ending on a High Note?**

## **December 2015**

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Benjamin Engel  
ASI Research Center

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## **Ending on a High Note?**

*The turning over of the calendar is a cause for hope and renewed commitment to achieving goals and the U.S. and Chinese governments are no different. Yet as 2015 drew to a close, many of the same problems continued to prove themselves obstacles to closer relations despite the potential for cooperation in other areas. Disagreement over the direction of the world economic order and the right of the international community to inject itself into domestic human rights issues drove the two major powers apart while potential cooperation on the conflicts in the Middle East provides hope that U.S.-China relations can be a force for peace in conflict riddled regions. Following is a summary of crucial subjects highlighted by the U.S. and China during December 2015.*

## **Competition and Conflict on Economic Issues Continues**

December has shown that the rhetoric battles over economic policy and institutions are sure to continue in 2016. President Barak Obama continued to lobby for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) by warning that a China based economic system would not be so friendly to workers and the environment,<sup>1</sup> while China is trying to make the case that the reforms included in the TPP will not be so helpful to smaller nations like Vietnam.<sup>2</sup> At the same time there was somewhat of a breakthrough with the WTO Information Technology Agreement that will lower trade barriers and promote cross border IT trade that both nations seem to be pleased with.<sup>3</sup> Nonetheless, it is not all roses in the WTO with the U.S. bringing a dispute settlement over China's VAT tax and China claiming that the U.S. is interfering with the EU's potential decision to grant it market economy

<sup>1</sup> UCR December Issue 2015 – Economic Relations, Issue 2, pg. 13

<sup>2</sup> pg. 12

<sup>3</sup> pg. 11, 12

status.<sup>4</sup> The real economy, however, is dealing with both China's slowdown and the Federal Reserve's interest rate hike.<sup>5</sup>

## **ROK-Japan Comfort Women Agreement**

An agreement between the ROK and Japan on the comfort women issue was concluded this month. The U.S. welcomed the agreement as the U.S. Department of State expressed hope that the agreement will promote healing and help improve relations between two American allies.<sup>6</sup> Likewise, the U.S. did not change its stance on Japan's apology to other countries' comfort women including China insisting a similar attitude was needed with other countries.<sup>7</sup> Furthermore, the U.S. and Japan have agreed in principle on a five-year package of host nation support for the U.S. forces in Japan valued at \$1.6 billion dollars. This symbolizes the fact that the U.S. military presence in Japan is a key part of the U.S. rebalance to the Asia-Pacific.<sup>8</sup> The Chinese side, however, persistently urged the Japanese side to deal with historical issues with a sense of responsibility.<sup>9</sup> Chinese newspapers were doubtful that the ROK-Japan agreement would allow Japan to project an image of supporting women's rights on the world stage nor would it allow Tokyo to pursue its long-standing elusive dream of a permanent UN Security Council seat.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>4</sup> pg. 11, 14

<sup>5</sup> pg. 12

<sup>6</sup> UCR December Issue 2015 – Asia Pacific Issues , Issue 6, pg. 27

<sup>7</sup> pg. 28

<sup>8</sup> pg. 27

<sup>9</sup> pg. 28

<sup>10</sup> pg. 29



### Middle East and Africa Continue to Draw Attention

The ongoing turmoil in the Middle East, particularly the Syrian conflict, saw an extensive mobilization by the international community to find a political resolution. The U.S. expressed its willingness, along with other members of the coalition, to accelerate and broaden the international campaign to put an end to ISIL.<sup>11</sup> More attention was brought to oil smuggling and how it allows ISIL to generate revenue.<sup>12</sup> Regarding the refugees resettlement, the U.S. said to be proud of being the largest donor, with \$4.5 billion in humanitarian assistance since the start of the Syrian Civil war.<sup>13</sup> Moreover, Obama announced a new deployment of special forces and a significant provision of equipment to opposition forces.<sup>14</sup>

China's reception of the Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister garnered the world's attention. Through this event, China made clear its position as a constructive mediator, to find a political solution to the Syrian issue.<sup>15</sup> Additionally, this past month witnessed a growing Chinese focus on Africa which they consider to be a place of opportunity. Beijing is looking for an improvement in the Chinese-African relations by building on past achievements, opening up new horizons, deepening cooperation, and focusing on people's livelihood. In this light, the 6th Forum on China-Africa cooperation (FOCAC) was held in Johannesburg on December 5th and included the adoption of a declaration and an action plan for 2016-2018.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>11</sup> UCR December Issue 2015 – Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8 pg. 38

<sup>12</sup> pg. 36

<sup>13</sup> UCR December Issue 2015 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, Issue 4 pg. 19

<sup>14</sup> UCR December Issue 2015 – Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8 pg. 41

<sup>15</sup> pg. 40

<sup>16</sup> pg. 36

### Disagreements Over Human Rights in China and North Korea

As noted above, the U.S. has been contributing to humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees<sup>17</sup> and also other UN humanitarian efforts,<sup>18</sup> but the U.S. also continued urging Chinese authorities to vacate the conviction given to Mr. Pu Zhiqiang, a prominent Chinese defense lawyer and to uphold fundamental civil rights and fair trial guarantees.<sup>19</sup> On the other hand, China continued denying foreign concerns regarding human rights issues and freedom of information and responded directly to comments made by the UN Committee Against Torture,<sup>20</sup> the U.S. Ambassador,<sup>21</sup> the German Embassy in China,<sup>22</sup> the western media regarding the World Internet Conference,<sup>23</sup> the French News Magazine L'Obs,<sup>24</sup> and Miss World Canada Anastasia Lin.<sup>25</sup> Moreover, China offered encouragement for the UN humanitarian system,<sup>26</sup> and offered its support for OCHA and CERF.<sup>27</sup>

However, disagreements over human rights issues are also a point of concern when it comes to North Korea. The UN Security Council is attempting to hold a council meeting on North Korea's human rights violations, but China was against this move citing its belief that the Security Council should not inject itself into such issues.<sup>28</sup> The U.S. holds the complete opposite position and stated, "the Council should continue to hear briefings about and engage in debates on the human rights situation in the DPRK."<sup>29</sup>

<sup>17</sup> UCR December Issue 2015 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, Issue 4 pg. 19

<sup>18</sup> pg. 19

<sup>19</sup> pg. 20

<sup>20</sup> pg. 19

<sup>21</sup> pg. 19

<sup>22</sup> pg. Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> pg. 20

<sup>24</sup> pg. 21

<sup>25</sup> pg. 22

<sup>26</sup> pg. 20

<sup>27</sup> pg. 20

<sup>28</sup> pg. 31

<sup>29</sup> pg. 32



Time Period: December 1~ December 31, 2015

Main Issue

1. U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. Welcomes China’s Rise; China Insists that It Will Not Disrupt International Order

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 2, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 18, 2015 – How China Sees Russia</li> <li>• December 24, 2015 – Expert: China seeks reform, not revolution, of current int'l order</li> </ul>

2. Economic Relations: The U.S. and China Tout Expansion of WTO Information Technology Agreement; the U.S. Continues to Highlight Positive Aspects of TPP to Encourage its Passage Through Congress; China Boosts of the Results from One Belt, One Road

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 1, 2015 – Governor Lael Brainard Speech : Normalizing Monetary Policy When the Neutral Interest Rate Is Low</li> <li>• December 2, 2015 Chair Janet L. Yellen Speech : The Economic Outlook and Monetary Policy</li> <li>• December 8, 2015 – United States Launches Trade Enforcement Challenge to China’s Hidden and Discriminatory Tax Exemptions for Certain Chinese-Produced Aircraft</li> <li>• December 14, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – Federal Reserve issues FOMC statement</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 –U.S. and WTO Partners Announce Final Agreement on Landmark Expansion of Information Technology Agreement</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 –Joint Statement by Trade Ministers of China and U.S. on the Expansion of WTO Information Technology Agreement</li> <li>• December 17, 2015 –2015 Notorious Markets List Spotlights Fight Against Global Piracy and Counterfeiting of American Products</li> <li>• December 18, 2015 –Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew on Final Passage of the Omnibus Spending Bill</li> <li>• December 19, 2015 – Weekly Address: Top 10 Things that Happened in 2015</li> <li>• December 23, 2015 –USTR Releases 2015 Report to Congress on China’s WTO Compliance</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 17, 2015 – Fed rate rise likely to produce capital outflows</li> <li>• December 18, 2015 – How China Sees Russia</li> <li>• December 22, 2015 – MOFCOM Spokesman Comments on the Conclusion of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference</li> <li>• December 22, 2015 – MOFCOM Spokesman Comments on the Conclusion of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference</li> <li>• December 22, 2015 – Spotlight: TPP not all roses for Vietnam</li> <li>• December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce</li> <li>• December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce</li> <li>• December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce</li> <li>• December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 – AIIB to benefit Asia and beyond</li> <li>• December 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 30, 2015 – Washington alone in refuting China’s MES</li> <li>• December 31, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> </ul>



## 3. Military and Security Relations: The U.S. Continues to Address its Concerns in the Realm of Cyber Security; China Passes Counter-terrorism Law

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 1, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 1, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 2, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 14, 2015 – CNAS Defense Forum</li> <li>• December 14, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 1, 2015 – Root out external link to Xinjiang terrorists</li> <li>• December 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 17, 2015 – Commentary: China, biggest victim of cybercrime, champions "community of common destiny" in cyberspace</li> <li>• December 18, 2015 – How China Sees Russia</li> <li>• December 23, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 24, 2015 – Arms sale will cause damage to US interests</li> <li>• December 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 31, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference</li> </ul>

## 4. Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Touts Humanitarian Aid Contributions and Calls for Release of a Chinese Lawyer from Prison; China Denies Accusations of Human Rights Abuses and Argues Its Internet Censorship is in the Best Interests of Society

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 1, 2015 – Press Conference by President Obama</li> <li>• December 14, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 21, 2015 – Remarks at the Security Council Stakeout Following Consultations on the Middle East</li> <li>• December 22, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 10, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador Wang Min, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations at the 70th Session of the General Assembly under the Item "Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations"</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – Wuzhen showcases China's Net prosperity</li> <li>• December 17, 2015 – Statement by Minister Counselor Luo Jin at the high-level event marking the tenth anniversary of CERF</li> <li>• December 17, 2015 – Wuzhen's World Internet Conference charts news course</li> <li>• December 24, 2015 – Commentary: U.S. accusation over China's anti-terror</li> </ul>



	<p>legislation hypocritical, groundless</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on the Decision of not Renewing Press Credentials for Ursula Gauthier, a Beijing-based Correspondent for French News Magazine L'Obs</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 – Miss World Canada must accept consequences of political action</li> <li>• December 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> </ul>
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5. Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. Boosts of Its Leadership on Climate Change and Cooperation with China; China Insists U.S. and Developed Countries Play Leading Role in Resolving Climate Change

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 1, 2015 – Setting the Course for a New Era in Energy</li> <li>• December 1, 2015 – Press Conference by President Obama</li> <li>• December 2, 2015 – Press Availability at NATO</li> <li>• December 4, 2015 – Fact Sheet: Health Educators Climate Commitment</li> <li>• December 9, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 11, 2015 – Readout of the President's Call with President Xi Jinping of China</li> <li>• December 12, 2015 – U.S. Leadership and the Historic Paris Agreement to Combat Climate Change</li> <li>• December 12, 2015 – Statement by the President on the Paris Climate Agreement</li> <li>• December 13, 2015 – Kerry: Climate deal lacks penalties because of US Congress</li> <li>• December 13, 2015 – 'This Week' Transcript: Secretary of State John Kerry and Ben Carson</li> <li>• December 14, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 14, 2015 – Readout of the President's Call with President Xi Jinping of China</li> <li>• December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 18, 2015 – Press Conference by the President</li> <li>• December 19, 2015 – Weekly Address: Top 10 Things that Happened in 2015</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 5, 2015 – USA not doing enough in climate fight</li> <li>• December 7, 2015 – Financial reform to boost green industry</li> <li>• December 7, 2015 – China's cooperative efforts for a better world</li> <li>• December 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 11, 2015 – News Analysis: What stands in the way of global climate agreement?</li> <li>• December 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Remarks on the Outcomes of the Paris Climate Conference</li> <li>• December 14, 2015 – Historical step toward low-carbon future</li> <li>• December 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 18, 2015 – Closer China-US partnership on climate change expected</li> </ul>



6. Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. and Japan Ink Agreement on Host Nation Support for USFJ; China Continues to Demand Japan Face Its History Record Honestly, Sees ROK-Japan Agreement as Political Move Rather than Genuine

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 4, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 – Developments on the relationship between Japan and the Republic of Korea</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 – Statement by National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice on the Republic of Korea-Japan Agreement on “Comfort Women”</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 – Resolution of the Comfort Women Issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – New resolve for regional integration</li> <li>• December 22, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 29, 2015 – Japan's record defense budget unsettling region</li> <li>• December 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 29, 2015 – Japan-S.Korea 'comfort women' deal draws applause, dubiousness</li> <li>• December 31, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference</li> </ul>

7. Korean Peninsula: U.S. Seeks Further Security Council Meetings to Address North Korean Human Rights Abuses; China-ROK Free Trade Agreement Enters into Effect and China and ROK Meet to Discuss Lines of Maritime Demarcation

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 1, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 8, 2015 – Treasury Targets North Korea's Global Weapons Proliferation Network</li> <li>• December 9, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 10, 2015 – Remarks on the Adoption of the Provisional Agenda of the UN Security Council on the Situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea</li> <li>• December 31, 2015 – Statement on the U.S. Presidency of the UN Security Council for the Month of December</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 11, 2015 – West skeptical over North Korea's H-bomb claim</li> <li>• December 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce</li> </ul>



8. Middle East and Africa Issue: U.S. Continues Its Attempts to Build and Coordinate Coalitions on Several Middle East Crises; China Invites Leaders of Syrian Government and Opposition Movements to Talks

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 1, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Senior Boko Haram Leaders</li> <li>• December 1, 2015 – Press Conference by President Obama</li> <li>• December 1, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Erdogan of the Republic of Turkey After Bilateral Meeting</li> <li>• December 2, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 2, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 2, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 2, 2015 –Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 2, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 2, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 2, 2015 – Statement by the President on Counter-ISIL Steps by the United Kingdom and Germany</li> <li>• December 5, 2015– Brookings Institution's 2015 Saban Forum Keynote Address</li> <li>• December 9, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 9, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 10, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 17, 2015 –Remarks By Acting Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Adam Szubin at the Atlantic Council and The Iran Project Symposium</li> <li>• December 17, 2015 –Speech Preview: Excerpts Of Secretary Jacob J. Lew’s Remarks At The UN Security Council Meeting On Combatting Isil And Terrorist Financing</li> <li>• December 17, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 19, 2015 –Statement by Ambassador Michael Froman at the Conclusion of the 10th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference</li> <li>• December 29, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Col. Warren via Teleconference from Baghdad, Iraq</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 1, 2015 – A solid new start for old China-Africa ties</li> <li>• December 2, 2015 – The State Council Information Office Holds a Press Conference on China-Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation</li> <li>• December 3, 2015 – Helping Africa improve its farm sector</li> <li>• December 3, 2015 – New Maritime Silk Road to boost ties with Africa</li> <li>• December 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 4, 2015 – Summit to strengthen China-Africa solidarity</li> <li>• December 4, 2015 – Working Together to Write a New Chapter In China-Africa Cooperation</li> <li>• December 7, 2015 – Blueprint for future of brotherhood with Africa</li> <li>• December 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 10, 2015 –QianKeming Attends the Press Conference on New Economic and Trade Initiatives of the Johannesburg Summit of the FOCAC</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 22, 2015 – US isolation of Russia may come to an end</li> <li>• December 23, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press</li> </ul>





	<p><b>Conference</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce</li> <li>• December 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 28, 2015 – Op-ed: China, a constructive mediator in Syrian crisis</li> <li>• December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference</li> </ul>
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9. Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Sells More Arms to Taiwan; China Continues Feud with the Philippines and Other States Over Territorial Claims in South China Sea, Criticizes U.S. Arms Deals with Taiwan

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 8, 2015 – Remarks at a Brookings India Roundtable on Global Order</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• December 21, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• December 1, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 4, 2015 – Arms sales to Taiwan hinder Sino-US ties</li> <li>• December 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 8, 2015 – Statement by Mr. LI Yongsheng At the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly On Agenda Item 79 Oceans and the law of the sea</li> <li>• December 10, 2015 – US spy plane new disturbance for SE Asia</li> <li>• December 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 15, 2015 – People's Daily: Grandstanding cannot cover up illegal moves</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – China's Sovereignty over the South China Sea Islands - Brooks No Denial</li> <li>• December 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• December 17, 2015 – Japanese media stretch a point</li> <li>• December 18, 2015 – People's Daily: The DOC brooks no distortion</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>December 18, 2015 – Op-ed IV on the Philippines' South China Sea Arbitration Farce</b></li><li>• <b>December 18, 2015 – How China Sees Russia</b></li><li>• <b>December 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Remarks on the US Military Aircraft Flying Near the Nansha Islands</b></li><li>• <b>December 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</b></li><li>• <b>December 21, 2015 – People's Daily: Disregarding facts and jurisprudence, arbitration is neither fair nor just</b></li><li>• <b>December 21, 2015 – People's Daily: China is observing international law in the true sense</b></li><li>• <b>December 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</b></li><li>• <b>December 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</b></li><li>• <b>December 28, 2015 – Japan's propaganda war on Diaoyu absurd</b></li><li>• <b>December 29, 2015 – Can US avoid acting stupid in S.China Sea?</b></li><li>• <b>December 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference</b></li><li>• <b>December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference</b></li><li>• <b>December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference</b></li><li>• <b>December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference</b></li><li>• <b>December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference</b></li><li>• <b>December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference</b></li></ul>
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**Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. Welcomes China’s Rise; China Insists that It Will Not Disrupt International Order****United States**

- **December 2, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “As you know, President Obama has said, this both in public settings and in private settings with President Xi that the United States welcomes a rising China, and a rising China that is committed to assuming the international responsibilities that come along with a growing economic power. And the commitments that China has made in the context of climate change I think are a great example of how that influence can be used to advance the interests of China, but also to advance the interests of the global community.”

**China**

- **December 18, 2015 – How China Sees Russia** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The United States and its allies might interpret closer ties between China and Russia as evidence of a proto-alliance that intends to disrupt or challenge the U.S.-led world order. But from the Chinese perspective, the tripartite relationship should not be considered a game in which two players ally against a third.”

- **December 24, 2015 – Expert: China seeks reform, not revolution, of current int'l order** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “A famed China expert said Tuesday that China is seeking to reform the current U.S.-defined international order, rather than revolutionize it [...] time is ripe for China to mull a more effective way of interaction with other countries, including the apprehensive United States, to replace its past passive response to Washington’s misgivings [...] instead of only one international order, there are multiple orders existing in the world and applying to different civilizations.”



## Issue 2 – Economic Relations: The U.S. and China Tout Expansion of WTO Information Technology Agreement; the U.S. Continues to Highlight Positive Aspects of TPP to Encourage its Passage Through Congress; China Boosts of the Results from One Belt, One Road

### United States

- **December 1, 2015 – Governor Lael Brainard Speech : Normalizing Monetary Policy When the Neutral Interest Rate Is Low** ([Federal Reserve](#))

Quote: “In addition to concerns about weak demand in Japan and the euro area, more recently foreign growth concerns have broadened to include China, which is navigating difficult structural as well as cyclical adjustments. The financial reverberations from China are adversely affecting commodity exporters and emerging markets more broadly, and weak growth trajectories are now the norm in much of the world, pushing down interest rates globally.”

- **December 2, 2015 Chair Janet L. Yellen Speech : The Economic Outlook and Monetary Policy** ([Federal Reserve](#))

Quote: “Foreign economic growth has slowed, damping increases in U.S. exports, and the U.S. dollar has appreciated substantially since the middle of last year, making our exports more expensive and imported goods cheaper [...] Although developments in foreign economies still pose risks to U.S. economic growth that we are monitoring, these downside risks from abroad have lessened since late summer. Among emerging market economies, recent data support the view that the slowdown in the Chinese economy, which has received considerable attention, will likely continue to be modest and gradual. China has taken actions to stimulate its economy this year and could do more if necessary.”

- **December 8, 2015 – Governor Lael Brainard Speech: United States Launches Trade Enforcement Challenge to China’s Hidden and Discriminatory Tax Exemptions for Certain Chinese-Produced Aircraft** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “The United States has launched dispute settlement proceedings at the World Trade Organization (WTO) by requesting consultations with China on its measures exempting certain aircraft produced in China from value-added tax (VAT) while imposing those taxes on imported aircraft, affecting American-made aircraft and American parts producers who provide components to foreign-made aircraft [...] Transparency of laws and regulations impacting trade is a core WTO commitment that China must uphold, just as it expects other countries to do.”

### China

- **December 17, 2015 – Fed rate rise likely to produce capital outflows** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The US Federal Reserve's increase in its key borrowing rate - which had been kept at near zero for seven years - will likely mean more capital outflows from China and a depreciating yuan [...] The Fed's decision will reverberate around the world. Higher US interest rates will produce a stronger dollar that may attract capital from China and other emerging markets seeking higher returns.”

- **December 18, 2015 – How China Sees Russia** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Chinese leaders attribute much of their country's rapid ascent to China's successful integration into the world economy. They see China as a beneficiary of the international order, with the UN at its core, and as a strong advocate of principles such as sovereign equality and nonintervention in the internal affairs of states, which the UN Charter enshrines.”

- **December 22, 2015 – MOFCOM Spokesman Comments on the Conclusion of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference** ([Ministry of Commerce, News Releases](#))

Quote: “The breakthrough of the Information Technology Agreement benefited from the consensus between China and the U.S., and China played an important role in the negotiation.”

- **December 22, 2015 – MOFCOM Spokesman Comments on the Conclusion of the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference** ([Ministry of Commerce, News Releases](#))

Quote: “When talking about the future of Doha Round, all the members were willing to further promote the issues on agriculture, non-agriculture, service, rules and intellectual property, but had different opinions on the patterns and methods to promote the negotiation. China put forward that the development of authorization was still a main method to solve the unbalanced development of the world through trade. The WTO members should develop authorization according to Doha, and steadily promote Doha to gain active achievements. China is willing to strengthen communication and cooperation with the other members, seek common points while reserving differences, and reach consensus in order to implement the fruits of the conference and maintain the multilateral trading system jointly.”



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

Quote: “China has actually already signed a contract with an American company, Westinghouse Electric, to build four nuclear power plants in China to help them meet their goals. So that's sort of one example of how an American company is going to benefit from the commitment that the Chinese are making.”

• **December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The White House was able to work effectively with both Leader McConnell and Speaker Ryan earlier this summer in passing Trade Promotion Authority legislation [...] there is a more clearly defined legislative track or legislative path for this agreement through both Houses, which should speed passage. And that includes no longer needing to meet a 60-vote threshold in the Senate [...] You'll recall that senior members of the President's team here at the White House met with business leaders who are quite enthusiastic about seeing prompt legislative action to approve the agreement and move down the track of implementing it so that American businesses and American workers can begin reaping the significant benefits.”

• **December 16, 2015 – Federal Reserve issues FOMC statement** ([Federal Reserve](#))

Quote: “Overall, taking into account domestic and international developments, the Committee sees the risks to the outlook for both economic activity and the labor market as balanced. Inflation is expected to rise to 2 percent over the medium term as the transitory effects of declines in energy and import prices dissipate and the labor market strengthens further [...] Given the economic outlook, and recognizing the time it takes for policy actions to affect future economic outcomes, the Committee decided to raise the target range for the federal funds rate to 1/4 to 1/2 percent.”

• **December 16, 2015 – U.S. and WTO Partners Announce Final Agreement on Landmark Expansion of Information Technology Agreement** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “The United States and over 50 developed and developing country partners at the World Trade Organization (WTO) announced today a landmark expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) that will generate economic growth by phasing out hundreds of tariffs on information technology exports all over the world. This is the first major tariff-elimination deal at the WTO in 18 years. Today's announcement demonstrates that the WTO can deliver real, commercially significant results, and will eliminate tariffs on hundreds of Made-In-America information technology products..”

• **December 22, 2015 – Spotlight: TPP not all roses for Vietnam** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “All the TPP new commitments require Vietnam to amend many laws, including those relating to the government procurement, bidding, investment, enterprises and intellectual property, Tu stated. [...] The situation in the Vietnamese agriculture is similar - small scale, outdated technology and low labor productivity. Therefore, even Vietnam's key export items [...] will find it hard to penetrate into big TPP exports such as the United States and Japan which will impose higher non-tariff barriers, said the experts.”

• **December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce, Press Conference](#))

Quote: “From a global vision, China's foreign exports are still better than that of major global economies and rising countries with emerging markets. According to the monthly statistics by the WTO, in January-September, the value of global trade in goods exports decreased 11.1%, and exports of US, EU, Japan, South Korea, India, South Africa, and Brazil went down 6.2%, 12.8%, 9.2%, 6.6%, 16.6%, 7.9% and 16.8% respectively. China's market share has risen to 13% from 12.4% at the end of 2014 and still maintained its No.1 position as a global trading power.”

• **December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce, Press Conference](#))

Quote: “The Doha round is at a very difficult juncture, owing mainly to the lack of willingness to take the negotiations forward on the part of a small number of members, especially developed country members. The Nairobi meeting is a precious opportunity to shore up confidence and forge consensus among members [...] The Doha framework reflects the consensus reached among WTO members over the past 14 years and the positive outcomes achieved so far. Abandoning the Doha framework is going to be unfair and unacceptable to developing countries [...] We believe that as long as parties look for the long-term, abandon the mentality of zero-sum game and demonstrate enough political will, the multilateral trading system can absolutely make a difference.”

• **December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce, Press Conference](#))

Quote: “I believe that the Fed's rate rise will have some direct or indirect impact on China's foreign trade, international investment, among other things. As for how big the impact is going to be, we still need to do specific analysis and make an assessment based on the actual rate rise, its margin and other supporting policies.”



• **December 16, 2015 – Joint Statement by Trade Ministers of China and U.S. on the Expansion of WTO Information Technology Agreement** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng of China and U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman discussed and reached consensus on the negotiations on the expansion of the WTO Information Technology Agreement on December 16, 2015 [...] They hope this will provide important momentum to complete the ITA expansion negotiations during the ongoing Tenth Ministerial Conference of the WTO. They also believe that the outcome of the ITA expansion negotiations will promote world IT trade and will further the growth of the world economy.”

• **December 17, 2015 – 2015 Notorious Markets List Spotlights Fight Against Global Piracy and Counterfeiting of American Products** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “The 2015 report underscores the need for accountable governments everywhere to take on these forms of piracy and counterfeiting – including by using the numerous TPP standards that address piracy and counterfeiting as a benchmark [...] United States encourages all responsible authorities to intensify efforts to combat piracy and counterfeiting, and to use the information contained in the Notorious Markets List to pursue legal actions where appropriate.”

• **December 18, 2015 – Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew on Final Passage of the Omnibus Spending Bill** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “The IMF has promoted stability, jobs, and growth for the past 70 years, and these reforms will strengthen the U.S. leadership position in this critical institution, while putting the Fund on a strong financial footing. Along with passage of Trade Promotion Authority and the conclusion of the negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement this year, the IMF reforms reinforce the central leadership role of the United States in the global economic system and demonstrate our commitment to maintaining that position.”

• **December 19, 2015 – Weekly Address: Top 10 Things that Happened in 2015** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “A 21st century trade deal that makes sure our businesses can sell goods “Made in America” across the Asia-Pacific. The Trans-Pacific Partnership is the strongest, most pro-worker, pro-environment trade agreement in our history. And it means that America – not China, not anyone else – will write the rules of the global economy for the century ahead.”

• **December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce, Press Conference](#))

Quote: “The new deal adds 201 products to the 1996 Information Technology Agreement [...] The expanded ITA, which 54 WTO members are parties to, will affect trade worth trillions of US dollars and around 90% of the total trade value of related goods [...] The deal is the first major agreement in the WTO history of around 18 years on eliminating tariffs. As a major party to the negotiations, China has committed enormous efforts and made huge contributions to the conclusion. The implementation of the expanded ITA will help China expand its exports of related goods, consolidate its position in the global value chain and push its IT products up the GVC while boosting the confidence of foreign investors in China and furthering China’s opening up.”

• **December 28, 2015 – AIIB to benefit Asia and beyond** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “For starters, the AIIB’s unique ownership and shareholding structures reflect the institution’s regional character and provide members with a greater voice in policy direction and decision-making. The rich dialogue among founding members during the development of the AIIB’s Articles of Agreement and policy framework attests to our shareholders’ strong ownership of, and commitment to, the bank’s mandate and mission.”

• **December 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Belt and Road Initiative is an open and inclusive initiative for regional cooperation. It is not a tool for geopolitics. China has no geopolitical motives that seek the so-called sphere of influence, and will not impose its will on others. The Chinese side will continue to adhere to the principle of jointly building the initiative through consultation to meet the interests of all and deepen practical cooperation in various fields with countries along the Belt and Road so as to achieve win-win results.”



• **December 23, 2015 – USTR Releases 2015 Report to Congress on China’s WTO Compliance** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “The report describes the various ways the Administration is working to hold China to their WTO commitments, including in key areas like intellectual property rights enforcement and the protection of trade secrets; China’s industrial policies and support for state-owned enterprises; services; agricultural policies; and transparency [...] In 2016, the Administration will continue to vigorously pursue increased benefits for U.S. businesses, workers, farmers, ranchers and service providers from our trade and economic ties with China. The Administration will use all available tools to achieve these objectives, including the pursuit of productive, outcome-oriented dialogue in both bilateral and multilateral settings, as well as the vigorous use of enforcement mechanisms, where appropriate.”

• **December 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The Financial Times reported that US officials have repeatedly expressed concerns to the EU on granting China the market economy status, saying that it would amount to unilaterally disarming Europe’ trade defenses against China and could hamper efforts to prevent Chinese companies flooding US and European markets with unfairly cheap goods. What is China’s response?”

A: This issue essentially relates to all WTO members’ fulfillment of the obligations stated in the Protocol on the Accession of the People’s Republic of China to the WTO. [...] No signatory party can evade its obligations under international treaties by citing domestic laws as an excuse, and treat Chinese enterprises in an unfair, unjust, unreasonable and discriminative manner. [...] We hope that the EU can set a good example in obeying the WTO rules and take substantive actions to meet its obligations under Article 15 of the Protocol, which will also facilitate the development of China-EU economic and trade ties.”

• **December 30, 2015 – Washington alone in refuting China’s MES** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Washington has warned Brussels against granting the market economy status (MES) to China, saying the decision would hamper their efforts to prevent Chinese firms from dumping unfairly cheap goods on the US and EU markets, and amount to “unilaterally disarming” Europe’s trade defense against China [...] Keen to save its No.1 position, Washington can’t help strategically counter China by being active in setting barriers yet reluctant to remove them. Different from the US, the EU is more interested in forging a mutually beneficial relationship.”

• **December 31, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Belt and Road Initiative has reaped an important batch of early harvests. The China-ROK and China-Australia Free Trade Agreements have officially entered into force. Negotiations on upgrading China-ASEAN Free Trade Area have concluded smoothly while talks on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership have registered substantive progress. In 2016, China’s diplomacy will continue to lead national development and global economy, champion world peace, propel regional growth, create a more amicable external environment for building a moderately prosperous society in an all-round way, and write a new chapter for world peace and development.”



### Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: The U.S. Continues to Express its Concerns in the Realm of Cyber Security; China Passes Counter-terrorism Law

#### United States

• **December 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We’ve been very clear all along that we want to encourage a transparent cyber relationship with China. And it’s in the interest of both the U.S. and China – and frankly, any global economy in this day and age – to have a cyber security regime set up in their country that will promote investment that will promote long-time prosperity. If you’re a company or a firm or a business, an international business, you’re going to look twice at investing anywhere where – that doesn’t offer that kind of cyber security. So it’s in everyone’s interest to pursue that. And certainly, what we’re looking at going forward is to establish some clear guidelines about how we establish that regime.”

• **December 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Do you still recognize the Chinese cyber attack against U.S. private company still continue after – particularly after President Obama and Xi’s summit meeting last time? I mean, the cyber attack from PLA or some organization which is affiliated with Chinese Government.

A: Sure. I don’t think we’ve ever – if it’s one I’m thinking of, I don’t think we’ve ever said clearly that – who was at fault or who was behind that attack.”

• **December 2, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The first is, the President did have the opportunity to meet with President Xi in Paris two days ago. The issue of cybersecurity was raised in their conversations. This continues to be a top priority of the President -- of President Obama in terms of our relationship with China [...] And actually right now, one of the senior Chinese officials that’s responsible for cybersecurity is in the United States and, over the course of the day yesterday and today, has been engaged in conversations with the Secretary of Homeland Security and with the Attorney General about some of these issues.”

#### China

• **December 1, 2015 – Root out external link to Xinjiang terrorists** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “It is thus clear that the violent and terror forces in Xinjiang are spiritually supported, and to some extent commanded and manipulated by foreign terrorist organizations. Certain people from the West still obstinately believe that only terror attacks in their countries are acts of terror, while the killings against civilians in China are resistance with just cause. Such an argument has breached the global anti-terror united front. The underlying cause of terrorism is hard to root out, but China is genuinely making great efforts toward solving the puzzle [...] China’s crackdown on terrorism should be based on its own circumstances. Russia has hit the TIP this time, but we cannot expect other countries to clean up the entirety of ETIM. The complicated fight will continue. We should stay clear-minded in tackling terrorism, stand firm on our rights, and not make terrorism disturb the big picture of Chinese domestic affairs as well as its diplomacy. Once this foundation is solid, our future actions against terrorist groups will be more precise and efficient.”

• **December 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: China and the US recently held a high-level dialogue on fighting cyber crimes. There are reports saying that the leaking of data of the US Office of Personnel Management is a criminal case rather than a state-sponsored cyber attack. What is your comment?

A: At the dialogue, the two sides reached an agreement on the guidelines on joint China-US fight against cyber crimes and related matters, and the establishment of a hot-line. They also reached broad consensus on some specific cases of cyber security, cyber counter-terrorism cooperation and law enforcement training. The outcomes are very positive.”





• **December 14, 2015 – CNAS Defense Forum** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: "China, a rising power with impressive latent military technological capabilities, probably embodies a more enduring strategic challenge as its ambitions and objectives expand in Asia, the Western Pacific littoral, Africa, Latin America and elsewhere. Now, China's words have been about peaceful rise, and about defense. [...] DOD, therefore, continues to pursue military-to-military cooperation with China, as well as a wide range of confidence-building measures to make sure that we never come to blows. But while we do so, we can't overlook the competitive aspects of our relationship, especially around our military capabilities. [...] DOD focuses on the capabilities of potential challengers, and both Russia and China present the United States, our allies and our partners with unique and increasingly stressing military capabilities and operational challenges."

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

Quote: "Q: I was wondering if State Department has any comment or concern regarding China's plan to build its military outpost on the East African nation of Djibouti, where also U.S. Navy operates.?"

A: These are issues for sovereign nations to work out [...] We have bases many places around the world, as do other militaries. If those kinds of activities can help lead to better stability and security in the region, well, then there's obviously some value to that. But where military activities by any nation contribute to escalating tensions or increasing tensions, well, then that's obviously something that we would certainly take a dim view of. But as far as I know, these are preliminary discussions and I think it's too soon to get out way too ahead of it."

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

Quote: "Q: Do you still have the previous concern, which is focused on the backdoor access to foreign internet company and phone companies' data? Because that item was written in the draft but left out in the final version."

A: We're still looking through the law, and certainly that was a concern. Any access – again, this is, as I said before, a struggle that many countries around the world face in confronting terrorism. How do you balance privacy, freedom of expression, all those elements, with the need to provide national security and protect your people? And that is something that we hope that China also struggles and seeks to try to address as it moves forward with this law, implementation of this law."

• **December 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: The Washington Post said that the Chinese government arrested the hackers who stole data from the US Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Can you confirm that and provide more details? There are reports saying that the leaking of OPM data is a criminal case rather than a state-sponsored cyber attack. Does this conclusion have anything to do with China's arrest of hackers?"

A: I have no relevant information. Yesterday I briefed about the first China-US high-level dialogue on fighting cyber crimes, [...] The two sides agreed to share experience in fighting cyber crimes, establish a hot-line on fighting cyber crimes and related matters, remain in contact for law enforcement matters and list specific steps to crack cyber crime cases. This demonstrates that both China and the US are willing to strengthen communication and work together to deal with common challenges in the cyber security field."

• **December 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "NATO is a product of the Cold War. In the globalized era, the security of one country interconnects with and influences that of another. No country or group can seek its absolute security single-handedly. The international community should discard all forms of Cold War mindset, adopt the new concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and jointly build a just and fair security landscape that is shared by all."

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

Quote: "Q: In his televised speech aired on the morning of December 7, US President Barack Obama said that the mass shooting in California was an act of terrorism designed to kill innocent people, and that the terrorist threat has evolved into a new phase. What is China's comment on that?"

A: We have noted that the US side has defined the shooting rampage in California as an act of terrorism. We once again condemn the perpetrators, mourn for the victims and express sympathy to the injured and the bereaved families. Terrorism is the enemy of all mankind. The Chinese side opposes all forms of terrorism and calls for intensified international cooperation against terrorism."



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

Quote: “Q: Do you have any comments on the Chinese anti-terrorism law which just passed yesterday?”

A: Well, first off, we do condemn, of course, all forms of terrorism regardless of the political or other goals professed by their perpetrators. However, the United States remains concerned that the broad, vaguely phrased provisions and definitions in this law – speaking about the counterterrorism law – could lead to greater restrictions on the exercise of freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly, and religion within China. So we’re continuing to examine the final text of the law, and we’ll continue to make our concerns known to the Chinese Government.”

• **December 17, 2015 – Commentary: China, biggest victim of cybercrime, champions "community of common destiny" in cyberspace** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “In the first half of 2014 alone, almost 6.2 million computers in China were hijacked and controlled from foreign IP addresses, with more than 2.6 million of those being controlled from IP addresses in the United States [...] Faced with these sneak attacks, China, as the biggest victim of cybercrime, is dedicated to a community of common destiny in the virtual network, ideologically and technically. Those accusations saying that China’s Internet policies are not transparent or that the country advocates Internet censorship are entirely groundless, as the Chinese government has been working on an improved network environment.”

• **December 18, 2015 – How China Sees Russia** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Xi and Obama also spoke candidly about the cybersecurity issues that have represented a serious point of contention between Beijing and Washington; the two leaders clarified their countries’ intentions, agreed to form a high-level joint dialogue on the subject, and committed to work together to establish an international cybersecurity code of conduct.”

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

Quote: “With the development of information technology, the internet has been increasingly used by terrorists as a major tool to organize, plot and conduct terrorist activities. It is imperative for us to prevent and crack down on cyber-enabled terrorist crimes by enhancing relevant institutional measures. With the aim of fighting terrorism, countries including the US have provided in relevant legislation the duty of assistance of network operators and service providers.”

• **December 24, 2015 – Arms sale will cause damage to US interests** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “By pointing an accusing finger at the counterterrorism legislation and claiming it will restrict human rights in China, the US is once again adopting the guise of a self-appointed champion of human rights to meddle in the internal affairs of another country. [...] The US’ double standards and condescending manner will only erode its own credibility and by linking the draft law with US trade and investment in China it will harm bilateral cooperation, and thus hurt its own interests.”



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

Quote: "During the 12th Meeting of the China-US Joint Liaison Group on Law Enforcement Cooperation (JLG) held in Beijing last December, the two sides agreed to carry out joint investigation into five major job-related corruption crimes. [...] It is hoped that the two sides would give full play to the main role of the JLG, advance anti-corruption cooperation in a more practical and flexible manner and jointly uphold social fairness and justice as well as the sanctity of law."

• **December 31, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: Microsoft Corp experts found that the Chinese authorities had hacked into more than a thousand Hotmail email accounts, targeting China's Tibetan and Uighur minorities in exile. What is your response?"

A: The Chinese government is a staunch guardian of cyber security. We resolutely oppose all forms of cyber attacks and investigate and crack down in accordance with law cyber attacks launched inside China or using China's cyber infrastructure. If they have solid evidence, they can use the available channels to communicate and conduct mutually beneficial cooperation with China in a constructive way. However, spreading baseless rumors is not helpful to resolving the relevant issue, increasing mutual trust, and promoting international cooperation in the field of cyber security."

• **December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: "Terrorism is the common enemy of the international community. China has always been opposed to terrorism in all forms and has taken an active part in international counter-terrorism cooperation. In such cooperation, China has always observed the norms governing international relationship, adhered to the principle of equality and mutual benefit, and respected the will of and strengthened the consultation and coordination with relevant countries. The counter-terrorism law makes clear stipulation on conducting overseas counter-terrorism operation by the PLA and the APF, which is in line with the responsibilities of the Chinese armed forces stipulated in the Chinese Constitution and the National Security Law. For the PLA and the APF to perform counter-terrorism operations abroad, the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the norms governing international relations must be observed and the sovereignty of the country concerned must also be respected."



#### Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Touts Humanitarian Aid Contributions and Calls for Release of a Chinese Lawyer from Prison; China Denies Accusations of Human Rights Abuses and Argues Its Internet Censorship is in the Best Interests of Society

##### United States

• **December 1, 2015 – Press Conference by President Obama** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “There are millions of Syrians who are displaced and living inside of Turkey -- not just refugee camps, but they are now moving into major cities throughout Turkey [...] So I’m proud that the United States is the single-largest contributor of humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees.”

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

Quote: “We remain concerned that Pu Zhiqiang, a prominent Chinese defense lawyer, is being tried under vague charges of inciting ethnic hatred and picking quarrels and provoking trouble. Lawyers and civil society leaders such as Miss Pu – Mr. Pu, I’m sorry – should not be subject to continuing repression but should be allowed to contribute to the building of a prosperous and stable China. We urge Chinese authorities to release Mr. Pu and call upon China to uphold fundamental civil rights and fair trial guarantees as enshrined in the PRC constitution and its international human rights commitments. We were also dismayed with the physical harassment of Chinese and international observers, including journalists and diplomatic personnel outside the courthouse where the trial was held.”

• **December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The first is that the United States continues to be the largest donor of humanitarian assistance to this response effort. There are more than \$4 billion -- I think we’re now approaching \$5 billion in assistance that’s been provided by the United States to countries in the region that are trying to meet the basic humanitarian needs of Syrians fleeing violence [...] then it comes to the U.N. refugee resettlement program, that the United States actually resettles more of those refugees through that U.N. program than every other country in the world combined. And again, I think that is consistent with both our values as a country and a response to the moral questions that are central to all of this.”

##### China

• **December 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The UN Committee Against Torture issued a report about China's implementation of the Convention Against Torture yesterday, expressing concerns about the existence of torture in China. What is your comment on that?”

A: China is firmly opposed to torture. In the process of pursuing all-round progress of law-based state governance, China has deepened judicial reform and put human rights under more protection, making well-recognized and tangible progress in its anti-torture campaign. [...] We have also noted that some opinions held by the UN Committee Against Torture are based on uncorroborated information. It is hoped that the committee could stick to its mandate, improve its way of work and review China's implementation of the convention in a more comprehensive, objective and impartial way.”

• **December 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Today is the World Human Rights Day. The US Ambassador to China and the German Embassy in China have both issued statements, expressing their concerns about China's human rights record. What is China's response to that?”

A: No foreign institutions or individuals have the right to interfere with China's judicial independence and sovereignty. Second, China attaches great importance to promoting and protecting human rights, upholds the universality of human rights in the context of real conditions in China and promotes economic and social development, social equity and justice so that economic, social and cultural rights as well as civil and political rights can be improved in an all-round and balanced way. [...] Third, it seems that some people are poring over specific cases in China while selectively ignoring the feelings of 1.3 billion Chinese people and the freedom and progress that they enjoy. [...] Fourth, no country in the world can say it is flawless in terms of human rights. Serious problems in the US such as police's excessive use of force in the process of law-enforcement and racial discrimination have raised people's concerns..”



• **December 21, 2015 – Remarks at the Security Council Stakeout Following Consultations on the Middle East** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “President Obama plans to host a high-level summit at next year’s General Assembly during high-level week focused on the global refugee crisis. This summit will follow a vigorous, sustained effort over the coming months by not only the United States, but the United States and our partners, to secure new commitments towards critical goals including: increased and sustained support for UN humanitarian appeals – every session we have in the chamber we are told that the UN appeal is filled usually at under 50 percent; greater opportunities for resettlement; and expanded opportunities for refugee self-reliance through access to education, legal employment, and other measures.”

• **December 22, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The U.S. welcomes reports that Pu Zhiqiang, a prominent Chinese defense lawyer, has been released from detention. We are disturbed, however, that Mr. Pu was convicted and given a three-year suspended sentence following 19 months of imprisonment on vague charges of “inciting ethnic hatred” and “picking quarrels and provoking trouble.” We urge Chinese authorities to vacate that conviction immediately and unconditionally. Mr. Pu Zhiqiang is a courageous defense attorney, recognized around the world for his work to strengthen the rule of law in China. Civil society leaders should be allowed to contribute to the building of a prosperous and stable China.”

• **December 10, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador Wang Min, Deputy Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations at the 70th Session of the General Assembly under the Item “Strengthening of the Coordination of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance of the United Nations”** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “International humanitarian assistance must comply with the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs and peaceful settlement of disputes enshrined in the UN Charter, as well as the principles of humanitarian assistance established by GA Res. [...] China’s willingness to work with others and actively contribute to the achievement of common development and the maintenance of peace and stability. [...] China [...] encourages the UN humanitarian system [...] We (China) share Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s view that an increase in humanitarian assistance should not be at the expense of resources for development.”

• **December 16, 2015 – Wuzhen showcases China’s Net prosperity** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The second World Internet Conference is being held in Wuzhen, Zhejiang Province from Wednesday to Friday. [...] 20 heads of important international organizations, and over 2,000 guests from more than 120 countries will attend the meeting [...] Some in the Western mainstream media are making sour comments, arguing that China is a country that tightly controls cyberspace, and is among the lowest-ranking nations in network freedom [...] If we all apply the rules of the US, many societies could not afford the consequences.”

• **December 17, 2015 – Statement by Minister Counselor Luo Jin at the high-level event marking the tenth anniversary of CERF** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “China always pays great attention to its cooperation with OCHA. We have taken an active part in the work of CERF and supported OCHA in making use of CERF in its effort to provide humanitarian assistance. [...] China will, as always, support the role of CERF as an international contingency fund and is willing to gradually increase its donation to the best of its ability.”

• **December 17, 2015 – Wuzhen's World Internet Conference charts news course** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “We can express our opinions via media outlets and Social Media, but such widespread dissemination of unfiltered information could pose harm. A few people are exploiting Websites to post pornography, racist and sexist ideologies, false stories and extremist political viewpoints that could incite inflammatory public emotions that threaten humanity, the community and national security [...] Beijing has engaged in a careful balancing act that encourages more innovation but with Chinese characteristics.”



• **December 24, 2015 – Commentary: U.S. accusation over China's anti-terror legislation hypocritical, groundless** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "The latest attempt of China to address terrorism at home and help maintain world security, is by no means a "wicked legislation," as framed by Washington, to limit freedom of speech and invade privacy [...] It might be easy to wave the stick of human rights, but it surely damages mutual trust that is vital to the world's fight against terrorism."

• **December 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on the Decision of not Renewing Press Credentials for Ursula Gauthier, a Beijing-based Correspondent for French News Magazine L'Obs** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: Reports say that Ursula Gauthier, a Beijing-based correspondent for French news magazine L'Obs failed to get an extension for her press credentials. Can you confirm that?"

A: Ursula Gauthier, the Beijing-based correspondent for L'Obs blatantly championed acts of terrorism and slaughter of innocent civilians, igniting indignation among the Chinese people. She did not make a serious apology to the Chinese public for her erroneous remarks, and is no longer suitable to continue working in China. China protects the lawful rights and interests of permanent offices of foreign news agencies and foreign journalists on news coverage in China, but will never tolerate the act of speaking for terrorism."

• **December 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: On December 26, the Foreign Ministry released a statement on not renewing the press credentials for journalist Ursula Gauthier of the French news magazine L'Obs. Do you have anything to add?"

A: She claimed that relevant measures were a result of her criticism on China's ethnic policies. I think you are all clear that she has been working and living in China for 15 years. During these 15 years, she has been critical of China on many issues, yet she encountered no problem working in China. She also argued that China suppresses freedom of expression and thus would not allow her to work and report in China as a correspondent. I also want to remind her that among the 611 journalists from over 300 foreign news agencies, 610 of them have got their press credentials extended. Maybe she should have more self-examination."



• **December 28, 2015 – Miss World Canada must accept consequences of political action** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Lin had earned the "unwelcome person" status before she claimed the title of Miss Canada, and it was for a reason [...] Several roles she played showed Falun Gong in a positive light, a group branded a dangerous cult by the Chinese government due to its brainwashing and the risk it poses to social stability. Her advocacy for "human rights" based on her "sympathy" for Tibet and Xinjiang separatists aims to smear the Chinese authorities, regardless of the separatists' notoriety in Chinese society."

• **December 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: French journalist Ursula Gauthier said that the Chinese Foreign Ministry has contacted her three times since the end of November, asking her to apologize publicly for her report. Can you confirm that? Ursula Gauthier also said she received anonymous death threats. Do you have any comment?"

A: First of all, we maintain normal contact with all foreign journalists in China for reasons of work. As for the contact between the Chinese side and Ursula Gauthier, the agreement is to keep it between ourselves. Second, if she had some serious introspection, she would take the initiative to apologize, instead of being asked to apologize. Ursula Gauthier told the press that she received the so-called death threats. If I remember it correctly, this is not the first time she made such claims. The logic goes that if a person seriously believes that his or her life is threatened, the first response must be calling the police. The Chinese government has the responsibility of safeguarding lawful rights and interests of foreigners in China. But as far as I know, the Chinese police has yet to receive such an alarm. Ursula Gauthier should go to the police if she really believes she is threatened. Instead she is flaunting it in front of the press which is rather unusual, unless she is doing it for other purposes."



## Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. Boosts of Its Leadership on Climate Change and Cooperation with China; China Insists U.S. and Developed Countries Play Leading Role in Resolving Climate Change

### United States

- **December 1, 2015 – Setting the Course for a New Era in Energy** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “In regard to clean energy in particular, China has made clear through the statements by the Chinese President Xi Jinping, including in a bilateral format with President Obama at the time of the APEC ministerial last year and then again in the state visit in September, China has made clear that it is committed to a significant share of its total energy production coming from clean energy resources, specifically 20 percent by the year, I believe, 2030. This will be a huge undertaking for China, and in that regard China both has things to offer to its partners in the global community as well as things to benefit from that engagement. In terms of offering, China has – is an important partner in clean energy research.”

- **December 1, 2015 – Press Conference by President Obama** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “America is already leading on many issues, and climate is no different [...] And since we worked with China last year to show that the two largest economies and two largest emitters can cooperate on climate, more than 180 countries have followed our lead in announcing their own targets [...] And so my main focus is making sure that the United States is a leader in bringing a successful agreement home here in Paris [...] When I made the announcement in Beijing with President Xi, I was able to do so in part because we had led domestically, so I could put my money where my mouth was, and I said, here are the tough political decisions we’re making, now what are you going to do?”

- **December 2, 2015– Press Availability at NATO** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “When I first went to China two years ago, we engaged in negotiations, and a year ago, President Obama was able to stand up with President Xi and announce that together, we were going to encourage countries to announce their intended national determined contributions, their reductions and emissions.”

### China

- **December 5, 2015 – USA not doing enough in climate fight** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The US has promised to “mobilize” other developed countries to raise \$100 billion to help the developing countries cope with climate change. Yet few developing nations have received fund or technology assistance. The US is in a much stronger position than China, in terms of economy and environmental protection measures, to combat climate change. [...] But the US focuses on verifying China's implementation results, without granting China the necessary means to examine to what degree the US has helped it to combat climate change. This is certainly not what cooperation is about.”

- **December 7, 2015 – Financial reform to boost green industry** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Green industry should serve as one of the major drivers of China's economic growth [...] The green industry is known for its relatively high risk and inefficiency in yielding the expected results. [...] Therefore, public subsidies from governments at all levels are necessary to boost China's green industry. More importantly, financial reform is necessary so as to involve more non-governmental capital to reduce the costs of financing and investment. This could be done in a top-to-bottom manner, or the other way round.”

- **December 7, 2015 – China's cooperative efforts for a better world** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “At the climate conference, Xi envisioned a new globally binding agreement that would promote the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change beyond 2020. Beijing has urged the developed world to fulfill its commitment to mobilizing resources both before and after 2020 to support developing countries adapt to and combat climate change.”

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

Quote: “China and other developing countries are major victims of the negative impact of climate change. With a highly responsible attitude toward people from China and the rest of the world, the Chinese government attaches great importance to climate change and takes active measures to deal with it.”





• **December 4, 2015 – Fact Sheet: Health Educators Climate Commitment** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “Today, in Paris, the White House will announce that more than 45 additional medical, public health, and nursing schools around the world have signed onto the Health Educators Climate Commitment to ensure their students, the next generation of health professionals, are prepared, through education and training, to effectively address the health impacts of climate change, and to ensure that the world has a cadre of climate change and health experts [...]The 48 new partners joining today increases the total number of schools signing on to 118 and expands participation to 14 additional countries [...] China.”

• **December 9, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We want to make sure that there is also a commitment [...] to make serious down payments on cutting carbon pollution, and that a commitment to doing that is not automatically in direct conflict with the kind of economic priorities that many of those countries have identified for themselves.”

• **December 11, 2015 – Readout of the President’s Call with President Xi Jinping of China** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “President Obama spoke by phone last night with President Xi Jinping of China to coordinate efforts at the ongoing Paris climate conference. Both leaders agreed that the Paris conference presents a crucial opportunity to galvanize global efforts to meet the climate change challenge.”

• **December 12, 2015 – U.S. Leadership and the Historic Paris Agreement to Combat Climate Change** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “For the first time, the Agreement recognizes the reality that countries like China are already joining the base of donor countries contributing to climate finance and encourages developing countries to contribute to climate finance, while reaffirming that the United States and other developed economies should continue to take the lead.”

• **December 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Developed countries should play a leading role and contribute more to the world campaign against climate change. China, as a developing country, supports the Paris conference in producing an ambitious, powerful, comprehensive and balanced agreement, and has been making positive and constructive efforts for the success of the conference.”

• **December 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Western media reported that the EU, the US and 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific states formed a “high ambition coalition” which is pushing the Paris conference towards an ambitious climate deal. China and India are not included in the coalition. What is your comment on that? Do you feel that the Chinese side is somehow shut out?”

A: In fact, we are all ambitious partners in the endeavor to seal a deal and set up an influential international mechanism against climate change at the Paris conference. There is no such thing of anyone being shut out. [...] It is hoped that all parties would focus on building consensus and work side by side to forge an accord in a practical and cooperative spirit. I believe that this is the most meaningful ambition shared by the international community.”

• **December 11, 2015 – News Analysis: What stands in the way of global climate agreement?** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “China may also hold a significant role in brokering the final deal. China’s recently reaffirmed pledge, made with the United States, on climate change mitigation and its domestic actions to curb emissions have helped build positive momentum in Paris, senior OECD climate policy analyst Jane Ellis told Xinhua. “As a major player in three separate negotiation groups, namely G77/China, BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) and LMDC (Like-Minded Developing Countries), China has the power to bridge differences between these groups as well as between parties more broadly,” Ellis said.”



• **December 12, 2015 – Statement by the President on the Paris Climate Agreement** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “With our historic joint announcement with China last year, we showed it was possible to bridge the old divides between developed and developing nations that had stymied global progress for so long. That accomplishment encouraged dozens and dozens of other nations to set their own ambitious climate targets. And that was the foundation for success in Paris.”

• **December 13, 2015 – Kerry: Climate deal lacks penalties because of US Congress** ([Fox News Sunday](#))

Quote: “I very much doubt we would have had an agreement at all if President Obama hadn’t initiated the effort with China and undertaken his own climate action plan in the United States, which has now seen the United States reduce our emissions more than any other country in the world. That gave us great credibility here. And that is part is what is driving people’s commitment to make this work.”

• **December 13, 2015 – ‘This Week’ Transcript: Secretary of State John Kerry and Ben Carson** ([This Week](#))

Quote: “And the fact is, the United States of America has already reduced its emissions more than any other country in the world. And it’s done so through various means, by raising the efficiency standards on automobiles, by engaging in R&D and deployment of new technologies. And the president has made it very, very clear that he’s committed to this and this agreement really came about significantly due to American leadership, with President Obama engaging with China, coming to an agreement with the two largest economies, the two largest emitters, saying they were going to join together to put out their reductions.”

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

Quote: “In light of the significant commitment that the Chinese have made to essentially cap their emissions in the years ahead, it means that they’re going to have to significantly scale up alternative sources of energy. And it means that they’re going to have to consider something other than just building coal-fired power plants, for example.”

• **December 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Remarks on the Outcomes of the Paris Climate Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side has been working hard for a successful negotiation in Paris. To make that happen, President Xi Jinping made joint statements with leaders of relevant countries and gave a detailed introduction to China’s proposition of enhancing cooperation on climate change at the opening ceremony of the Paris conference which served as an important political guidance to the negotiation.”

• **December 14, 2015 – Historical step toward low-carbon future** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Whether the goal of COP21 can be realized is only determined by every government’s effectiveness to deliver its promise, backed by the needed resources. As a responsible developing country, China will not hesitate to take international obligations commensurate with its own national conditions, development stage and actual capacity in the global fight against climate change.”

• **December 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese government has been working hard to improve the environment. We have laid down major policies, taken a range of actions, and made positive efforts to that end. When it comes to managing the environment, we still face multiple challenges, but we will stay steadfast to our goal, as it meets the common aspiration of the Chinese people.”

• **December 18, 2015 – Closer China-US partnership on climate change expected** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Over the past years, China and the United States have forged a climate change partnership with the commitment to pursue emissions reduction and sustainable energy goals, which has made the world’s two largest emitters big players in addressing the climate issue [...] Beijing officials have twice taken three-month-long trips to California, including stops in Los Angeles. And the focus is often California’s cap-and-trade program.”



• **December 14, 2015 – Readout of the President’s Call with President Xi Jinping of China** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “The two leaders recognized the important contributions of their joint announcement of climate targets in November 2014, their joint statement on climate in September 2015, and the close coordination of their negotiating teams in Paris for securing the agreement. The President emphasized the importance of continuing close U.S.-China cooperation on climate change issues into the future.”

• **December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The reason that I highlighted that specific example is that we’re talking about an American company, Westinghouse Electric, that is getting business in China because of China’s commitment to reducing carbon pollution. That’s good for the American economy. It’s good for American workers here in the United States that we can essentially export some of this technology and this work from the United States to China.”

• **December 18, 2015 – Press Conference by the President** ([White House, Press Conference](#))

Quote: “On climate, our early investment in clean energy ignited a clean energy industry boom. Our actions to help reduce our carbon emissions brought China to the table. And last week, in Paris, nearly 200 nations forged an historic agreement that was only possible because of American leadership [...] When I went to Copenhagen, I essentially engaged in 24 hours of diplomacy to salvage from a pretty chaotic process the basic principle that all countries had to participate, that we couldn’t have a rigid division between developed countries and developing countries when it came to solving this problem. That was the initial foundation for us then working with other countries, culminating in the joint announcement with China.”

• **December 19, 2015 – Weekly Address: Top 10 Things that Happened in 2015** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “America’s global leadership on climate change. Last week, in Paris, nearly 200 countries came together to set the course for a low-carbon future. And it was only possible because America led with clean energy here at home and strong diplomacy around the world.”



## Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. and Japan Ink Agreement on Host Nation Support for USFJ; China Continues to Demand Japan Face Its History Record Honestly, Sees ROK-Japan Agreement as Political Move Rather than Genuine

### United States

• **December 4, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: It’s been announced that the U.S. and Japan agreed that they’re hastening the return of some land in Okinawa.

A: They were announced jointly by the governments of the United States and Japan on December 4th in Tokyo. We believe that these early returns are a tangible demonstration of the cooperative relationship that characterizes the U.S.-Japan relationship. The returns build on the 2013 Okinawa Consolidation Plan and other bilateral agreements which will help to reduce the impact of our military presence while ensuring our capability to fulfill our security treaty commitments.”

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

Quote: “The United States and Japan have agreed in principle on a new five-year package of host nation support for U.S. forces in Japan. The package is valued at 189.9 billion Yen in the final year of the agreement, which is 2020. That’s approximately \$1.6 billion at current exchange rates, with an average annual cost sharing of 189.3 billion Yen. By covering a share of the cost for our base workforce, utilities, training relocation, and facilities improvement, this host nation support package will help sustain the U.S. military presence in Japan which, as you know, is a key part of the United States rebalance to Asia and to the Pacific.”

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

Quote: “We welcome today’s announcement by the governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea that they have reached an agreement regarding the very sensitive historical legacy issue of so-called comfort women. The two governments made clear that by implementing this agreement they will, quote, “finally and irreversibly,” end quote, resolve this issue between the two governments. And we believe this agreement will promote healing and help improve relations between two of the United States’s most important allies. We applaud the leaders of Japan and the Republic of Korea for having the courage and vision to reach this agreement, and we call on the international community to support it.”

### China

• **December 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Yesterday, China held a national memorial to commemorate Nanjing Massacre victims. Some voice in Japan said that relevant arrangements by the Chinese side at the memorial showed that there is room for the improvement of bilateral ties. What is China's comment? How will it impact bilateral relations?

A: What is of paramount importance in handling China-Japan relations is to take history as a mirror and at the same time, look to the future. History cannot be denied or whitewashed by anyone. Only on this basis can China-Japan relations move forward in a sound and stable way.”

• **December 16, 2015 – New resolve for regional integration** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Deepening regional integration and strengthening production capacity cooperation take priority on the agenda of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization members. [...] The statement also pledged support for the China-proposed Silk Road Economic Belt, an open and mutually beneficial initiative aimed at reviving the ancient Silk Road from China via Central Asia and Russia to Europe [...] With SCO members in Central Asia seeking infrastructure renovation and China bountiful in high-quality production capacity, their cooperation in industrial capacity both at the regional and international level will help produce win-win outcomes.”

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

Quote: “Q: A history verification panel set up by Japan's Liberal Democratic Party met for the first time today. The panel may examine issues like the Nanjing Massacre and the Tokyo War Crimes Trials. What is China's comment on that?

A: We hope that the Japanese side would demonstrate sincerity on the issue of history, respect the common sense and verdict upheld by the international community, face squarely the history of aggression, honor the statements and commitments it has made so far on the issue of history and take concrete actions to win the trust of its Asian neighbors and the international community.”



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

Quote: “Q : Japanese Government will give about U.S. \$8.3 million to fund who those suffered during Second World War. But it seems some people, some victims are not satisfied with that. Comfort woman called Lee Yong-soo requested Japan’s damages for war crime rather than conciliatory compensation. So how does the United States make sure that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s right-wing politicians and advisors will not damage the agreement by provocative statements in future?”

A : We certainly applaud the efforts of both governments to reach this agreement. It was not an easy thing to achieve and took, as I said, courage, hard work, perseverance on both sides to come to an agreement. I’m aware, as we all are, that there are continued grievances, people who feel aggrieved, even with this agreement. That’s really for the Government of South Korea working with its own citizens, those affected by these events, to work with them to address their concerns. And certainly on the same – in answer to your question, in response to your question, it’s incumbent on the Government of Japan to sell this agreement or to convince the Japanese people that this agreement in is in the best interests of Japan.”

• **December 28, 2015 – Daily Press Briefings** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: So historians’ estimate is up to 200,000 comfort women during Second World War. They are not only from South Korea but also from maybe China, Philippines, other countries around the world. So do you think Japan should have the same kind of attitude towards them or kind of same kind of apology to these other countries’ comfort women?”

A: Sure. This is an important agreement, a significant step forward in addressing some of these, as I said, very sensitive historical issues. We’ve stated many times – the United States – that the trafficking of women for sexual purposes by the Japanese military during World War II was a terrible, egregious violation of human rights. We do believe this agreement today will help promote healing and help improve relations certainly between Japan and the Republic of Korea, and we believe that that will help address again some of these ongoing --”

• **December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce, Press Conference](#))

Quote: “Since the launch of China-Japan-ROK FTA talks in Nov. 2012, eight rounds of negotiations have been conducted in three years [...] This week, the 9th round DG-level consultations is underway [...] The establishment of the China-Japan-ROK FTA can help tap the industrial complementarity and the potentials of investment and trade among the three countries and further integrate the regional value chain. The three countries share the belief that a comprehensive and high-standard FTA meets the overall interests of the three countries and will boost regional prosperity and development[...] China is ready to work with Japan and the ROK to contribute to the early conclusion of the FTA negotiations.”

• **December 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: According to the Japanese media, the foreign ministers of Japan and the ROK have reached a final deal meant to resolve the issue of comfort women today. What is China’s take on the result?”

A: The Chinese side always maintains that the Japanese side should face up to and reflect upon its history of aggression and properly deal with the relevant issue with a sense of responsibility.”

• **December 29, 2015 – Japan’s record defense budget unsettling region** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Japan revised the guidelines for the defense cooperation with the US in April. [...] And most importantly, new security laws that allow Japan to exercise the right to the collective self-defense were pushed through the Diet in September. [...] And it is clear that the changes being initiated are largely China-centric. Japanese defense white papers have repeatedly posited China as the main source of security concerns in recent years.”

• **December 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “On the issue of comfort women, I have made clear China’s position. We once again urge the Japanese side to face squarely and reflect upon its history of aggression and deal with the relevant issue in a responsible manner. This position is consistent and subject to no change.”



• **December 28, 2015 – Developments on the relationship between Japan and the Republic of Korea** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “It remains to be seen how the U.S.-Japan, U.S.-ROK alliances and the bilateral and trilateral coordination between Japan and Korea will evolve. My point is that this removes a significant political impediment to unfettered and expanded cooperation across the board [...] With respect to China, who obviously can speak for itself with regard to this agreement, I would hope that the improved relations between Japan and Korea that we would expect to flow from this important landmark agreement represent a positive development.”

• **December 28, 2015 – Statement by National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice on the Republic of Korea-Japan Agreement on “Comfort Women”** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “The United States congratulates the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea on reaching an agreement, which they have made clear “finally and irreversibly” addresses the tragic treatment of “comfort women” during World War II [...] The United States applauds the leaders of the ROK and Japan, two of our most important allies, for having the courage and vision to forge a lasting settlement to this difficult issue. We look forward to deepening our work with both nations on a wide range of regional and global issues, on the basis of mutual interests and shared values, as well as to advancing trilateral security cooperation.”

• **December 28, 2015 – Resolution of the Comfort Women Issue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We welcome today’s announcement by the Governments of Japan and the Republic of Korea that they have reached an agreement regarding the sensitive historical legacy issue of “comfort women.” They have made clear that by implementing this agreement they will “finally and irreversibly” resolve this issue. We believe this agreement will promote healing and help to improve relations between two of the United States’ most important allies. We applaud the leaders of Japan and the Republic of Korea for having the courage and vision to reach this agreement, and we call on the international community to support it. We look forward to continuing to work with both countries on regional and global issues, including advancing our economic ties and security cooperation.”

• **December 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Taiwan said that it will consult with the Japanese side on the issue of comfort women. Will the Chinese side lodge representations with the Japanese side?”

A: During the Second World War, the Japanese militarists forcibly recruited comfort women from different places in China, committing a severe crime against humanity. We urge the Japanese side to assume its responsibility, respect the concerns of the victims, and properly handle relevant issues.”

• **December 29, 2015 – Japan-S. Korea 'comfort women' deal draws applause, dubiousness** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “The high-profile agreement stricken between South Korea and Japan on the issue of “comfort women” has drawn global applause as well as dubiousness over the motives of reaching such a deal and its real effect [...] Aside from the U.S. pressure, Japan has its own motivation in reaching the deal other than merely facing up to history [...] The agreement would also allow Abe to project an image as statesman and supporter of women’s rights on the world stage and to pursue Tokyo’s long-standing elusive dream of a permanent U.N. Security Council seat.”

• **December 31, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Today witnessed the formal establishment of the ASEAN Community. What is China’s comment? What is China’s expectation for China-ASEAN relations?”

A: China is ASEAN’s good partner, good neighbor and good friend. The two sides established the strategic partnership in 2003. The high degree of political mutual trust and fruitful practical cooperation between the two sides has made tremendous contributions to regional peace, stability and development. We are fully confident of ASEAN’ development prospects. [...] The Chinese side will stand firmly for ASEAN’s integration, community-building and centrality in regional cooperation. We would like to make joint efforts with ASEAN countries to promote political mutual trust, deepen cooperation in trade, culture and other areas, and strive to build a closer China-ASEAN community of common destiny.”



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• **December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** (Ministry of National Defense)

Quote: "Also I'd like to take this opportunity to comment on the situation in the China-India border area. This year, the two militaries have strengthened border defense contacts and through institutionalized channels in the border area, the border defense troops of the two countries conducted effective communication and properly solved divergences. In general, the situation along the China-India border has been stable. The Chinese side is ready to work with the Indian side to implement the important consensus reached by the two governments and relevant agreements and protocols, so as to jointly maintain peace and stability in the border region."

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**Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula:** U.S. Seeks Further Security Council Meetings to Address North Korean Human Rights Abuses; China-ROK Free Trade Agreement Enters into Effect and China and ROK Meet to Discuss Lines of Maritime Demarcation

**United States**

• **December 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We continue to send a very strong and clear and consistent message – I would say the United States as well as all of its partners in the Six-Party Talks, the Republic of Korea, Japan, China, and as well as Russia – to North Korea to refrain from any violations of UN Security Council resolutions or any other actions that raise tensions in the region and threaten international peace and security.”

• **December 8, 2015 – Treasury Targets North Korea’s Global Weapons Proliferation Network** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) designated a number of individuals and entities with ties to North Korea’s weapons proliferation and illicit finance efforts [...] North Korea threatens international peace and security by expanding its nuclear program and continuing its proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons [...] Treasury is committed to exposing North Korea’s global proliferation network and excluding these facilitators from the international financial system.”

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

Quote: “Q: On North Korea, the State Department announcing on yesterday the designation of North Korean strategic forces include the WMD and the ballistic missile programs. Is this U.S. individual additional sanctions against it or --Did this U.S. impose their individual additional sanctions?”

A: As you rightly pointed out, we did announce yesterday the designation of the Strategic Rocket Force of the Korean People’s Army, pursuant to Executive Order 13382 for engaging in activities that have materially contributed to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or their means of delivery. These actions are designed to respond to the DPRK’s ballistic missile launches in 2014 and to make it more difficult for the North to conduct similar launches in the future, as well as to maintain the effectiveness of U.S. sanctions on individuals and entities that are linked to the North Korea Government’s weapons of mass destruction procurement network.”

**China**

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

Quote: “Q: The UN Security Council is planning to hold a meeting on human rights in the DPRK. China raised an objection to that. Why is that?”

A: We believe that the issue of human rights shall be approached through constructive dialogues and cooperation. China is always opposed to the Security Council's intervention in issues concerning a country's human rights. We hope that all parties would bear in mind peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and do more to lower tensions and increase dialogues and mutual trust.”

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

Quote: “Q: The ROK military reportedly said that the ROK navy fired warning shots at a Chinese fishery administration vessel that passed across the Northern Limit Line yesterday afternoon to force it back. Can you confirm that?”

A: The Chinese Embassy in the ROK has contacted relevant department of the ROK for verification and clarification. Information from relevant department shows that there hasn't been any report of Chinese vessels or personnel being impacted. We will keep a close eye on how things play out, stay in communication with the ROK side and ask them to ensure the safety of Chinese personnel and vessels.”

• **December 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side maintains that efforts shall be made to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, safeguard peace and stability of the Peninsula and solve problems through dialogues and consultations. We hope that all relevant parties would make constructive efforts for peace and stability of the Peninsula and an early resumption of the Six-Party Talks.”





• **December 10, 2015 – Remarks on the Adoption of the Provisional Agenda of the UN Security Council on the Situation in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Given that the DPRK continues to carry out these widespread and systematic human rights violations, inflicting immeasurable suffering on the North Korean people, and given the ongoing threat posed by the DPRK to international peace and security, the reasons for the Council meeting on the situation in the DPRK persist. For as long as this situation in the DPRK remains unchanged, this Council should continue to hear briefings about and engage in debates on the human rights situation in the DPRK in this chamber. We therefore support the adoption of the agenda.”

• **December 31, 2015 – Statement on the U.S. Presidency of the UN Security Council for the Month of December** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Across our efforts, we found ways to make visible to Council members, the UN, and the world the human consequences of contemporary challenges, and to reinforce the fact that all of us are less safe when basic human rights are trampled. [...] At the Council’s second meeting ever on the human rights crisis in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK), two people who managed to escape the regime’s gulags sat in the Council – their presence a testimony not only to the regime’s systematic human rights violations, but also to the resilience and courage of individuals who dream every day of being free of such tyranny.”

• **December 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The DPRK and the ROK held their first intergovernmental talks at vice-ministerial level in Kaesong today for thorough consultations on all kinds of outstanding issues. What is China’s comment on that?”

A: As a friendly and close neighbor, the Chinese side always encourages the DPRK and the ROK to contact and communicate with each other, improve bilateral relations, push forward reconciliation and cooperation and contribute positively to peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula. It is hoped that the intergovernmental meeting between the DPRK and the ROK would go smoothly and produce positive outcomes.”

• **December 11, 2015 – West skeptical over North Korea’s H-bomb claim** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “North Korean leader Kim Jong-un appeared on Thursday to claim his country has developed a hydrogen bomb, a step up from the less powerful atomic bomb, but outside experts were skeptical [...] China was dedicated to ensuring the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and resolving problems through dialogue.”

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

Quote: “Q: China and the ROK will hold the first round of maritime demarcation talks in Seoul, the ROK on December 22. Can you confirm that?”

A: To seek an equitable and reasonable solution to the maritime demarcation issue through negotiations and consultations is of great significance to maintaining tranquility and stability of the waters between China and the ROK and consolidating and developing bilateral amicable cooperation. It also gives full expression to China’s long-standing stance and position on resolving relevant disputes with parties directly concerned through negotiations and consultations in accordance with international law and on the basis of respecting historical facts. It is hoped that China and the ROK can address the overlapping claims on maritime rights and interests in an equitable and reasonable way through friendly consultations and set a good example for the resolution of similar issues among regional countries.”



• **December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce**  
([Ministry of Commerce, Press Conference](#))

Quote: "First, the China-Korea FTA. I believe you have already noticed, effective on Dec. 20th, it will see two successive staging periods within a short time span [...] What is more significant is that the entry-into-force of the agreement will enhance trade facilitation, increase the predictability and transparency of two-way investment and promote the free flow of goods, capital and people between the two countries, thus creating an easier, more transparent and fairer environment for the business community. As the agreement becomes effective, we will see a further expansion in our trade and investment, providing new impetus to our trade and economic cooperation and our respective economic growth and laying a solid basis of common interests for enhancing the China-ROK strategic partnership in an all-round way."



## Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S. Continues Its Attempts to Build and Coordinate Coalitions on Several Middle East Crises; China Invites Leaders of Syrian Government and Opposition Movements to Talks

### United States

• **December 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: It’s been reported in Saudi Arabian press that 65 Syrian opposition leaders have been invited to attend a meeting in Riyadh.

A: Obviously, I would refer you to the Saudis themselves for more details. In general, we expect this to be a gathering of a broad and representative group of leaders from the Syrian political opposition, armed groups, and civil society. When Secretary Kerry met with Foreign Minister al-Jubeir on November 23rd, they obviously discussed this process going forward and the urgency of it, the fact that we want to see this process move forward as quickly as possible; working towards a consensus on who is their negotiators, what their negotiating positions look like as we are seeking to begin talks under UN auspices in early January.”

• **December 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: There were reports of a mass – plans for a – large-scale executions by beheading in Saudi. Do you have any thoughts on this?

A: I don’t have much more detail, frankly. We’ve also seen media reports about possible executions in Saudi Arabia, but we don’t have the specific details. Obviously, we continue to call on the Saudi Government to follow due process in all legal place – cases, rather – and ensure that judicial proceedings – and that includes sentencing – are transparent in accordance with international commitments and obligations.”

• **December 1, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Senior Boko Haram Leaders** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “The U.S. Department of the Treasury today announced the designation of two senior Boko Haram leaders, Mohammed Nur and Mustapha Chad, pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13224, which targets terrorists and those providing support to terrorists or acts of terrorism. These designations support the U.S. strategy to counter Boko Haram, which was designated by the Department of State in November 2013 as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).”

### China

• **December 1, 2015 – A solid new start for old China-Africa ties** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Politically, equality and mutual respect is the defining feature of China-Africa relationship. As fellow victims of foreign aggression and colonization, both cherish peace and independence and respect the development paths each has chosen. [...] Economically, complementarity and mutual benefit has been a key driving force for China-Africa relations. With its rich natural and human resources and huge potential market, Africa deserves much more than being a mere recipient of aid.”

• **December 2, 2015 – The State Council Information Office Holds a Press Conference on China-Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “China-Africa economic and trade relations have achieved great-leap-forward development and mutual-beneficial cooperation has taken a great step up [...] China has proposed a series of measures to support development of Africa and enhance pragmatic cooperation with Africa, which play a significantly leading role in extension of China-Africa relations and receive high raises from countries in Africa [...] We also need to build good relations with local and China's non-government institutions, and listen to their demands and feedback on construction projects. Africa is a treasure trove of biological resources. Non-government institutions may play a greater role in the future in terms of wildlife protection, environmental protection and other aspects.”

• **December 3, 2015 – Helping Africa improve its farm sector** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “At the UN summit on development in September, President Xi announced the establishment of a fund to help South-South cooperation and increase China's investment in least-developed countries. [...] And at the Johannesburg forum, China is expected to offer more assistance to African countries to boost their rural and agricultural development. Africa's development momentum and the increased importance African countries attach to agriculture will create more opportunities for agricultural cooperation with China. The remarkable progress African countries have made in maintaining political stability, reducing regional conflicts, and promoting social and economic development means they want to pursue development through solidarity.”



• **December 1, 2015 – Press Conference by President Obama** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “And with the contributions that the French have made, the Germans have recently announced additional resources to the fight, the Brits have been steady partners in Iraq and I think are now very interested in how they can expand their efforts to help deal with ISIL inside of Syria -- with not just the cohesion of the coalition the United States put together but also the increasing intensity of our actions in the air and progressively on the ground, I think it is possible over the next several months that we both see a shift in calculation in the Russians and a recognition that it's time to bring the civil war in Syria to a close [...] Russia is going to recognize the threat that ISIL poses to its country, to its people, is the most significant, and that they need to align themselves with those of us who are fighting ISIL.”

• **December 1, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Erdogan of the Republic of Turkey After Bilateral Meeting** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “Turkey is a NATO Ally. Along with our allies, the United States supports Turkey's right to defend itself and its airspace and its territory. [...] We discussed how Turkey and Russia can work together to deescalate tensions and find a diplomatic path to resolve this issue. And as I mentioned to President Erdogan, we all have a common enemy, and that is ISIL.”

• **December 2, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “One is the IAEA has confirmed that Iran met its commitments to provide responses to IAEA requests under the roadmap for clarification of past and present issues, which is that agreement that – between Iran and the IAEA for Iran to respond to IAEA questions. So this roadmap was critically important for Iran to show that it was willing to fulfill the necessary steps in a process to address the PMD issue with the IAEA, and the IAEA has confirmed that Iran has done so. Second, the IAEA report is consistent with what the United States has long assessed with high confidence, and we talked a little bit about this yesterday. We made this public first in our 2007 National Intelligence Estimate, and that is that Iran had a nuclear weapons program that was halted in 2003. And it's precisely because of our previous assessments, as well as the international community's serious concerns about these possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program – past nuclear program, that we embarked on this process, brought to bear extensive national and international sanctions against – on Iran, and brought them to the table to negotiate the JCPOA.”

• **December 3, 2015 – New Maritime Silk Road to boost ties with Africa** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “China has always regarded Africa as a place of opportunity rather than a source of problems. [...] Unlike the West whose aid was centered on technical and financial assistance, China uses a different approach. [...] China's focus on the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road for infrastructure development is also a response to its severe overcapacity in the

construction and manufacturing sectors. [...] One of China's major interests is to expand its trade with Africa and consolidate its position as one of Africa's strategic trading partners. [...] With its domestic market shrinking because of demographic trends and the ever-maturing Western markets, China is keen to tap into Africa's burgeoning consumer markets.”

• **December 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) will open tomorrow. What are the major topics of this summit? What does China expect to achieve from it?

A: This summit will be a grand gathering to build on past achievements, open up new horizons, deepen cooperation and focus on people's livelihood. [...] At the moment, Africa faces two most urgent tasks, i.e. accelerating industrialization and agricultural modernization. We will support Africa in removing two major bottlenecks, [...] We will upgrade our practical cooperation, with focus shifting from general trade to production capacity cooperation.”

• **December 3 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: According to reports, the Russian Defense Ministry said yesterday that Turkey is conducting illegal oil trade with the Islamic State. What is China's comment? Are you concerned about this?

A: Counter-terrorism is a pressing challenge faced by the entire international community. It is hoped that all parties could follow the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, strengthen solidarity and coordination, and forge synergy in opposing and fighting all forms of terrorism. On cutting off the financing for terrorists, we support the international community in stepping up coordination and cooperation and the UN Security Council in continuing to play a constructive role in this regard.”



• **December 2, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote: “Q: Russian minister of defense showed satellite images accusing Turkey that thousands of oil trucks have been heading towards Turkey; that Turkey buys, process, and transfer this ISIS oil. What’s your comment on that?”

A: Sure. Aware of those reports. I haven’t actually seen the photos. Look, we reject outright the premise that the Turkish Government is in league with ISIL to smuggle oil across its borders, and we frankly see no evidence – none – to support such an accusation. Frankly, we believe Turkey has taken the necessary steps, and Secretary of State Kerry spoke about this earlier today in Brussels, to improve the security of its borders with Syria. Does more need to be done? Certainly [...] But in cooperation with international partners, these efforts will continue in the coming months and weeks. Talking more broadly about oil smuggling, it is a challenge what ISIL is doing. It certainly remains – or is necessary, I think, to shut this down. It’s a decades-old practice, frankly, that predates ISIL, of illicit trade in this region, and frankly, it’s a challenge that’s stymied ISIL’s own ability to generate revenue.”

• **December 2, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote: “There’s a Saudi-led effort coming out of the Vienna meetings to identify a legitimate, broad, representative group of the Syrian opposition, the Syrian political opposition, armed groups and civil society. So that process is going to take place in the coming weeks. I don’t have an exact date. But that’s all part of this – again, there’s two elements or two tracks here. One is obviously anti-ISIL and defeating ISIL; the other track that’s – that began in – well, began months ago but has really gained traction in Vienna – is this political process. Two elements to that: one is identifying those members of the Syrian opposition representative body who can then represent the Syrian people in this political transition. And part of that is – we’ve acknowledged this is going to have to – it’s certainly going to have to include members of the Syrian Government. You know our position on Assad. We’ve agreed to disagree on Assad’s future in order to move this process forward.”

• **December 2, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote: “We consider the PKK to be a terrorist organization. We have called for affirmative action or steps that would lead back to the peace talks that were underway, but we haven’t quite seen that yet. And part of that is certainly PKK strikes against Turkish forces and Turkish police officers.”

• **December 4, 2015 – Summit to strengthen China-Africa solidarity (China Daily)**

Quote: “In recent years, China has stepped up technology transfer and capacity-building support to the continent through numerous programs and projects, which have strengthened African countries’ self-development capabilities. Unlike Western countries, China does not attach any strings to its investments in the continent. [...] Most African countries are at the early stage of industrialization, while China is pushing forward a new round of industrial restructuring. China’s high-quality production capacity can help African countries achieve industrialization and technological advancement.”

• **December 4, 2015 – Working Together to Write a New Chapter In China-Africa Cooperation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “China-Africa cooperation will enable companies from the two sides to share advanced know-how. [...] Entrepreneurs are the main players in China-Africa business cooperation as well as promoters of China-Africa friendship. I sincerely hope that Chinese and African entrepreneurs will shoulder the responsibility of all-round business cooperation between the two sides, be prepared to blaze new trails and learn from each other, and work together to bring about a better future for the Chinese and African peoples.”

• **December 7, 2015 – Blueprint for future of brotherhood with Africa (China Daily)**

Quote: “Like the United States, India, and many others, China, too, sees Africa as a land of opportunities. But unlike those of any other country, China’s Africa policies are not just about securing access to African resources and markets. [...] And, unlike others, China does not interfere in the internal affairs of African countries. Chinese aid comes with no political strings attached. Because, unlike others who are keen on dictating local affairs, Chinese believe African people are capable of and have the right to make their own choices.”

• **December 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “The summit has ushered in a new era of win-win cooperation and common development between China and Africa, mapped out a new blueprint for China-Africa relations and showcased the resolve of China and Africa to work hand in hand for progress.[...] We give credit to FOCAC members and the host South Africa in particular. Their efforts and input of personnel, financial and material resources ensured the full success of the summit where all the events were carried out securely and orderly.”



• **December 2, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “There continues to be a gap along the Turkey-Syria border that is not secured to our satisfaction, and we do have concerns that ISIL is exploiting that gap to move foreign fighters and to move black market products that can be used to finance their operations. [...] there’s plenty of evidence to indicate that the largest consumer of ISIL oil is actually Bashar al-Assad and his regime -- a regime that only remains in place because it is being propped up by the Russians. So if the Russians are really concerned about this -- ISIL’s illicit finance efforts -- they should take it up with Bashar al-Assad.”

• **December 2, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “Prime Minister Abadi was consulted, and has been consulted over the last several weeks, about this Expeditionary Targeting Force that would be located in Iraq. The number of troops that we’re talking about is about 200. And Prime Minister Abadi is supportive of that effort [...] not impose a U.S. solution or even a military solution, but rather to build up the capacity of Iraqi forces, to build up the capacity and strength of the Iraqi central government, to unite that country to face the threat that is posed by ISIL. That is ultimately our goal. [...] We’ll obviously be working closely with the Iraqi government on these raids that are conducted in Iraq. The situation in Syria is obviously more complicated.”

• **December 2, 2015 – Statement by the President on Counter-ISIL Steps by the United Kingdom and Germany** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “Since the beginning of the counter-ISIL campaign the United Kingdom has been one of our most valued partners in fighting ISIL. We look forward to having British forces flying with the Coalition over Syria, and will work to integrate them into our Coalition Air Tasking Orders as quickly as possible [...] also welcome yesterday’s announcement from the German Cabinet that Germany will commit up to 1,200 German troops to support Coalition efforts to fight ISIL, including potentially deploying reconnaissance planes, tanker aircraft, and support for the Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier in the Gulf.”

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

Quote: “Q: The Iraqi side called the arrival of Turkish forces in northern Iraq as a violation of its sovereignty and asked them to leave immediately. Russia has asked the UN Security Council to hold discussions on that. What is China’s comment?”

A: The Chinese side believes that we should deal with state-to-state relationship in accordance with purposes and principles of the UN Charter as well as other widely-recognized basic norms governing international relations, and that Iraq’s sovereignty and territorial integrity shall be respected. [...] We should give full play to the leading role of the UN and the Security Council. All counter-terrorism actions shall be conducted in keeping with international law and relevant resolutions of the Security Council and with the consent of parties concerned to genuinely safeguard peace and stability of a country and a region.”

• **December 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Syria Staffan de Mistura said that Russia, the US and the UN will hold three-way talks on the Syrian issue in Geneva on December 11. The UN will emphasize the need to intensify the fight against terrorism and call on all sides to collaborate more on counter-terrorism efforts. What stance does China have? How is the third foreign ministers’ meeting on Syria going?”

A: The Chinese side supports the international community in uniting as one to conduct counter-terrorism actions following the UN Charter and international law, and jointly dealing with the threat of terrorism. Preparations are being made for the third foreign ministers’ meeting on Syria. The Chinese side is ready to work with all relevant parties to push for a political settlement of the Syrian issue at an early date.”

• **December 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China gives priority to the actual needs, people’s livelihood and the capacity of independent development of Africa when conducting cooperation with Africa. The Chinese side has provided a large amount of development assistance to Africa as its capacity allows over a long stretch of time. [...] China’s assistance is warmly welcomed by African countries and peoples as China stays committed to not interfering in other countries’ domestic affairs, not attaching political strings to its assistance, not forcing others to do what they are unwilling to do and not making empty promises.”



• **December 5, 2015– Joint Brookings Institution's 2015 Saban Forum Keynote Address** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The President has defined three missions to achieve our goals. The first is to mobilize our partners to accelerate and broaden the international campaign to defeat Daesh. The second is to work diplomatically to bring an end to the Syrian civil war, because every single country consistently from the beginning of the Syrian revolution has said there is no military solution to this; it has to be a political one [...] And the third leg of the strategy, or pillar, is to ensure that the instability created by the war in Syria does not spread further beyond its borders. And so we must support Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Turkey, any country negatively impacted by it.”

• **December 9, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “ISIS is no longer making significant advances across territory throughout Iraq and in Syria, and that those advances had been contained and, in fact, rolled back in some key areas [...] the President also acknowledged in that interview and subsequently that there are significant challenges when it comes to controlling the spread of ISIL’s radical ideology. And the United States is engaged in a coherent strategy to confront that. And one example of that is the recent Department of Defense strike that we know now succeeded in taking the ISIL leader in Libya off the battlefield.”

• **December 9, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The intelligence community recognized that Iran tested a missile in -- a month prior to that, and Iran also acknowledged that it tested a ballistic missile back in October [...] On October 21st, the United States condemned the violation and submitted a joint report with France, Germany and the U.K. to the U.N. Security Council’s Iran Sanctions Committee. We called for the committee to review the matter and take appropriate action [...] the Iran ballistic missile program is something that’s been a source of concern for years now, and it continues to be. It’s something that we closely monitor, as you suggested, and it’s something that we talk about on a regular basis with our partners and allies in the region.”

• **December 10, 2015 – QianKeming Attends the Press Conference on New Economic and Trade Initiatives of the Johannesburg Summit of the FOCAC** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “This ongoing Johannesburg Summit of the FOCAC is the second summit between China and Africa, but it convenes in Africa for the first time and has the historic significance of inheriting the past and ushering in the future in China-Africa relationship [...] . This financial support includes funds of three aspects: firstly, the financial assistance for the development, consisting of USD 5 billion free aid and interest-free loan [...] secondly, USD 35 billion in preferential loans and export credit[...] In this USD 35 billion loan, China will further increase the preferential degree of concessional loans through a variety of ways and after fully considering the actual situation of some African countries and specific projects [...] thirdly, financing and investing funds of commerce nature, including another round of replenishment of USD 5 billion for the China-Africa Development Fund.”

• **December 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: It is reported that the 3rd foreign ministers’ meeting on Syria will be held in New York on December 18. Will China attend the meeting? What is China’s expectation for the meeting?”

A: China welcomes and supports the 3rd foreign ministers’ meeting of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG). [...] In our view, the goal of the meeting is to achieve more positive and practical results based on the outcomes of the previous two foreign ministers’ meetings. The focus is to build up consensus on major issues like the launch of political dialogue between the Syrian government and the opposition as well as the national ceasefire arrangements so as to move forward Syria’s political process.”

• **December 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China commends the efforts made by the IAEA and Iran for the settlement of the issue. The preparatory work for implementing the the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is going well as P5+1 and Iran have taken concrete actions to show their political support. The Chinese side stands ready to work with the other parties, act in strict accordance with the JCPOA, and speed up all preparatory work so that the Implementation Day can come at an early date.”



• **December 10, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The relationship between the United States and Ethiopia is obviously something that President Obama had the opportunity to discuss with the Ethiopian President on his trip there earlier this year [...] And we’re seeing that that drought is having an impact on the food supply that millions of Ethiopians rely on. I can tell you that USAID has committed to provide more than \$120 million in assistance. That’s assistance that’s been provided just in the last four or five months. And that assistance can be used to try to meet the food needs of 3.5 million people.”

• **December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “This coalition that was announced by the Saudis was not solely directed at ISIL, but rather to extremist and terrorist threats that are threatening all the members of that coalition. So it’s certainly broader than ISIL [...] the Saudis went to great lengths to also make clear that this is not a substitute or a replacement for the 65-member anti-ISIL coalition that was built and is being led by the United States of America. Saudi Arabia has made important contributions to that coalition effort, and we anticipate that they will continue to do so.”

• **December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The United States, through our Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, raised our concerns about this October 10th medium-range ballistic missile launch back on October 21st. And in raising those concerns, Ambassador Power described that launch as another clear violation of United Nations sanctions [...] a number of the individuals who were connected to that launch are already subject to significant sanctions by the United States. But I certainly wouldn’t rule out additional steps if our national security officials determine that additional sanctions would be useful in countering this activity [...] this does underscore the significance of the historic international agreement that was reached earlier this year that will ensure that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon.”

• **December 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “There has already been an effort that the Department of Defense committed a substantial number of resources to, trying to train and equip moderate Syrian opposition fighters that didn’t yield the kind of results that we would like to see.”

• **December 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: As was announced, Foreign Minister Wang Yi will attend the foreign ministers’ meeting of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) and the ministerial-level meeting on Syria of the UN Security Council in New York on December 18. What kind of proposals will Foreign Minister Wang Yi put forward during those meetings?”

A: The Chinese side welcomes and supports the holding of the 3rd foreign ministers’ meeting of the ISSG. We hope that this meeting can build on the outcomes of the previous two meetings and give a strong push to the Syrian political process. Foreign minister Wang Yi will introduce China’s proposals and stances on ceasefire and cessation of violence, political reconciliation, intensified counter-terrorism efforts, post-war reconstruction, and other issues.”

• **December 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: On December 17, Libyan factions signed the Libyan Political Agreement in Morocco. What is China’s comment?”

A: The Chinese side welcomes the signing of the political agreement by Libyan factions, which represents an important step forward in the process of the Libyan political dialogue. It is hoped that all parties in Libya would remain committed to resolving disputes through dialogues so that a full-scale reconciliation can be achieved and national stability be restored at an early date. China stands for and takes an active part in the Libyan political dialogue, and supports the mediation efforts of the international community, especially the UN. China is willing to work with relevant parties and make further contributions to peace and stability of Libya and the whole region.”

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

Quote: “Foreign Minister Wang Yi told the third foreign ministers’ meeting of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) [...] that the Chinese side would invite representatives of the Syrian government and relevant opposition forces to China as part of China’s constructive efforts to promote peace talks and the political settlement of the Syrian issue.”





• **December 16, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The goal of the meeting is to bolster our international efforts to get at ISIL sources of revenue, to isolate them from the international financial system, and to counter-financing of terrorism more broadly, even beyond ISIL [...] They are not entirely self-reliant. They need to be able to move money, whether that’s with respect to importing oil infrastructure, oil pieces; whether it’s with respect to procuring weapons or communications equipment, or whether it’s with respect to moving money to their off-shore affiliates. We’ve targeted both ISIL’s ability to generate funds and its ability to use and transfer funds through the international financial system.”

• **December 16, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We expect that the Security Council will be adopting a new resolution to focus its longstanding al Qaeda sanctions regime equally on the threat posed by ISIL. As a word of background, the al Qaeda sanctions regime has been the principal U.N. sanctions tool to direct asset freezes against terror groups. And what we’ll be doing is elevating ISIL, putting it on that same level, and turning those tools and that same experience that we’ve built up internationally against ISIL.”

• **December 17, 2015 –Remarks By Acting Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Adam Szubin at the Atlantic Council and The Iran Project Symposium** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “The Atlantic Council and the Iran Project have contributed so much to the debate over the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or “JCPOA [...] Since I joined the Treasury Department, more than a decade ago, preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon has been a national security priority of the highest order [...] That’s why the JCPOA is so crucial. It is a historic deal that will cut off all Iranian pathways to a nuclear weapon [...]Iran’s economy faces immense challenges. Its banks remain isolated internationally. Its inflation rate is one of the highest in the world. And it confronts a mountain of debt and domestic needs totaling well over a half trillion dollars [...] So after Implementation Day, for the first time in many years, non-U.S. persons will be able to purchase unlimited amounts of crude oil from Iran without the risk of U.S. sanctions. And for the first time in many years, we will not sanction foreign investment by non-U.S. persons in Iran’s energy sector.”

• **December 22, 2015 – US isolation of Russia may come to an end** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “When it comes to Syria, the US has to find some agreement with Russia [...] Washington has relaxed its stance and admitted the important role of the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in peacefully resolving the Syria issue.”

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

Quote: “During Foreign Minister Wang Yi's attendance at the third foreign ministers' meeting of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) in New York, he had close communication with all relevant parties. The meeting is the embodiment of all parties' willingness to resolve the Syrian issue through political means. We stand ready to work side by side with all parties to forge ahead with the process, lift Syria out of the plight and bring happiness back to the Syrian people at an early date.”

• **December 23, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce, Press Conference](#))

Quote: “Recently the Chinese government once again provided assistance to Tanzania and Zambia in the form of special locomotives and carriages for the Tazara railway. The railway is a symbolic aid project from China, and carries an epoch-making significance. To this date, this railway is still regarded affectionately by the local people as the Freedom Railway and seen as a testimony to Sino-African friendship.”

• **December 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China once again made clear its principled position on the issue of Syria during the visit, that is, we should stay committed to a political resolution, a Syrian-led process and support UN's role as a major channel. The Chinese side will stay in communication, coordination and cooperation with all parties, continue with its constructive efforts and push for early and substantive outcomes of the political settlement of the Syrian issue.”



• **December 17, 2015 – Speech Preview: Excerpts Of Secretary Jacob J. Lew’s Remarks At The UN Security Council Meeting On Combatting Isil And Terrorist Financing** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “Today, we adopted a new UN Security Council resolution that builds on previous measures and strengthens our existing tools [...] This Resolution is a critical step, but the real test will be determined actions we each take after adoption...As we have all learned—with our work to counter Al-Qaida, ISIL, and other groups to date—successful use of these counter-terror financing tools requires robust domestic implementation, deep collaboration with private partners, and intense multilateral coordination and information sharing.”

• **December 17, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “In just the last couple of weeks, the President did announce this new deployment of Special Operations Forces. He did announce the significant ramping up of the equipment that is being provided to opposition forces on the ground. We’ve talked about how we have accelerated the diplomatic process, the diplomatic track to try to solve the political chaos inside of Syria [...] I certainly wouldn’t rule out any additional steps that will intensify even further those aspects of the President’s strategy that have already shown signs of progress.”

• **December 19, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador Michael Froman at the Conclusion of the 10th World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “Additionally two new countries -- Liberia and Afghanistan, both least developed countries, completed negotiations on the terms of their WTO Membership. We look forward to them formally joining the WTO in 2016.”

• **December 29, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Col. Warren via Teleconference from Baghdad, Iraq** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “In Sinjar, [...] we continue to keep relentless pressure on ISIL. [...] We will continue to hunt ISIL leaders who are working to recruit, plan and inspire attacks against the United States of America and our allies.”

• **December 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: It is reported that Afghan President Ashraf Ghani met with visiting Pakistani army chief General Raheel Sharif on December 27. Office of the Afghan President said that both sides agreed to hold a quadrilateral meeting between Afghanistan, Pakistan, the US and China next month on a comprehensive road map for peace in Afghanistan. What is China’s position on holding such a quadrilateral meeting?”

A: China welcomes the positive efforts made by both sides to improve bilateral relations which are conducive to resuming the Afghan reconciliation process and realizing regional stability. China supports an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned reconciliation process, stays open to any initiative that will lead to national peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. China will continue to play a constructive role to this end and remain in contact and coordination with all parties.”

• **December 28, 2015 – Op-ed: China, a constructive mediator in Syrian crisis** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China’s specific proposals include authorization of the Security Council’s ceasefire monitoring plan, and a peacekeeping operation when conditions permit. These proposals are pertinent and highly operable [...] All groups that favor a political solution and the removal of extreme terrorist activities should be given a place at the peace talk table.”

• **December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “Through friendly consultation, China and Djibouti have come to an agreement for the Chinese side to build logistics support facilities in Djibouti. The support facilities will mainly be used by the Chinese military for its officers and men as well as ships to recuperate and have replenishment during anti-pirate missions in the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters and during humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Both sides regard the building of the support facilities as being conducive for China and Djibouti to strengthening practical cooperation between the two countries and the two armed forces, as well as for China to better performing its international obligations and maintain international and regional peace and stability.”



## Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Sells More Arms to Taiwan; China Continues Feud with the Philippines and Other States Over Territorial Claims in South China Sea, Criticizes U.S. Arms Deals with Taiwan

### United States

• **December 8, 2015 – Remarks at a Brookings India Roundtable on Global Order** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We have no stake, direct stake in the various claims of sovereignty in the South China Sea. We’re not a claimant. How these claims, the substance of their resolution doesn’t matter in the sense that if China were to be vindicated in certain claims, we would defend that proposition; just as if other claimants are vindicated in their claims, we would defend that proposition. But the way these different claims are prosecuted matters a great deal. Here again, certain basic principles that have been at the heart of international order are being challenged notably by some of China’s actions. Freedom of navigation, critical to both of our countries; the notion that differences and disputes should be resolved peacefully, not through the coercion of a large country against smaller ones. And finally, the idea and the principle that in these matters it’s very important to resolve differences based on international rules and norms. So for example, the Law of the Sea Treaty to which even though we haven’t ratified it we adhere to. That’s why for us what China’s doing in the South China Sea actually matters. It’s less the substance of these different claims and more how they’re being prosecuted.”

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

Quote: “Q: The Chinese foreign ministry actually just said they asked the U.S. to cancel its sales to Taiwan to avoid harming its relation across the Taiwan Strait and between U.S. and China.

A: The Chinese can react to this as they see fit. This (Arms sales to Taiwan) is nothing new. Again, it’s a clear-eyed, sober view of an assessment of Taiwan’s defense needs, and that’s what drove this. There’s no need for it to have any derogatory effect on our relationship with China, just like there was no need in the past for it to ever have that effect on China. We still want to work to establish a better, more transparent, more effective relationship with China in the region, and we’re going to continue to work at that.”

### China

• **December 1, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Philippines' unilateral initiation and obstinate pushing forward of the South China Sea arbitration is a political provocation under the cloak of law. It is in essence not an effort to settle disputes but an attempt to negate China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea. [...] China will not accept any solution imposed on it or any unilateral resort to a third-party dispute settlement. China has a right to do so as a sovereign state and a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.”

• **December 4, 2015 – Arms sales to Taiwan hinder Sino-US ties** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The US government may notify Congress later this month of its plan to sell \$1 billion worth of military equipment to Taiwan [...] The Taiwan question involves China's core interests, and China has always resolutely opposed Washington's arms sales to Taiwan [...] In terms of arms sales to Taiwan, the US believes that as The Taiwan Relations Act stipulates, it can sell weapons as and when it feels right without any discussion with China [...] Every time Washington provides military equipment to Taiwan, even if it is only so much as a screw, China will make the US pay for it, and will eventually force it to bid goodbye to any arms sales to the island once and for all.”

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

Quote: “Q: The US Department of Defense said yesterday that they would base a naval patrol aircraft in Singapore starting this week. It seems that the aircraft will take part in patrols over the South China Sea. What is China's comment on that?”

A: Against a backdrop as such, is military deployment and regional militarization by the US in line with the aspiration shared by countries in the region? That deserves some deep thought. In our point of view, it goes against the common and long-term interests of countries in the region. It is hoped that all relevant parties will do more to genuinely enhance mutual trust among countries in the region and safeguard peace and development of the region.”



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

Quote: “Q: We have seen recently the cross-strait relation (China-Taiwan relation) has been improved. The two leaders has – they just had a historic meeting in Singapore last month. And also U.S.-China also have lots of close cooperation in many areas. So do you take these factors into your consideration? Would you consider to try to minimize the repercussion for U.S.-China relation?”

A: This – we – this is not a new thing, our support to the defense needs of Taiwan. Nothing’s changed about our One China policy, and as I said at the outset, these sales are in complete concert with that policy. They’re done based on a clear-eyed assessment of Taiwan’s defense needs. As for our relationship with the – with China, that is – remains an important relationship that we’re going to continue to work at. And because we are being consistent, there’s no other message that needs to be taken away from this other than that we take seriously our commitment to the defense needs of Taiwan.”

• **December 16, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “Obviously, recently there was a high-ranking delegation of Chinese leaders that met with high-ranking Taiwanese officials, and obviously, the United States supports the warming of those relations and de-escalation of those tensions.”

• **December 21, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: what’s the response to the Chinese side asked the U.S. to respect China’s core interest?”

A: They routinely ask that. But the focus of our conversation with the Chinese is and will continue to be about reducing tensions, particularly in the South China Sea, and to express our continued concern over the militarization of manufactured land features. As for freedom of navigation, again, I’m not going to go into any more details with respect to the flight that you referred to, as I wouldn’t go into any more detail in terms of the conversation. But we’ve made clear our concerns about these features, and we’ve also made clear that with respect to international law we’ll fly, sail, and operate our military assets where we need to.”

• **December 8, 2015 – Statement by Mr. LI Yongsheng At the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly On Agenda Item 79 Oceans and the law of the sea** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “The Chinese delegation has taken note of the increasingly important role of the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea in such areas as the peaceful settlement of maritime disputes and the maintenance of international maritime order. [...] Many countries, including China, believe that there were not sufficient legal bases for the exercise by the Tribunal of advisory competence of the full bench. [...] We (the Chinese government ) support the Commission (on the Limits of the Continental Shelf) in continuing to fulfill its mandate strictly in accordance with the Convention and its own rules of procedure, particularly the rule that the Commission shall not consider a submission in cases where a land or maritime dispute exists between the countries concerned [...] China believes that formulating an international agreement on BBNJ (marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction) is currently the most important legislative process in the field of the law of the sea.”

• **December 10, 2015 – US spy plane new disturbance for SE Asia** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “ The US and Singapore issued a joint statement on Tuesday, in which the latter granted Washington permission for regular short-term deployments of the P8 Poseidon spy plane to Singapore [...] The stronger the Chinese military deployment in the South China Sea becomes, the more power Washington will throw in the region. This will probably become a trend, until the US can do nothing to counter China’s growing military might [...] we need to patiently explain to the world that the emergence of China and its military is a normal course of affairs.”

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

Quote: “I would like to point out that China respects the navigation and overflight freedom in the South China Sea that all countries are entitled to in accordance with international law. The construction activities that China undertakes on the stationed islands and reefs in the South China Sea fall completely within China’s sovereignty. They are justified, reasonable and lawful, targeting no country and impeding in no way the freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea. We hope countries outside the region would respect the efforts of regional countries in maintaining peace and stability of the South China Sea, instead of doing the opposite. As for Japan’s participation in the relevant military exercises, China’s position is very clear. Relevant countries should not provoke confrontation and create tension in the region.”



• **December 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: "Q: The US Pacific Fleet Commander Admiral Scott Swift said that the South China Sea dispute could engulf the region in a possible arms race, as nations become increasingly tempted to use military force to settle territorial disputes instead of international law. He also urged nations, including China, to seek arbitration to settle maritime disputes. What is your comment?"

A: China stays unwaveringly committed to peacefully resolving relevant disputes with countries directly concerned through negotiations and consultations. China and ASEAN states have been devoted to jointly maintaining peace and stability of the South China Sea. The general situation in the South China Sea is stable. Some countries intentionally play up tension in the region so as to create disturbance and poke their noses into the South China Sea affairs. The Chinese side is firmly opposed to that."

• **December 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: "Q: According to the BBC, an Australian military aircraft might have taken part in a freedom of navigation flight in the South China Sea in late November or early December. Is the Chinese side aware of that? What is your response?"

A: We have made our solemn position clear on many occasions. I would like to stress again that there is no problem with navigation and over flight freedom in the South China Sea. We hope other countries, especially those outside the region, will watch their words and actions, rather than bringing up troubles and deliberately complicating the situation in the South China Sea."

• **December 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: "Q: In late November, BBC journalists took a civilian aircraft around four reefs built by China in the South China Sea. They were warned off by the Chinese navy each time and they were further than 12 nautical miles from these reefs. Given that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea says that artificial islands do not have maritime territorial rights, how does that qualify as freedom of navigation being unaffected by China's construction activities?"

A: China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha islands. While exercising freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea in accordance with international law, relevant countries should respect China's sovereignty and security."



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

Quote: "The Chinese side firmly opposes any arms sale from the US to Taiwan. This position is solid, clear and consistent. I would like to reiterate that the arms sale from the US to Taiwan constitutes a grave breach of the principle of the three joint communiqués between China and the US especially that of the August 17 Communiqué, interfere in China's domestic affairs and undermine the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations and China-US relations. The Chinese side strongly urges the US side to fully recognize how sensitive and harmful the arms sales can be, stick to its commitments, stop selling arms to Taiwan, and contribute to the overall interests of China-US ties and the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations."

• **December 15, 2015 – People's Daily: Grandstanding cannot cover up illegal moves** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: "China remains willing to handle its dispute with the Philippines with utmost goodwill. [...] We urge the Philippines to be realistic as well as responsible, make good on its serious commitments made in bilateral documents with China and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and seek a solution to its dispute with China over territory and maritime rights and interests through bilateral consultation and negotiation in order to maintain peace, stability and prosperity in the South China Sea."

• **December 16, 2015 – China's Sovereignty over the South China Sea Islands - Brooks No Denial** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "In essence, the South China Sea dispute between China and the Philippines is a territorial dispute between the two countries caused by Philippines' illegal occupation. [...] Only the Chinese people have the final say when it comes to China's territory. Any attempt to negate China's sovereignty, rights and interests through a so-called "arbitration award" will be nothing but wishful thinking, just like flowers in a mirror and reflection of the moon in water. By going back on its own words and confusing the concepts for the purpose of territorial expansion, the Philippines will only end up bringing disgrace on itself."



• **December 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: The BBC reported that China's construction activities on relevant islands and reefs in the South China Sea have damaged marine ecological environment. What is China's response?"

A: The relevant report is severely biased and misleading. The Nansha Islands are China's territory. China cares about ecological protection of relevant islands, reefs and waters more than anyone. China has gone through scientific evaluation and argumentation before undertaking the construction on the islands and reefs. Placing equal emphasis on construction and protection, China has taken into full account issues like ecological environment and fishery protection, strictly followed environmental standards and requirements during construction, and adopted many effective measures to protect ecological environment."

• **December 17, 2015 – Japanese media stretch a point** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "Because of a territorial dispute over the Diaoyu Islands in the East China Sea and skirmishes over Japan's series of right-leaning moves, Sino-Japanese relations have remained strained. [...] Nikkei Asian Review said China's show of goodwill was out of fear that "China could be internationally isolated due to its actions in the South China Sea". This is a wild assertion. China's island reclamation in the South China Sea is lawful and within its legitimate rights. It is Japan that owes the outside world a reasonable explanation as to why it continues to try and become involved in the South China Sea issues and seeks to raise tensions in the waters."

• **December 18, 2015 – People's Daily: The DOC brooks no distortion** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: "What is also astonishing is that the arbitral tribunal could not tell right from wrong and followed suit by belittling the DOC, the document signed by the governments of China and the ten ASEAN countries, in its ruling on the relevant jurisdiction issue. [...] the relevant ruling also gives a distorted interpretation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and arbitrarily interprets UNCLOS' stipulation on the 'obligation to exchange views' on disputes. [...] All parties to the DOC have the responsibility and obligation to safeguard its validity and authority, so that it can continue to play the role of a 'stability anchor.'"



• **December 18, 2015 – Op-ed IV on the Philippines' South China Sea Arbitration Farce** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "The Philippines' South China Sea arbitration is a political provocation under the cloak of law [...] Fraught with far-fetched and unfounded assumptions, the reasoning process of the Tribunal was by no means based on facts, common sense or justice, and its positions were neither fair nor impartial."

• **December 18, 2015 – How China Sees Russia** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Disputes over China's construction activities in the Spratly Islands, in the South China Sea, have fueled a heated debate about how the United States should respond to what some American scholars and commentators see as expansionism. Meanwhile, Beijing regards the presence of U.S. military vessels near Chinese territory in the South China Sea as an act of provocation. Some argue that U.S. policy toward China may shift from constructive engagement to containment."

• **December 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Remarks on the US Military Aircraft Flying Near the Nansha Islands** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: The US media reported that US B-52 bombers mistakenly flew into airspace near relevant islands and reefs of China early on December 10. The US Defense Ministry official said that there was no intention of flying into relevant airspace, bad weather had contributed to the flying off course and into China's airspace, and they are looking into the incident. What is your comment?"

A: It is worth pointing out that China respects and upholds freedom of navigation and over flight wherever all countries are entitled to in accordance with international law, but will never allow anyone to undermine China's sovereignty and security interests under the pretext of navigation and over flight freedom. We once again urge the US side to reflect upon and correct its mistake, take effective measures to prevent similar dangerous and provocative actions from happening, and stop doing anything that hurts China's sovereignty and security interests as well as peace and stability of the South China Sea."





• **December 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** (*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*)

Quote: "In the hearing, the Philippine side attempted to negate China's sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and deny the validity of the Cairo Declaration and the Potsdam Proclamation in disregard of historical facts, international law and international justice. It testifies to the fact that the South China Sea dispute between China and the Philippines is in essence a territorial dispute over which the arbitral tribunal has no jurisdiction. [...] China will not accept any dispute settlement approach that resorts to a third party. The Chinese side urges the Philippine side to cast aside illusions, change its course and come back to the right track of resolving disputes through negotiations and consultations."

• **December 21, 2015 – People's Daily: Disregarding facts and jurisprudence, arbitration is neither fair nor just** (*Permanent Mission to the UN*)

Quote: "The Tribunal deliberately framed the previous consultations between China and the Philippines concerning disputes over territorial sovereignty and maritime delimitation as consultations on the interpretation and application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and affirmed these consultations as evidence that the Philippines had fulfilled its obligation of exchange of views. As a matter of fact, China and the Philippines have never had any negotiations, not even exchange of views, on the arbitration matters."

• **December 21, 2015 – People's Daily: China is observing international law in the true sense** (*Permanent Mission to the UN*)

Quote: "China and the Philippines have issued joint statements and news releases on multiple occasions and they both signed the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), in which the two sides have pledged to settle disputes through friendly negotiations and consultations. [...] China has sovereignty over the South China Sea Islands and lawful rights and interests in the South China Sea."

• **December 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** (*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*)

Quote: "Q: It is reported that Japan's Cabinet approved the defense budget for 2016. Part of the spending will go to defending Diaoyu Dao. What is China's response to that?"

A: Due to historical reasons, Japan's policy moves in the field of military and security have been closely watched by its Asian neighbors and the international community. We hope that the Japanese side would take history as a mirror, stick to the path of peaceful development, and make constructive efforts for regional peace and stability."



• **December 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: "We are strongly dissatisfied with the actions and words of the Philippine side. China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands, Zhongye Island being a part of it. We once again urge the Philippine side to withdraw all its personnel and facilities from the Chinese islands and reefs it is illegally occupying and stop doing anything that undermines regional peace and stability and weighs against the relations between China and the Philippines."

• **December 28, 2015 – Japan's propaganda war on Diaoyu absurd** (People's Daily)

Quote: "Japanese media have been hyping up a Chinese coast guard vessel armed with what appeared to be four gun turrets wandering into waters off the Diaoyu Islands and even entering "Japan's territorial waters" in recent days [...] China and Japan have regularly dispatched patrol vessels to sail around the islands. Japanese coast guard vessels in the area are equipped with guns and cannons. How can they expect Chinese ships sailing in the area to be unarmed? "

• **December 29, 2015 – Can US avoid acting stupid in S. China Sea?** (People's Daily)

Quote: "Washington is likely to catastrophically make the South China Sea the eye of the storm in the Asia-Pacific region [...] Despite being non-claimants in the South China Sea disputes, close US allies such as Australia and Japan also attempt to be part of the dangerous power game [...] The paranoid Pentagon misperceives China and Russia as the biggest threats to US security. Such groundless calculations may boost the military budget, but could also likely become a self-fulfilling prophecy. The US should not do "stupid shit" in the South China Sea."

• **December 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: "Q: The Philippine government said on December 30 that it is expecting to become a founding member of the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Will the South China Sea disputes between China and the Philippines affect its membership? Will it affect AIIB's release of fund to Philippines-related projects?

A: You asked whether or not the disputes between China and the Philippines will affect the latter's participation in relevant cooperation under the framework of the AIIB. I think you are making a far-fetched link between these two totally different things. The operation of the AIIB follows the AIIB Charter which is formulated upon consultation among all members."



• **December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: " Q : According to Sankei Shimbun of Japan, the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force and the U.S. Navy will hold a joint exercise during February 2016 in South China Sea. It is also said that Australia may be invited to join the exercise. What is your comment?

A : We have noticed relevant reports and we will keep close attention on this matter. It is our consistent position that military and security cooperation between countries should not compromise peace and stability in the region."

• **December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: "Q: I have a question about the recent U.S. weapon sales to Taiwan. The Chinese government was very angry with the new weapon sales to Taiwan by the United States. But the Taiwanese government says that China aims more than a thousand missiles at Taiwan, and, therefore, it needs to defend itself. Why doesn't China withdraw these missiles aiming at Taiwan if it really wants to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait?

A: China's position of promoting peaceful development of cross-strait relations has been consistent and clear. I would like to stress that China is firmly opposed to arms sale to Taiwan by any country."

• **December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: " Q: The maritime and air liaison mechanism between China and Japan has not been launched so far. Why so and how can both sides overcome the differences?

A: On your 1st question, to establish the maritime and air liaison mechanism between the two defense departments of China and Japan is the consensus reached by leaders of the two countries. It is conducive for the two sides to strengthening communication, properly managing differences and avoiding misjudgment and unexpected events.

China attaches great importance to the establishment of the liaison mechanism and has maintained communication and coordination with the Japanese side. Currently, both sides have largely reached consensus on issues concerning the establishment of the liaison mechanism, and China will make efforts to push Japan to walk toward each other so as to launch the mechanism as soon as possible."



• **December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: "Q: On the 10th this month, the B-52 bomber of the U.S. flew to the proximity of the airspace of Chinese islands and reefs in the South China Sea. It is the U.S. media that first disclosed the incident several days later and then the Chinese spokesperson of the Ministry of National Defense made a statement. Why didn't the Chinese side publicize the incident first and take necessary measures

A: On your first question, the incident that you have mentioned has indeed attracted wide attention among the public and the Chinese response to this incident was also closely watched. After the incident took place, the Chinese troops stationed on the relevant islands and reefs took resolute measures against the provocative actions of the U.S military aircraft at the earliest possible time and China also lodged solemn representations with the American side through diplomatic channels immediately. Afterwards, the U.S. informed the Chinese side of the result of their review of the incident. They said that the U.S. military aircraft's maneuver was unintentional and was not in accordance with the flight standards of the U.S. military. The U.S. DOD and PACOM will take measures to ensure that such incidents do not happen again."

• **December 31, 2015 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: "Q: The Japanese Ministry of Defense said on the 26th of this month that a Chinese naval reconnaissance ship sailed very close to the Bōsō Peninsula of Chiba Prefecture of Japan. The Japanese Ministry of Defense commented that it was not usual for Chinese naval ship to do such things and the Japanese side paid close attention to it. Japanese media also reported earlier that Chinese military warships had sailed very close to the Diaoyu Islands. What's your comment?

A: The navigation of the Chinese naval ships in waters out of the territorial sea of other countries is in line with relevant international law and international practice. China respects the rights and interests enjoyed by relevant littoral states in accordance with international law. We also hope that relevant parties can respect China's rights of freedom of navigation and over-flight. As to your question about the Diaoyu Islands, I think our position on this issue has been clear, consistent, and well-known to all."



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- This report was produced with the help of Lamyae Dahbi (Sungkyunkwan University), Gordon Gatlin (Yonsei University), Diana Kang (Seoul National University), Boyun Kim (University of California - Berkley), Sola Kim (Kwangwoon University).

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

