

The World's Firemen?

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Benjamin Engel
ASI Research Center

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A long running debate in international politics has been whether or not the U.S. should or is performing the role of an international policeman. However, a new trend is starting to emerge in which the U.S. and China are beginning to collaborate on extinguishing some of the globe's most urgent crises. While they do not necessarily agree on every point, both countries have echoed one another in condemning the North Korean nuclear test which was carried out shortly after the calendar turned over. The two countries also participated together in the first meeting of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group with Afghanistan and Pakistan in an effort to push the forward the Afghani peace process. Yet the possibility of a spark igniting between the two countries is still greater than anybody would want as the two continue to blame one another for the increasing tensions in the South China Sea. So while the two are working together to put out fires in various regions around the globe, effort is still needed to keep their own relationship from bursting into flames. The following summarizes key issues as highlighted by the U.S. and China in January 2016.

Agreement and Disagreement in Wake of NK Nuke Test

A great amount of attention was drawn to the Korean Peninsula following the North Korean nuclear test, which they claimed to be a hydrogen bomb, on January 6, 2016. The U.S. strongly condemned North Korea's behavior which it considered a violation of Security Council resolutions and a breach of its international obligations.¹ The U.S. Department of Defense and the Chinese Foreign Ministry stressed the urgent need for coordination with South Korea and the regional key players to pursue every possible option to deter North Korea and ensure the region's stability.² Additional sanctions are also being considered.³

¹ UCR January Issue 2016 – Korean Peninsula, Issue 7, pg. [30](#).

² pg. [32](#), [33](#)

³ pg [35](#)

Although the two countries are united in their opposition to North Korea's nuclear program, and agree on the imperative of achieving a denuclearized Korean peninsula,⁴ Washington regards China's policy and approach to the DPRK as ineffective, and calls on China to end "business as usual" with Pyongyang.⁵ The U.S. and other western countries feel that China should play a greater role in mitigating the North Korean nuclear problem given the special connections and the nature of relations between the two countries. In response, China believes that dialogue and negotiations, within the framework of the six-party talks, remain the most effective and prominent way to realize denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.⁶

Both Countries Seek to Stabilize Their Economic Future

The U.S. has focused its attention as of late on ratifying the TPP. The Obama administration claims the TPP will be key in breaking down barriers that American exports face in the Asia-Pacific⁷ by eliminating taxes in partner countries.⁸ Meanwhile, China is seeking to upgrade the Sino-ASEAN Free Trade Zone and finalize the negotiations on the Agreement on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership as soon as possible.⁹ The two also exchanged barbs over with the U.S. continuing to urge reforms in China's economy,¹⁰ while the Chinese government expressed its displeasure with not being recognized as a market economy.¹¹ Furthermore China emphasized that the key advantage of China in foreign trade will be producing higher value-added products and gaining access to advanced technologies which are integral parts of the 13th Five-Year Plan.¹²

⁴ pg. [33](#)

⁵ pg. [31](#)

⁶ pg. [30](#)

⁷ UCR January Issue 2016- Economic Relations, Issue 2, pg. [15](#)

⁸ pg. [16](#)

⁹ pg. [13](#)

¹⁰ pg. [12](#)

¹¹ pg. [14](#)

¹² pg. [13](#)



You Say Militarization, I Say Disrupting Peace

While China is landing aircraft on territory in the South China Sea that Vietnam also claims, the U.S. is sailing military vessels through what China claims are its territorial waters. What the two can both agree on is that the other is responsible for increased military presence in an area full of overlapping territorial disputes. Whether the U.S. is “the most disruptive force” or China is “try[ing] to militarize” the region depends on perspective as both claim their actions are defensive reactions to one another’s aggressions.¹³ In the meantime, the U.S. has enlisted support for its “freedom of navigation” exercises in the South China Sea from its longtime ally Australia,¹⁴ while maintaining that it does not take sides but will “continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows.”¹⁵ The Chinese side is comparatively isolated; it called out Vietnam’s protests as “unfounded accusations.”¹⁶ China also stated that legal decisions taken by the Hague in an arbitration case with the Philippines are “full of errors”¹⁷ and that Japan should consider its wartime history record rather than “poke its nose in the issue of the South China Sea.”¹⁸ Despite both China and the U.S. insisting that they have peaceful intentions, the reality is that both their actions and words have increased volatility in the region at large.

Cooperation Deepens on Middle East Issues

The U.S. and China participated in the first meeting of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group in Islamabad, Pakistan in early January and the group issued a joint statement.¹⁹ The efforts of this group to speed forward the Afghani peace process come on the heels of the two countries successful collaboration to work

¹³ UCR January Issue 2016 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes, Issue 9, pg. [45](#), [46](#)

¹⁴ pg. [46](#)

¹⁵ pg. [46](#)

¹⁶ pg. [46](#)

¹⁷ pg. [48](#)

¹⁸ pg. [51](#)

¹⁹ UCR January Issue 2016 –Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8, pg. [40](#)

out a deal with Iran over halting its nuclear program. Both countries made statements marking the day that sanctions were lifted from Iran as a part of the deal they negotiated last year.²⁰ President Xi also visited the Middle East in an effort to drum up support for the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative.²¹ The U.S. meanwhile continued its airstrikes against the terrorist group Daesh²² and continued to provide aid to Syrian refugees.²³

China Responds to International Criticism over Human Rights

The U.S. voiced strong support for a group of lawyers representing Chinese human rights activists that have been charged with “subversion.”²⁴ The U.S. has also been critical of some aspects of the criminal justice process in China, which it says “run contrary China’s human rights commitments and hinder its attempts to build a more transparent and effective justice system.”²⁵ China retorted that the Qvod case exemplified China’s progress on judicial transparency.²⁶ Moreover, China emphasized that they know best the status of human rights in their own country,²⁷ emphasizing that lawful rights are respected including the interests of foreign journalists.²⁸ Internationally, head of state Xi Jinping’s Middle Eastern tour ended with China offering nearly 8 million dollars in humanitarian aid to the Palestinians on top of another 35 million to other Arab states.²⁹ To round things up, the state controlled media accused the Nobel Peace Prize winning Dalai Lama of genocidal intentions against the Han population in the Tibet region.³⁰

²⁰ pg. [41](#)

²¹ pg. [43](#)

²² pg. [38](#)

²³ pg. [39](#)

²⁴ UCR January Issue 2016, Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, Issue 4, pg. [24](#)

²⁵ pg. [25](#)

²⁶ pg. [24](#)

²⁷ pg. [25](#)

²⁸ pg. [24](#)

²⁹ pg. [25](#)

³⁰ pg. [24](#)



Time Period: January 1 - January 31, 2016

Main Issue

1. U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. Emphasizes Cooperation with China on Many Issues and Insists its Own Power is Not Declining; China Continues to Pursue the Chinese Dream and Reject Notion of One Type of Democracy

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 13, 2016 – The Obama Administration's 2016 Foreign Policy Priorities • January 13, 2016 – Remarks of President Barack Obama – State of the Union Address As Delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 4, 2016 – Milestone year for China's diplomacy • January 6, 2016 – Remarks at Foreign Ministry' 2016 New Year Reception • January 13, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 14, 2016 – China and US have reasons to cooperate in Afghanistan • January 19, 2016 – Saudi senior journalist: Time to work more closely with Riyadh • January 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 25, 2016 – How can China rank 17th and 136th at once?

2. Economic Relations: Obama Administration Continues to Seek Ratification of TPP by Boasting About Tariff Reductions in Partner Countries; China Demands Recognition as a Market Economy and Looks to Smooth Transition to “New Normal”

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 6, 2016 – Minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee • January 6, 2016 – TPP ENDORSEMENTS: Diverse Coalition of American Businesses, Farmers, and Manufacturers Call for TPP Passage to Help Boost Made in America Exports, Level the Playing Field • January 7, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 8, 2016 – U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman Promotes Trans-Pacific Partnership at Consumer Electronics Show • January 11, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 13, 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars • January 13, 2016 – Remarks on the United States Foreign Policy Agenda for 2016 • January 13, 2016 – Remarks of President Barack Obama – State of the Union Address As Delivered • January 14, 2016 – Remarks by Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew at the HOPE Global Forums Annual Meeting • January 15, 2016 – U.S. Trade Representative Brings President Obama's State of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 5, 2016 – EU can benefit by accepting China as market economy • January 6, 2016 – Remarks at Foreign Ministry' 2016 New Year Reception • January 6, 2016 – Regular News Conference Held by the Ministry of Commerce • January 6, 2016 – Regular News Conference Held by the Ministry of Commerce • January 6, 2016 – Regular News Conference Held by the Ministry of Commerce • January 8, 2016 – How to overcome foreign trade challenges • January 8, 2016 – What drives Xi's foreign policy? • January 12, 2016 – No reason to deny China market economy status • January 12, 2016 – China's MES tests EU independence • January 13, 2016 – Commentary: optimistic consumption data reveal China's economic vitality • January 13, 2016 – Can Legendary acquisition help build China's soft power? • January 14, 2016 – Strengthen Partnership for a Better Future • January 15, 2016 – Inclusive AIIB to boost sustainable growth • January 15, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference



<p>the Union Call for Asia Trade Agreement to the Bronx</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 19, 2016 – U.S. Congress at a Glance • January 19, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Turnbull of Australia Before Bilateral Meeting • January 19, 2016 – Fact Sheet: United States – Australia Cooperation: Deepening Our Strategic Partnership • January 20, 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to the U.S. Conference of Mayors • January 20, 2016 – Press Gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz en route Detroit, MI • January 22, 2016 – Statement on TiSA Ministers Meeting • January 22, 2016 – Remarks by Secretary Carter at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland • January 28, 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman at the Beyond AGOA Hearing • January 28, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 15, 2016 – Central bank seeks difficult balance with yuan policy • January 15, 2016 – AIIB to open Saturday amid high expectations • January 15, 2016 – Central bank seeks difficult balance with yuan policy • January 16, 2016 – Clearing doubts of others can help China get support • January 16, 2016 – Address by President Xi Jinping of China At the Opening Ceremony of The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank • January 18, 2016 – AIIB a test for China's international role • January 18, 2016 – Official of the Department of Outward Investment and Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce Comments on China's Outward Investment and Economic Cooperation in 2015 • January 20, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • January 20, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • January 20, 2016 – MOFCOM Department of Treaty and Law Comments on China's Appealing against the EU Regarding the Appellate Body Report of the Action of Enforcement of the Case of the Anti-dumping Measures of the Fastener Published by the WTO • January 20, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • January 20, 2016 – 6.9% GDP growth statistic reliable: Director of NBS • January 21, 2016 – Caution against misguided fears on growth and oil • January 21, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 21, 2016 – Head of the Department of Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Commerce Interprets the Several Opinions of the State Council on Promoting the Innovative Development of Processing Trade • January 25, 2016 – Foreign investors must adapt • January 27, 2016 – Why Western pundits want China to fail • January 27, 2016 – Op-ed: Think twice before declaring war on Chinese currency • January 28, 2016 – Commentary: Talking Down to Chinese Economy is Groundless • January 29, 2016 – Commentary: Those shorting China doomed to fail
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3. Military and Security Relations: U.S. Does Not Address Cyber Security Issue; China Begins Construction on Second Aircraft Carrier

United States	China
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 1, 2016 – New aircraft carrier leads to complete national defense system • January 3, 2016 – Op-Ed: New conditions require stronger Chinese military • January 4, 2016 – China-US relationship in 2015 • January 4, 2016 – Milestone year for China's diplomacy • January 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • January 5, 2016 – Need for second aircraft carrier is real



4. Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Express Concern about Crackdown on Lawyers in China and Coerced Confessions; China Insists it Values the Rule of Law

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 11, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 11, 2016 – Statement on Humanitarian Access in Syria • January 13, 2016 – State Department Daily Press Briefing • January 21, 2016 – State Department Daily Press Briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 1, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on French Correspondent Ursula Gauthier's Departure • January 11, 2016 – Commentary: China's porn sharing trial should be viewed from a legal perspective • January 14, 2016 – Op-ed: Dalai Clique's libel against Han people exposes sinister intentions • January 24, 2016 – Xi concludes Middle East trip with promoted ties, cooperation • January 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference

5. Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. Continues to Fight Climate Change; China Worries About Radiation in Smog

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 13, 2016 – Remarks on the United States Foreign Policy Agenda for 2016 • January 13, 2016 – Remarks of President Barack Obama – State of the Union Address As Delivered • January 21, 2016 – FACT SHEET: The Administration Announces Historic Commitments to Build Climate Resilient Communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 8, 2016 – Nuclear radiation proven not relevant to haze

6. Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Reaffirms its Commitment to the Asia-Pacific Region; China Remains Skeptical of ROK-Japan Agreement on Comfort Women Issue

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 6, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 12, 2016 – Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter with Filipino Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario and Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin • January 19, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Turnbull of Australia Before Bilateral Meeting • January 26, 2016 – Remarks to Press • January 26, 2016 – Press Roundtable in Tokyo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 4, 2016 – Japan's apology for war crimes must not stop at ROK • January 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on January 5, 2016 • January 7, 2016 – Abe's political need behind deal with ROK • January 11, 2016 – Op-ed: Japan's large scale weapons importation alarming • January 20, 2016 – Abe backtracks over 'comfort women' • January 25, 2016 – Double election helps Abe's ambitious plans • January 27, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference



7. Korean Peninsula: U.S. Reaffirms Commitment to the Defense of South Korea Following North Korean Nuclear Test, Seeks China's Cooperation in Increasing Pressure on North Korea; China Condemns North Korean Nuclear Test, Seeks to Restart Six-Party Talks

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 6, 2016 – On the North Korean Nuclear Test • January 6, 2016 – State Department Daily Press Briefing • January 6, 2016 – State Department Daily Press Briefing • January 6, 2016 – Statement on the North Korean Nuclear Test • January 6, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 6, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 6, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 6, 2016 – Readout of the President's Call with President Park Geun-Hye of the Republic of Korea • January 7, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room • January 7, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room • January 7, 2016 – Remarks before the Daily Press Briefing • January 7, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 7, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 13, 2016 – The Obama Administration's 2016 Foreign Policy Priorities • January 25, 2016 – Remarks at a Press Roundtable • January 27, 2016 – Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi • January 27, 2016 – State Department Daily Press Briefing • January 27, 2016 – Remarks at the Security Council Stakeout Following Consultations on Syria • January 28, 2016 – The Proliferation Security Initiative: Readout on the Mid-Level Political Meeting 2016 • January 28, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 4, 2016 – Op-ed: World needs more cooperation in 2016 • January 6, 2016 – Statement of the Foreign Ministry • January 6, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • January 6, 2016 – Nuclear deterrent will not bring DPRK security: Opinion • January 6, 2016 – Commentary: DPRK's H-bomb test harmful to regional stability • January 7, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • January 7, 2016 – Nuclear test won't change NK's destiny • January 7, 2016 – Nuclear test to dampen ties with China, escalate tensions • January 8, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • January 8, 2016 – DPRK nuke tests threaten itself and others • January 8, 2016 – Trump is dead wrong on NK nuke issue • January 11, 2016 – DPRK's nuke test threatens regional stability • January 11, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 11, 2016 – Commentary: For peace on Korea Peninsula, all sides should exercise restraint • January 12, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 13, 2016 – Iran talks have set a good example for response to DPRK • January 13, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 13, 2016 – Commentary: U.S. hostility behind DPRK's nuclear brinkmanship • January 14, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 14, 2016 – Deploying missile system in ROK will not defuse crisis • January 15, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 26, 2016 – ROK should say no to missile defense system • January 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • January 27, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press



	<p>Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 27, 2016 – NK nuke root causes must be addressed • January 28, 2016 – Address Sino-US concerns • January 28, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • January 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • January 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference
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8. Middle East and Africa Issue: U.S. Hails Implementation of Iranian Nuclear Deal, Continues to Struggle in Fight Against ISIL; China Participates in First Meeting of Quadrilateral Coordination Group and President Xi Visits Middle East

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 4, 2016 – State Department Daily Press Briefing • January 4, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 5, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 6, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Col. Warren via teleconference from Baghdad, Iraq • January 7, 2016 – Treasury Sanctions Hizballah Financier and His Company • January 7, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 11, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 13, 2016 – Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • January 13, 2016 – Remarks of President Barack Obama – State of the Union Address As Delivered • January 13, 2016 – Remarks to the 101st Airborne Division on the Counter-ISIL Campaign Plan • January 16, 2016 – Statement on Implementation Day of the Iran Nuclear Agreement • January 16, 2015 – Statement by Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew on Reaching Implementation Day under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action Regarding Iran’s Nuclear Program • January 17, 2016 – Treasury Sanctions Those Involved in Ballistic Missile Procurement for Iran • January 17, 2016 – Statement by the President on Iran • January 18, 2016 – Statement on the Situation in Syria • January 19, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Gen. Shoffner via Teleconference from Afghanistan • January 21, 2016 – Counter ISIL Campaign Remarks at the Ecole Militaire, Paris • January 21, 2016 – Implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • January 5, 2016 – Middle East can do without another conflict • January 5, 2016 – China and UK Issue a Statement on Syrian Issue • January 5, 2016 – UK-CHINA STATEMENT ON SYRIA • January 6, 2016 – Commentary: Regional row shows weakening U.S. leadership in Middle East • January 11, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 12, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 13, 2016 – China's Arab Policy Paper • January 15, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 15, 2016 – Commentary: China plays indispensable role in Iranian nuclear issue • January 17, 2016 – Foreign Minister Wang Yi Gives Interview to Xinhua News Agency on "Implementation Day" of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iranian Nuclear Issue • January 19, 2016 – Fresh Middle East trip broadens path to peace • January 19, 2016 – China to Blaze New Trail in Middle East Diplomacy • January 19, 2016 – Saudi senior journalist: Time to work more closely with Riyadh • January 20, 2016 – Xi arrival shows commitment to Mideast • January 20, 2016 – China-Egypt relationship will see best period of all time • January 20, 2016 – China, Iran need each other in development: scholar • January 24, 2016 – Xi concludes Middle East trip with promoted ties, cooperation



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 21, 2016 – Readout of Vice President Biden’s Meeting with Prime Minister Haidar Al-Abadi of Iraq • January 24, 2016 – Statement by National Security Council Spokesperson Ned Price on Escalating Violence in Yemen • January 27, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room • June 29, 2016 – Video Statement on Syria Negotiations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 25, 2016 – Fruitful Middle East trip brightens region's future • January 25, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • January 25, 2016 – New four-party group could steer Afghanistan toward reconciliation • January 28, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference
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9. Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Calls for Decreased Tensions in South China Sea Including Condemning Taiwanese President’s Planned Visit to a Disputed Island; China Reiterates “One China” Policy during Taiwanese Elections; Rejects Rulings in Territorial Dispute with the Philippines

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 4, 2016 – State Department Daily Press Briefing • January 7, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room • January 19, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Turnbull of Australia Before Bilateral Meeting • January 19, 2016 – Fact Sheet: United States – Australia Cooperation: Deepening Our Strategic Partnership • January 26, 2016 – Press Roundtable in Tokyo • January 27, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room • January 27, 2016 – Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi • January 27, 2016 – Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi • January 27, 2016 – State Department Daily Press Briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Test Flight to Newly-Built Airport on Yongshu Jiao of China's Nansha Islands • January 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • January 7, 2016 – Hyping up airfield disrupts peace in S.China Sea • January 10, 2016 – Tribunal's award in Philippines' case turns blind eye to facts • January 11, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 12, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 12, 2016 – Op-ed: Vietnam's protests against China's test flights to Yongshu Jiao groundless • January 13, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 13, 2016 – Jurisdiction award in South China Sea case wrong • January 15, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 15, 2016 – Sovereignty issues invalidate award • January 16, 2016 – Editorial: Tsai should prove sincerity about peace across Taiwan Straits • January 16, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Remarks on the Election in Taiwan • January 18, 2016 – Tsai faces the test to keep cross-Straits ties on track • January 19, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • January 19, 2016 – No dispute over China's historical rights • January 20, 2016 – Tribunal's award in Philippines' case turns blind eye to facts • January 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press



	<p>Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 25, 2016 – Japan moves to rope in Philippines• January 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference• January 27, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference• January 28, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference• January 28, 2016 – Reunification must obey iron laws of history• January 30, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on US Navy Vessel's Entry into Territorial Waters of Zhongjian Dao of China's Xisha Islands
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Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. Emphasizes Cooperation with China on Many Issues and Insists its Own Power is Not Declining; China Continues to Pursue the Chinese Dream and Reject Notion of One Type of Democracy

United States	China
<p>• January 13, 2016 – The Obama Administration's 2016 Foreign Policy Priorities (State Department) Quote: "With China generally, and then in terms of the Asia-Pacific, I think we see elements of cooperation and competition in the relationship. On the positive side of the ledger, one of the biggest issues that he focused on domestically and internationally yesterday was climate change. We would not have achieved the Paris agreement without the cooperation the United States and China had on that issue, both in terms of the announcement made in Beijing during his last trip and the subsequent cooperation leading into Paris [...] At the same time, there are elements of competition and there are areas where we've had differences – on cybersecurity, for instance. We are going to work very closely with China on a whole range of issues related to the Asia-Pacific. So on that score, as we look to the year ahead, number one, we want to make sure that there's a response to the recent nuclear test from North Korea and the provocation and the potential – well, the provocation and the very real threat that it poses to our allies, South Korea and Japan, but also to the world. So we'll be working with China through the UN Security Council and also in our own bilateral discussions about how to demonstrate to North Korea that that is a path that leads to greater costs, consequences, and isolation."</p> <p>• January 13, 2016 – Remarks of President Barack Obama – State of the Union Address As Delivered (White House, Speeches) Quote: "I know this is a dangerous time. But that's not primarily because of some looming superpower out there, and certainly not because of diminished American strength. In today's world, we're threatened less by evil empires and more by failing states."</p>	<p>• January 4, 2016 – Milestone year for China's diplomacy (China Daily) Quote: "To pursue the Chinese Dream, China aims to create a global community with shared destiny. In this context, its attempts last year to reform international relations bore some results. [...] China is more than willing to help inject win-win cooperation into the "new model of major-power relationship" with the United States and international relations."</p> <p>• January 6, 2016 – Remarks at Foreign Ministry' 2016 New Year Reception (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "We promoted sound and all-round growth of relations with major countries. President Xi Jinping paid a historic visit to the United States, reaffirming the goal of jointly building a new model of major-country relationship and elevating cross-Pacific cooperation."</p> <p>• January 13, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "As two important countries in the world, China and Russia have been playing crucial and positive roles in major international, regional and global issues, which is recognized by all. We also hope that the US can play a constructive role in promoting world peace, stability and development."</p> <p>• January 14, 2016 – China and US have reasons to cooperate in Afghanistan (China Daily) Quote: "First, the US global rebalancing has led to the withdrawal of US combat troops from Afghanistan, which must be offset by the efforts to keep peace of other powers. [...] Second, China and the US both have an interest in a peaceful and self-sustaining Afghanistan. On the diplomatic front, China, the US, and Afghanistan are already engaged in trilateral cooperation. [...] Third, Afghanistan needs a government that can build infrastructure, create jobs, provide education and healthcare, and deliver justice to its people in order to establish permanent peace. But the fiscal and functional failure has made it difficult for the Afghan government to do so."</p>



• **January 19, 2016 – Saudi senior journalist: Time to work more closely with Riyadh** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "China must look with Confucius rationale at its role as an important player in the United Nations Security Council to shoulder responsibilities in areas beyond its boundaries that are suffering from the increased U.S. involvement in East Asia and the implications of U.S. attempts to implement its "pivot to Asia" strategy."

• **January 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: Can you tell us anything about US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to China?"

A: The two sides had an in-depth and candid exchange of views on major issues concerning strategic security and comprehensive security, and agreed to make good use of the Strategic Security Dialogue so that it would play a bigger role in improving mutual trust, managing differences and expanding cooperation. During the dialogue, the two sides also talked about China-US relations as well as major international and regional issues of common interest."

• **January 25, 2016 – How can China rank 17th and 136th at once?** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "One is that democracy is not an absolute form, but a principle that leads to a nation's better governance. So, the Western way of democracy, in which several parties compete for power and everyone can vote for their leaders, is only one option. There can be other political systems that follow democratic principles and also lead to better governance."



Issue 2 – Economic Relations: Obama Administration Continues to Seek Ratification of TPP by Boasting About Tariff Reductions in Partner Countries; China Demands Recognition as a Market Economy and Looks to Smooth Transition to “New Normal”

United States

- **January 6, 2016 – Minutes of the Federal Open Market Committee** ([Federal Reserve Board](#))

Quote: “Recent indicators for economic activity in China were relatively favorable, and several other emerging Asian economies strengthened in the third quarter [...] participants cited a number of lingering concerns, including the possibility that further dollar appreciation and persistent weakness in commodity prices could increase the stress on emerging market economies and that China could find it difficult to navigate the cyclical and structural changes under way in its economy.”

- **January 6, 2016 – TPP ENDORSEMENTS: Diverse Coalition of American Businesses, Farmers, and Manufacturers Call for TPP Passage to Help Boost Made in America Exports, Level the Playing Field** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “This is a recognition of the broad benefits that TPP will deliver for the workers, farmers and ranchers who make up America’s economic backbone [...] Whether it’s cutting over 18,000 taxes that other countries place on our exports, protecting American innovation, or setting rules that reflect our values and priorities in some of the largest and fastest-growing markets across the Asia-Pacific region, TPP will deliver for the bottom lines of American families and businesses. This support also underscores the need for the U.S. to lead, not sit on the sidelines, at this critical moment. Exporters in every sector of the U.S. economy increasingly realize that the cost to the U.S. economy of delaying TPP will be billions of dollars lost to our foreign competitors.”

- **January 7, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “What our approach has been, has been to press China on the pace of its reforms, including additional measures for an orderly transition to a market-oriented exchange rate that responds to upward as well as downward market pressure [...] there’s an understanding that over the long term, that it will take time to implement the reforms that we would like to see. But that’s consistent with the other thing that we would like to see, which is an actual commitment to following through on implementing the reforms.”

China

- **January 5, 2016 – EU can benefit by accepting China as market economy** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Over the last four decades, China has successfully transformed itself from a planned economy into an open economy where almost all commodities are priced by market force. [...] However, the United States, the European Union, Canada and some other developed economies have yet to do the same, either to restrict the flow of China’s low-cost exports into their markets, or to take advantage of their willingness to bestow such status as a bargaining chip when meeting Beijing at the negotiating table to discuss other issues. [...] Washington has basically opposed China’s rise and it has even recently warned the EU not to “compromise” by granting China market economy status. In the EU itself, opinion is divided, although there are strong voices in favor of giving China such status.”

- **January 6, 2016 – Remarks at Foreign Ministry’s 2016 New Year Reception** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “We released the Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road and signed cooperation agreements with over 20 countries along the routes. The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank was inaugurated. The Silk Road Fund went into operation. A number of major mutually beneficial cooperation projects were launched. The Belt and Road Initiative achieved important early harvests, providing strong impetus to the development and revitalization of countries along the routes.”

- **January 6, 2016 – Regular News Conference Held by the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “China believes that the RCEP negotiation should give consideration to the development level and bearing capacity of different countries involved in the negotiation, and be inclusive. Under the background of slower increase in the world economy at present, entering into the agreement on RCEP as soon as possible is of great significance for all participants to expand opportunities of market access, strengthen industrial cooperation and shore up the confidence in economic development. China will continue to strengthen the communication and cooperation with all other parties to promote the completion of the negotiation as soon as possible in 2016.”



• **January 7, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We often describe the Trans-Pacific Partnership as the centerpiece of our Asia rebalance, because what that does effectively do is it creates significant opportunities for American businesses and American workers, and ultimately American middle-class families if we can start to level the playing field between U.S. businesses and the fast-growing economies of the Asia Pacific. And we can raise standards in terms of labor standards and environmental standards that their competitors in Asia have to adhere to [...] this is an opportunity for the United States to advance our interests and to do so in a way that has important economic benefits for middle-class families back here in the United States.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “I would actually make the case that the best way for the U.S. economy to weather some of the volatility that we see in the international economy is actually to strengthen our relationship, our economic relationship, with those countries that do have a fast-growing economy. When you start to see volatility in places like China, having access to other fast-growing markets in the world becomes even more important [...] I am suggesting that we should move expeditiously through this process and that Congress should not wait until the end of the year or even next year to approve the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement.”

• **January 8, 2016 – U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman Promotes Trans-Pacific Partnership at Consumer Electronics Show** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “The agreement is a centerpiece of President Obama’s economic agenda because it will gain Americans unprecedented access to the Asia-Pacific by cutting over 18,000 taxes various countries put on Made-in-America products. The TPP will also level the playing field for American workers and businesses by setting high-standard rules across the region, including groundbreaking protections for intellectual property, labor rights, a free and open internet, and many other areas [...] Also, because the TPP has strong provisions to keep the internet free and open, as well as to ensure the free flow of data across borders that is vital to the digital economy and to American technology companies, Ambassador Froman stressed that the U.S. exported \$87.7 billion in digitally deliverable services to TPP countries in 2015.”

• **January 6, 2016 – Regular News Conference Held by the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “China has always respected WTO rules, and also insists on promoting the development of the aviation manufacturing industry under the WTO rules. China has expressed regret over the United States’ request for consultations. According to the WTO’s rules of dispute settlement procedures, China has accepted the request for consultations on December 18, 2015 and will deal with the case under the WTO’s rules of dispute settlement procedures.”

• **January 6, 2016 – Regular News Conference Held by the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “We will promote the agreement on upgrade of the Sino-ASEAN Free Trade Zone to come into force as soon as possible, try to complete the negotiations on the Agreement on Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership and the upgrade of the Sino-Singapore Free Trade Agreement as early as possible, accelerate progress in the negotiations on Sino-Japan, Sino-Korea, Sino-Sri Lanka, Sino-Maldives and other free trade zones and the second stage of negotiation on Sino-Pakistan Free Trade Zone, restart the negotiation on the free trade zone with the Gulf Cooperation Council as soon as possible, speed up the united strategic study on the Asia-Pacific Free Trade Zone, launch the negotiation on the Sino-Israel Free Trade Zone in good time, and actively promote the negotiation on establishing free trade zones with countries along “the Belt and Road.”

• **January 8, 2016 – How to overcome foreign trade challenges** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “In this sense, some new characteristics mark China’s foreign trade. First, the growth rate of its export will gradually slow down. Second, the quality of its exports will gradually increase and so will the price. [...] Third, China’s new advantage in foreign trade will be in technology, brand, quality and service, rather than low prices.”

• **January 8, 2016 – What drives Xi’s foreign policy?** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “One, China has debilitating overcapacity in heavy industries, like steel, cement, aluminum, plate glass, chemicals, and if these can be transported and utilized by less developed countries, all benefit. Two, China is embarking on its comprehensive 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20), with the ambitious goal of becoming a moderately prosperous society by 2020. Foreign trade of higher value-added products, plus access to advanced foreign technologies, are an integral part of the Plan-and these can be facilitated by China’s diplomacy and good image.”



• **January 11, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We are hopeful that Congress will take steps to ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership. This was an agreement that was reached by the United States and 11 other countries in the Asia Pacific. This is an agreement that we spent years negotiating. We were pleased to see this agreement completed. And now we need to see Congress vote to ratify it. There is a process, though, of public consideration and public comment, so we’re not calling on Congress to vote for it now, but we are hopeful that they will move in a timely fashion to vote to approve that legislation.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “Our national security and foreign policy experts -- U.S. Secretaries of Defense and State, National Security Advisors, Generals, Admirals, and others -- are all saying that TPP is a strategic imperative [...] they also appreciate that TPP is strategic in the broader sense of the word. TPP is the economic centerpiece of our rebalancing to Asia and a concrete manifestation of America’s ability to show global leadership [...] They are two possibilities: Will it be China-centric or Trans-Pacific in nature? That is what at stake, economically and strategically.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Remarks on the United States Foreign Policy Agenda for 2016** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Our economy is going to be further bolstered when Congress approves a trade agreement that includes 40 percent of the global economy, the TPP, and that is another priority for this coming year. In 2015, after seven years of negotiations, the United States joined 11 other nations along the Pacific Rim in completing negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership. The TPP includes the highest labor and environmental standards of any trade agreement in history. It represents 40 percent of global GDP. It will support American prosperity by lowering barriers to our exports and creating more jobs that pay higher wages. 18,000 different taxes will be taken off of items that the United States tries to export. And it will help shape trade in the Asia Pacific for years to come. That builds security. The TPP is a critical component of the United States rebalance towards the region, advancing American leadership in the largest emerging market in the world.”

• **January 12, 2016 – No reason to deny China market economy status** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “China is now the world’s largest trading country, and acknowledging it as a market economy would be conducive to promoting global trade[...] But the United States, the European Union, Japan, Canada and some regional trade organizations have yet granted China market economy status. [...] Some countries are also worried that recognizing China as a market economy will make it more difficult for them to impose anti-dumping charges on China. And some US officials have objected to the EU’s move to recognize China as a market economy, arguing that the move would be unfavorable for the US and EU members.”

• **January 12, 2016 – China’s MES tests EU independence** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “According to the Chinese WTO Accession Protocol of 2001, the Non-Market Economy (NME) status of the country will expire on December 11 [...] Washington is highly critical while the majority of European states are positive predisposed [...] Europe faces the challenge of defying US guidance and show to the outside world that it is able to make important decisions alone.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Commentary: optimistic consumption data reveal China’s economic vitality** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “As the global economy is undergoing deep adjustments, traditional indicators such as GDP, export volume and fixed-asset investment can no longer comprehensively represent economic development. Against such a backdrop, consumer orientation has emerged as an increasingly important element to analyze economic patterns [...] At present, China is adopting an innovation-driven strategy with emphasis on supply-side structural reform to usher in an economic “new normal” featuring more emphasis on economic structure. Choices made in the post-crisis era will not only inject new impetus into China’s development, but also bring new opportunities to the global economy by achieving a better balance between demand and supply.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Can Legendary acquisition help build China’s soft power?** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The idea that the acquisition will enable Wanda to exert a direct impact on the image of China in Hollywood blockbusters, making Legendary produce more propaganda works about China is too simple [...] Positive China factors have been found in blockbusters such as The Martian, Gravity and the James Bond series. They have taken Chinese audiences’ feelings into account. This is a result of market forces. However, China still has a long way to go to build its own soft power. Companies like Wanda are pioneers on the road of China’s modernization and they deserve more encouragement.”



• **January 13, 2016 – Remarks of President Barack Obama – State of the Union Address As Delivered** ([White House, Speeches](#))

Quote: “Economic headwinds are blowing in from a Chinese economy that is in significant transition.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Remarks of President Barack Obama – State of the Union Address As Delivered** ([White House, Speeches](#))

Quote: “That’s how we forged a Trans-Pacific Partnership to open markets, and protect workers and the environment, and advance American leadership in Asia. It cuts 18,000 taxes on products made in America, which will then support more good jobs here in America. With TPP, China does not set the rules in that region; we do. You want to show our strength in this new century? Approve this agreement. Give us the tools to enforce it. It’s the right thing to do.”

• **January 14, 2016 – Remarks by Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew at the HOPE Global Forums Annual Meeting** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “As China assumes the G-20 presidency this year, we are working closely with them to ensure that countries agree on specific steps to accelerate technology-enabled financial inclusion to reduce costs and expand the reach of financial services. Treasury is working closely with international standard-setting bodies to establish rules that address safety and soundness, anti-money laundering and countering terrorist financing, and other safeguards on services, such as savings, insurance and payment systems.”

• **January 15, 2016 – U.S. Trade Representative Brings President Obama’s State of the Union Call for Asia Trade Agreement to the Bronx** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “The TPP will break down numerous barriers that Made-in-America exports face in the Asia-Pacific, as well as how the agreement goes farther than any trade agreement in history when it comes to helping American small businesses support jobs by exporting [...] while large companies often have the resources to export into foreign countries despite trade barriers, the 98 percent of U.S. exporters that are small and medium-sized businesses are frequently locked-out of critical markets by tariffs and other measures.”

• **January 14, 2016 – Strengthen Partnership for a Better Future** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “In light of the changing international economic landscape, the G20 has endeavored to advance reform of the international financial and monetary systems by increasing the voices and representation of emerging markets and developing countries. New mechanisms such as the Financial Stability Board and the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes have been put together to make relevant cooperation more rules-based.”

• **January 15, 2016 – Inclusive AIIB to boost sustainable growth** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The AIIB is both inclusive and open, and a global financial institution that believes in equality. [...] It is important to note that the Philippines joined the AIIB despite having a maritime dispute with China. The bank’s openness is also reflected in the flexibility for the countries that have not yet ratified the AIIB agreement. [...] In other words, the AIIB is open and innovative - very different from the US-led Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement - and will not exclude members from the trading bloc even if they fail to ratify the agreement before the deadline expires.”

• **January 15, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China follows a managed floating exchange rate regime based on market supply and demand with reference to a basket of currencies. Steady progress has been made in reforming and opening up the financial market and promoting the reform of the formation mechanism of the RMB exchange rate. We oppose competitive devaluation of currencies as well as currency wars. While promoting relevant reforms, the Chinese side will keep RMB exchange rate basically stable at an adaptive and equilibrium level.”

• **January 15, 2016 – Central bank seeks difficult balance with yuan policy** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The central bank has called on international institutions not to engage in speculative activities against the yuan [...] The central bank’s strategies have proved effective in the first war against international investors in the offshore yuan market, as the onshore and offshore yuan rates both strengthened on Monday. It also signaled that the PBC will strike back against reckless gambling with the yuan and prevent its continued depreciation in the international market.”



• **January 19, 2016 – U.S. Congress at a Glance** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “And so right now, because China is a very large economic rival to the United States, you’ll see in the President’s State of the Union Address and a lot of stump speeches by the candidates, foreign policy and challenges from other countries are being framed by – in – by China. Well, China has more engineers than we do; well, China is growing at 6 percent and we’re growing at 4. That’s the reason why we’re now starting to use China as a touchstone for how economic power.”

• **January 19, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Turnbull of Australia Before Bilateral Meeting** ([White House, Speeches](#))

Quote: “We are both part of the driving force that created this rules-based system that is now being prepared to ratify among the various nations. It is going to be good for our economy. It is going to be good for our workers and our businesses. And it reaffirms that in order for us to thrive in the 21st century, particularly economies that are respectful of rule of law and concerned about labor rights and environmental rights, it’s important for us to be making the rules in this region, and that’s exactly what TPP does.”

• **January 19, 2016 – Fact Sheet: United States – Australia Cooperation: Deepening Our Strategic Partnership** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “TPP will expand trade, spur investment, and lift standards throughout the Asia-Pacific. The TPP is strategically important, as it will help us to define and strengthen the rules-based international system and increase economic stability throughout the region.”

• **January 20, 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to the U.S. Conference of Mayors** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “We promised to remove barriers to American exports. The agreement we brought home cuts more than 18,000 foreign taxes on American exports [...] The agreement we brought home has the highest labor and environmental standards in history. It fights abuses like child labor and forced labor, and requires countries to maintain laws on acceptable conditions of work, including minimum wages, working hours, and workplace health and safety. Among other achievements, it requires countries to eliminate all tariffs on green technologies, prohibits some of the most harmful fishing subsidies, and strengthens our ability to address collective challenges like wildlife trafficking.”

• **January 15, 2016 – AIIB to open Saturday amid high expectations** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The AIIB, the first multilateral financial institution launched by China, will provide new opportunities for countries inside and outside of Asia. Government officials and economic experts expressed confidence that the AIIB is going to play an active role in international economic governance, global financing and regional economic cooperation.”

• **January 15, 2016 – Central bank seeks difficult balance with yuan policy** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The central bank has called on international institutions not to engage in speculative activities against the yuan [...] The central bank’s strategies have proved effective in the first war against international investors in the offshore yuan market, as the onshore and offshore yuan rates both strengthened on Monday. It also signaled that the PBC will strike back against reckless gambling with the yuan and prevent its continued depreciation in the international market.”

• **January 16, 2016 – Clearing doubts of others can help China get support** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The US does not believe that China will not challenge its global leadership, and China does not believe the US’ growing presence in the Asia-Pacific region is not to contain its rise. [...] Although China and the US are competing over security issues, they have many common interests, such as fighting terrorism and mitigating climate change. Therefore, they should try to transform their common interests into a kind of consensus through effective diplomatic dialogue, which is a prerequisite for a clear explanation of one country’s national interests and responsibilities and for reducing other countries’ suspicions.”

• **January 16, 2016 – Address by President Xi Jinping of China At the Opening Ceremony of The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The AIIB shall remain committed to open regionalism. [...] The demand for infrastructure development in Asia is enormous. Institutions for infrastructure investment, old or new, have much to offer each other, and may well work together through joint financing, knowledge sharing and capacity building. They may engage each other in benign competition, learn from and reinforce each other, and move forward in tandem. This is a way to allow multilateral development institutions to contribute more to infrastructure connectivity and sustainable economic development in the region.”



• **January 20, 2016 – Press Gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz en route Detroit, MI** ([White House Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We need to stay focused on what we can do to strengthen job growth here at home. The President has several proposals to do just that, one of which is urging Congress to pass the Trans-Pacific Partnership. That’s a deal that’s going to help America’s businesses and help America’s workers.”

• **January 22, 2016 – Statement on TiSA Ministers Meeting** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “A group of ministers from Trade in Services Agreement (TiSA) participants met informally in Davos, Switzerland today where they discussed progress in negotiations and reaffirmed their commitment to conclude an ambitious agreement this year. Launched in 2013, twenty-three parties are negotiating TiSA, an agreement that will encompass state-of-the-art rules to promote fair and open trade across the full spectrum of service sectors – from telecommunications and technology to distribution and delivery services.”

• **January 22, 2016 – Remarks by Secretary Carter at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “And then finally, looking further ahead and more geopolitically, we have a competitive situation that we don’t want to lead to armed conflict, but we have to acknowledge a competitive situation with Russia on the one hand in Europe, with China in Asia. And I’ll just say one thing about Asia -- it’s terribly important for this audience, because it’s a big business market. It’s half of the world’s economy, half of its population. For 70 years, peace and stability have been kept in Asia, because of the American military. We aim to keep that going. Now, that’s not to exclude anybody else, it’s not to keep anybody else down. It has never been that way. Japan rose, South Korea rose, Taiwan rose. Southeast Asia -- now India and China. We welcome that. But you can’t take for granted the environment of peace and security.”

• **January 28, 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman at the Beyond AGOA Hearing** ([US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “With commodity prices falling and China transitioning toward lower growth, China’s imports from Africa appear to have fallen by half in a single year, from above \$110 billion in 2014 to barely \$50 billion in 2015. Africa’s next decade of sustainable growth will require new sources of demand – in agricultural and manufacturing trade, internal integration, and in capitalizing on the continent’s boom in Internet access and mobile use, rather than the resource boom of the last ten years. America needs Africa. And Africa needs America.”

• **January 18, 2016 – AIIB a test for China’s international role** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “ASEAN fears that the China-led super-infrastructure project known as the Belt and Road Initiative could dampen the grouping’s chance of getting more funding. But China wants to utilize its multilateral project to promote connectivity, trade and investment. [...] Recent months have seen strong reactions from the region to China’s latest attitude toward the South China Sea disputes. But despite being critical of China’s attitude and conflicting in their opinions, ASEAN members have not refused to engage with the AIIB.”

• **January 18, 2016 – Official of the Department of Outward Investment and Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce Comments on China’s Outward Investment and Economic Cooperation in 2015** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “In one aspect, the domestic and international situations were beneficial to the outward investment and cooperation, and the momentum of the enterprises to go out was strengthened. In 2015, the international economic pattern continued the profound changes, and the countries made efforts to realize the economic recovery. The leading role of the “Belt and Road” was prominent. China’s initiation of the “Belt and Road” gained recognition and response from more and more countries. Their willingness to strengthen investment and cooperation with China were constantly enhanced. In 2015, the direct investment and foreign contract projects of Chinese enterprises with the countries alongside “Belt and Road” witnessed a rapid growth.”

• **January 20, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “The key of China’s concern is that according to Article 15 of the Protocol on China’s Accession to the World Trade Organization WTO members must abolish the surrogate practice against China no later than December 11th 2016. This is the international obligations that WTO members must follow [...] After all, multilateral trading system is based on rules. Escaping from international obligations, no matter what the excuse is, will injure the multilateral trading system. Thank you.”



• **January 28, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We have seen comments from Republicans indicating that, well, maybe they’ll get TPP done this year; maybe they won’t [...] Most Democrats don’t support the Trans-Pacific Partnership -- at least not most Democrats in the House of Representatives. We believe we have a strong case to make to Democrats about why the Trans-Pacific Partnership is good for American businesses, is good for American workers, and is good for American middle-class families. It levels the playing field for American businesses and American workers, and it cuts taxes on 18,000 American products that are imposed by other countries.”

• **January 20, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “Current international trade protectionist practice mainly targets Chinese products, which causes Chinese exporters to have second thoughts on expanding into the international market. Those Chinese industries bearing the brunt of trade friction include labor-intensive industries, such as steel and the light industry and high value-added industries such as machinery, electronics and chemical industry [...] The use of discriminatory rules such as “surrogate country price” has artificially increased anti-dumping and countervailing duties and the difficulties for Chinese companies to respond to litigations. Every year, Chinese companies put in a great deal of human and financial resources to defend themselves in the cases. If the export is blocked, it will be much more difficult for them to reshuffle their production.”

• **January 20, 2016 – MOFCOM Department of Treaty and Law Comments on China’s Appealing against the EU Regarding the Appellate Body Report of the Action of Enforcement of the Case of the Anti-dumping Measures of the Fastener Published by the WTO** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “Chinese government’s steadfast determination of making full use of the international rules and dispute settlement mechanism to positively uphold the benefits of the industry and export. It fully showed some trade partners’ discriminative investigation in Chinese products and enterprises and the anti-dumping measures were short of the multilateral legal basis. Therefore it was difficult for them to gain the recognition of the WTO. China will unswervingly support the multilateral trading system of the WTO and made its own contribution to upgrading a fair, just and transparent international trading environment.”

• **January 20, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “The growth of import and export decreased, but from the international perspective, China’s export growth was still better than the major economies and emerging market economies in the world. China’s proportion in the global market was steady and had increased. China accelerated its structure adjustment and power transference, making the quality and efficiency of foreign trade development further promoted.”



• **January 20, 2016 – 6.9% GDP growth statistic reliable: Director of NBS** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Chinese economic growth decelerated to a 25-year low of 6.9 percent in 2015, down from 7.3 percent in 2014, according to data released on Tuesday by the National Bureau of Statistics [...] Facing questions about the authenticity of China's GDP growth data raised by some media and research institutions in the past year, Wang confirmed that the 6.9 percent rate in 2015 is a reliable statistic [...] the bureau has adopted internationally accepted methodology for GDP accounting. Last year, China formally adopted the SDDS standard of the IMF. Last, China's statistics, especially for GDP accounting, have been recognized by international institutions including the United Nations Statistical Commission, the IMF and the World Bank."

• **January 21, 2016 – Caution against misguided fears on growth and oil** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "On the demand side, plummeting international oil prices have long been attributed by many to China's sluggish industrial growth. [...] But a close look at the country's oil imports will show that its appetite for imported oil has not weakened, nor is it likely to peak anytime soon as the volume of imported oil grew by 8.8 percent last year. Without a proper analysis of its underlying economic realities, misguided fears about the spillover effect of China's slowdown will only add to the uncertainties that have already plagued the global recovery for too long."

• **January 21, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "I want to stress that China will not change its policies in utilizing foreign capital, creating favorable investment environment for foreign-invested companies in China, and protecting their legitimate rights and interests. The Chinese economy is developing with huge potential and strong resilience. We will continue to share development dividends with other countries and pursue win-win results."



• **January 21, 2016 – Head of the Department of Foreign Trade under the Ministry of Commerce Interprets the Several Opinions of the State Council on Promoting the Innovative Development of Processing Trade** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “Under the background that European and American countries implement the “reindustrialization” strategy, and developing countries accelerate to carry on the international industrial and capital transfer, continue to focus on investment attraction, combine the capital, intelligence and technology introduction, and promote the utilization level of foreign investment of processing trade. Meanwhile, take an active part in the negotiation on multilateral and bilateral rules and the negotiation in free trade areas to create an international economic and trade environment with fair competition for the development of processing trade.”

• **January 25, 2016 – Foreign investors must adapt** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The current difficulties of some foreign companies do not mean that the investment climate in China is worsening. Complaints about the business environment in China neither reflect the reality nor help these foreign companies adapt to the ongoing transformation of the Chinese economy from a global manufacturing powerhouse to a rising consuming society.”

• **January 27, 2016 – Why Western pundits want China to fail** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Like over-burdened pack animals, developed countries such as Japan and the US are still limping along with ever-growing mountains of unsustainable debt on their backs and minimal or zero growth. Large amounts of cash have been injected in order to keep these laboring beasts alive. So how has the global economy managed to keep staggering along these last few years? For the most part, on the back of Chinese, export-led growth.”

• **January 27, 2016 – Op-ed: Think twice before declaring war on Chinese currency** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “It is true that in 2015, the RMB saw a moderate devaluation against the USD. However, it is just a slight correction since, except for a minor fluctuation in 2000, the RMB has been appreciating against the USD for nearly 20 years. In the meantime, China has become the second largest economy in the world, and has to end the yuan’s de-facto peg to the U.S. dollar. In global financial market, China can withstand the temporary dial-back of exchange rate for the sake of independence in monetary policy.”



• **January 28, 2016 – Commentary: Talking Down to Chinese Economy is Groundless** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "The fluctuation in the Chinese stock market is to a great extent due to immature security regulation system and immature investors. It cannot reflect how well the economy is doing. As for the rates of Chinese Yuan, it is totally kept within a rational range."

• **January 29, 2016 – Commentary: Those shorting China doomed to fail** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "The "tools" in China's financial toolkit are more than capable of tackling any potential risks. China has the biggest foreign reserve pool and a complete market regulation system. In addition, it has launched reform on RMB exchange rate regime, and enhanced supervision on short-term speculative capital flow as well as the trade of cross-border financial derivatives."



Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: U.S. Does Not Address Cyber Security Issue; China Begins Construction on Second Aircraft Carrier

United States

China

- **January 1, 2016 – New aircraft carrier leads to complete national defense system (People's Daily)**

Quote: "On the last day of 2015, China's Ministry of Defense confirmed the country has started building a second aircraft carrier [...]. It will be conventionally-powered and features J-15 fighters using the ski-jump takeoff method [...]. In the following decades, China will face tough security situations. The challengers will bear more consequences in confronting China, but at the same time, they will also make us realize our disadvantages."

- **January 3, 2016 – Op-Ed: New conditions require stronger Chinese military (People's Daily)**

Quote: "As China's international cooperation grows, more Chinese enterprises go global and the country embraces greater responsibility to maintain regional and world peace, a strong Chinese army is needed [...]. If China has a big gap with the US in terms of military prowess, this will affect its international position and other countries' attitude toward China [...]. As we gain more trust from other countries, many of them will no longer be dependent on the US for security and on China for economic benefits."

- **January 4, 2016 – China-US relationship in 2015 (China Daily)**

Quote: "A Chinese saying goes: "Cyber security is a highly controversial and sensitive issue. Yet it just took a few days for China and the US to reach the consensus. Both sides were satisfied. This is an eloquent proof that dialogue is the best way to address the differences."

- **January 4, 2016 – Milestone year for China's diplomacy (China Daily)**

Quote: "Rampant terrorism wreaked havoc not only in Africa, the Middle East and South Asia, but also in Europe, China and the US. And for that, the chaos in the Middle East is not the only factor to blame; the "support" (intended or unintended) of some states, people and media outlets to terrorist outfits is also responsible. As such, those opposing China's Anti-Terrorism Law are actually supporting terrorism despite not realizing it. China studied from the experiences of Western countries and considered its own situation and needs before drafting and passing the law. And the Chinese authorities solicited the opinions of the people on the law before adopting it."



• **January 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: Russian President Vladimir Putin stressed in the recently-signed new national security strategy to 2020 that Russia is developing the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination with China, which is a key factor for regional and world stability. What is China's response?"

A: No matter how the international and regional landscapes change, the two sides would always stay committed to consolidating and deepening China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination, pursuing common development and renewal, and upholding international equity and justice as well as world peace and stability. [...] As two permanent members of the UN Security Council and major emerging markets, China and Russia will continue to forge ahead with the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination at a high level and work together with the international community to build a new type of international relationship based on win-win cooperation, and safeguard peace and stability of the region and beyond."

• **January 5, 2016 – Need for second aircraft carrier is real** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "Building a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier involves many concerns: security, preventing nuclear leaks and the replacement of the nuclear reactor after it expires in 15 years. China has technologies to use nuclear power in submarines, but it needs more research to do so in an aircraft carrier. [...] As a country with 1.3 billion people, more than 18,000 kilometers of coastlines, about 3 million square km of maritime territory and increasing overseas interests, China certainly needs three aircraft carriers. Those hyping up the "China threat" theory need to look at China's reality."



Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Express Concern about Crackdown on Lawyers in China and Coerced Confessions; China Insists it Values the Rule of Law

United States	China
<p>• January 11, 2016 – Statement on Humanitarian Access in Syria (Mission to the United Nations) Quote: “The reports of starvation coming out of Madaya and other besieged regions of Syria are horrific. [...] The humanitarian crisis in Madaya is but one more sign of the Assad regime’s brutality throughout Syria. [...] Blocking aid in order to starve civilians is grotesque – and but one more reason why Assad’s supporters should recognize that he has lost the legitimacy to govern the Syrian people. As we have said before, the only way to stop the violence and end Syria’s conflict will be through a political solution, like the negotiated political transition outlined in December in UN Security Council resolution 2254. But while we work toward that goal, the Syrian regime must allow immediate and unfettered humanitarian assistance to reach all those in need, and the Member States of the United Nations must unite to pressure the Syrian government to grant that access now.”</p> <p>• January 11, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefing) Quote: “The United States has done more than any other country to provide the kind of relief both to other countries in the region who are housing refugees, but also to those relief organizations that are providing humanitarian relief inside of Syria. And we know that there are a number of U.N.-affiliated agencies in the Red Cross that are doing heroic work to respond to this situation, and the United States has been providing financial support to those efforts.”</p> <p>• January 13, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “I do want to note some concerns about ongoing crackdown against lawyers in China. After holding them for six months, Chinese authorities are now reportedly charging lawyers from the Beijing Fengrui law firm with now state subversion. These lawyers, such as Zhou Shifeng and Wang Yu, as well as Li Heping, now face sentences ranging from 15 years to life imprisonment for their efforts to represent clients, including a number of prominent human rights activists. The United States urges China to drop these charges and immediately release these lawyers and others like them detained for seeking to protect the rights of Chinese civilians – or citizens, rather.”</p>	<p>• January 1, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on French Correspondent Ursula Gauthier's Departure (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: While the French Foreign Ministry and the European External Action Service released statements on the departure of Ursula Gauthier, a Beijing-based correspondent for French magazine L’Obs, over half of the on-line comments in France voiced understanding and support for China’s decision of not renewing press credentials for Gauthier. How do you comment on that? A: It shows that on the issue of counter-terrorism which is a matter of principle, most people in the international community stand for justice and against double standards. I would like to reiterate that the Chinese side protects the lawful rights and interests of foreign journalists to conduct interviews and reports in China, but the Chinese government and people will by no means tolerate the act of speaking for terrorism.”</p> <p>• January 11, 2016 – Commentary: China’s porn sharing trial should be viewed from a legal perspective (People's Daily) Quote: “Open judiciary is always the best legal education. The high profile case can really offer important legal lessons, especially amongst young people [...] In this sense, regardless of the final verdict, the Qvod case has demonstrated China’s progress in judicial transparency [...] As lawful governance has come a long way in China, the public should be keenly aware of the basis of legal knowledge and never confuse the force of law with moral elements. Guilty or not, the verdict should be decided by judges, and the court has every right to make that decision without being distracted by outside opinions. The court must independently make the final decision based on the law.”</p> <p>• January 14, 2016 – Op-ed: Dalai Clique’s libel against Han people exposes sinister intentions (People's Daily) Quote: “Though he embraces the title of Nobel Peace Prize winner, the Dalai Lama and his followers have repeatedly threatened to wipe out the Han population in Tibet. Such duplicity exposes members of the Clique as Tibetan separatists, which is unacceptable to the whole Chinese nation.”</p>



• January 21, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department)

Quote: “The United States is concerned about the growing number of people in China recently – also including European citizens – who appear to have been coerced to confess to alleged crimes on state media, often before the commencement of any trial or the announcement of any charges. Some of these people have not been afforded legal or consular representation, and there are also instances in which foreign nationals appear to have been brought to mainland China against their will and by extra-legal means. These actions undermine China’s claim to be a rule of law society and run contrary China’s human rights commitments and hinder its attempts to build a more transparent and effective justice system.”

• January 24, 2016 – Xi concludes Middle East trip with promoted ties, cooperation (People’s Daily)

Quote: “The Chinese government has decided to pledge 50 million RMB (7.53 million U.S. dollars) to help improve the livelihood of the Palestinians and 230 million RMB (about 35 million dollars) for Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya and Yemen as humanitarian assistance.”

• January 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: “Q: Human Rights Watch criticized China in its recently released annual report. What is China's comment on that?”

A: Only the wearer knows if the shoe fits his feet. Only the people of China know best how the human rights condition in China is. The human rights cause is an important part of China's economic and social development. It is making steady progress in accordance with China's national condition and people's requirement. I also want to point out that China is a country under the rule of law. All those who violate the law shall be punished according to law. It is hoped that relevant parties will be objective, fair and sensible with the development of all undertakings in China.”



Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. Continues to Fight Climate Change; China Worries About Radiation in Smog

United States	China
<p>• January 13, 2016 – Remarks on the United States Foreign Policy Agenda for 2016 (State Department) Quote: “This agreement (the Paris Agreement on Climate Change) was made possible by unprecedented collaboration on climate issues between the United States and China, which began an initiative by President Obama that we would engage with China in order to bring China in instead of leaving it outside, as it has been in most of the meetings previously that we have had on climate change. And together, China and the United States stood up and announced well in advance of Paris what our goals would be with respect to our reductions and urged every nation to announce its own targets for reducing carbon emissions.”</p> <p>• January 13, 2016 – Remarks of President Barack Obama – State of the Union Address As Delivered (White House, Speeches) Quote: “We’ve cut our imports of foreign oil by nearly 60 percent, and cut carbon pollution more than any other country on Earth [...] Climate change is just one of many issues where our security is linked to the rest of the world. And that’s why the third big question that we have to answer together is how to keep America safe and strong without either isolating ourselves or trying to nation-build everywhere there’s a problem.”</p> <p>• January 21, 2016 – FACT SHEET: The Administration Announces Historic Commitments to Build Climate Resilient Communities (White House, Press Briefing) Quote: “The Administration has taken unprecedented steps to better prepare communities across the country for the increasingly destructive impacts of climate change. Today, the Administration is announcing historic commitments to building climate resilient communities, including announcing the winners of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC). 13 states and local communities across the country will receive a combined \$1 billion in disaster recover funds to rebuild and better prepare for future extreme weather and other climate change impacts.”</p>	<p>• January 8, 2016 – Nuclear radiation proven not relevant to haze (Ministry of Environmental Protection) Quote: “MEP organized relevant experts once again to analyze and estimate the situations based on the latest data, who concluded that the average content of natural uranium in coals in China is lower than that in Germany and other countries; that the average content of natural uranium in coals from Inner Mongolia is a little below national level; that over 90% of the uranium in coals ends up in ash after combustion; that the radioactivity of the atmospheric environment has been steady for over a decade, particulates with high content of uranium are not identified, and the nuclear radiation is not relevant to the haze.”</p>



Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Reaffirms its Commitment to the Asia-Pacific Region; China Remains Skeptical of ROK-Japan Agreement on Comfort Women Issue

United States

• **January 6, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The thing that I should reiterate at this point is the rock-solid commitment on the part of the United States to the safety and security of our allies in South Korea. That commitment also extends to the safety and security of our allies in Japan. And we have demonstrated our significant investment in that security relationship, and there’s no doubting the strength of that commitment.”

• **January 12, 2016 – Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter with Filipino Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario and Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “It is timely for the Philippines and the U.S. to focus on building a credible defense posture and enhancing interoperability for territorial defense, maritime security and maritime domain awareness, and humanitarian assistance and disaster response. We look forward to further deepening our strategic partnership and ensure that we maintain an effective alliance that is responsive to the challenges of the 21st century.”

• **January 12, 2016 – Remarks With Secretary of Defense Ash Carter with Filipino Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario and Secretary of Defense Voltaire Gazmin** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States has indicated our intention to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows, whether it be the South China Sea or anywhere else around the world. And the Philippines – and the EDCA decision by the Supreme Court gives us new opportunities here – also is strengthening its role in maritime security, and in that connection we’re working and now have new opportunities to work with the Philippines. And therefore let me join Secretary Kerry in welcoming the decision of the court in the Philippines to recognize the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement.”

China

• **January 4, 2016 – Japan's apology for war crimes must not stop at ROK** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “But Japan's sincerity is now in question, because it wants to link its payment to the removal of the statue. [...] It is too early to assess the impact of the deal.”

• **January 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on January 5, 2016** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Any scheme or attempt to whitewash or even deny the history cannot but make people more suspicious of Japan's real intention and attitude on the relevant history issue. It is hoped that the Japanese side would face up to and deeply reflect upon the history with a sense of sincerity and responsibility and properly deal with the relevant issue so as to win the trust of its Asian neighbors and the international community.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Abe's political need behind deal with ROK** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “US Secretary of State John Kerry welcomed the agreement on the very day it was announced, saying it “will promote healing and help to improve relations between two of the US' most important allies”. [...] Apparently, the last thing Washington wants to see is its “pivot to Asia” falling apart because of the widening fissures between its allies in East Asia, and this could explain its consistent intervention in Japan-ROK bilateral affairs. [...] Japan had been caught in a diplomatic stalemate and was thus desperate to seek a diplomatic breakthrough. As much as Abe hates to admit, reconciling with the ROK was a decision he was forced to make because his extensive diplomatic maneuvers over the past two years had not been able to end its “neighborhood dilemma”.”

• **January 11, 2016 – Op-ed: Japan's large scale weapons importation alarming** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “From 2002 to 2012, Japan imported the most weapons among 170 surveyed countries, said a new report released by the U.S. State Department [...] If Japan is as peace-loving a country as it labeled, does it really need to import so many weapons? [...] It is fair to say that such advanced weapons and combat capabilities have far exceeded the demand required solely for self-defense [...] Japan no longer defines its national military strategy as self-defense, but is considering a new round of international intervention, perhaps in an attempt to stir up wars.”



• **January 19, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Turnbull of Australia Before Bilateral Meeting** ([White House, Speeches](#))

Quote: “We’ll also have a chance to talk about the Asia Pacific region, where we have common interests across the board. Our rebalance has been effective in part because we have such strong treaty alliances, and Australia is one of those critical alliances. And our Marines in Australia, the joint exercises that we do, the work that we do to affirm an international order and rules of the road with respect to issues like maritime law all are critical for the continued expansion of commerce and the sustained, peaceful conditions that allow our economies to thrive.”

• **January 26, 2016 – Remarks to Press** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I’d just emphasize the United States takes pride in its history as an Asia-Pacific nation. And we intend to remain deeply engaged in the future of this important region. We are deeply committed to that. That is why I am here now. I think this is my seventh or eighth trip since I became Secretary and it will not be the last this year by any means of the imagination. We are deeply committed to our partnership with Cambodia and with all the members of ASEAN on a regional and global basis. And we look forward to the talks in Sunnylands as the next step in building this continued relationship.”

• **January 26, 2016 – Press Roundtable in Tokyo** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Japan and South Korea reached an agreement to resolve the longstanding issue of “comfort women.” What kind of impact will this agreement have on the relationship among the U.S., Japan, and the ROK in the future?

A: First of all, we welcome the agreement. We think that both the Japanese prime minister and the Korean president have shown considerable political vision and political courage in first acknowledging a historical reality that has been a problem in the bilateral relationship, but also in finding a way to address it that will allow both countries to move ahead in a larger bilateral relationship that is extremely important to both countries, but also to the United States and to the region, and I believe it will help open doors to larger cooperation not only on the security side, but also politically and economically. So we think it was a wise decision by both governments, and I look forward in my trip to Seoul to engaging with our South Korean counterparts to understand better how they see the relationship with Japan going forward.”

• **January 20, 2016 – Abe backtracks over 'comfort women'** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Until Monday, when Abe told the Upper House of the Japanese Diet that official records from neither the military nor the government prove “comfort women” were forced into sexual service, and that the agreement with the ROK does not constitute Japanese recognition of the sex slavery regime as a war crime. To many, that is shameless backtracking. It is shameless because Japan’s refusal to genuinely repent has never changed.”

• **January 25, 2016 – Double election helps Abe’s ambitious plans** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “If the history of 2007 repeats itself, it means the spirit of the peace constitution has become a social reality and cannot be shaken. Otherwise, it means Japan’s postwar defense policies in the past 70 years will be changed. Peace and stability in Asia, or even the whole world, will be under threat. “

• **January 27, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference on January 27, 2016** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: On January 26, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at the annual press conference that the ties between Russia and China are going through its best period ever. Russia does not have such an extensive mechanisms of cooperation with any other country. Coordination between Russia and China on international affairs is one of the major factors ensuring international stability. [...] What is your comment?

A: The Chinese side couldn’t agree more with what he said. [...] The two sides will make joint efforts to carry forward the peace concept of China and Russia sharing long-lasting friendship, translate the advantages of high-level political relations into more practical and international cooperation achievements, further advance bilateral relations, and contribute more to peace, security and stability of the region and beyond.”



Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: U.S. Reaffirms Commitment to the Defense of South Korea Following North Korean Nuclear Test, Seeks China's Cooperation in Increasing Pressure on North Korea; China Condemns North Korean Nuclear Test, Seeks to Restart Six-Party Talks

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• January 6, 2016 – On the North Korean Nuclear Test (State Department) Quote: “We do not and will not accept North Korea as a nuclear armed state, and actions such as this latest test only strengthen our resolve. We will continue to work closely with our partners on the U.N. Security Council and in the Six-Party Talks to take appropriate action. We call on the North to end these provocations and choose a better path. North Korea will only achieve the security and development it claims to seek by living up to its international obligations and commitments.”</p> <p>• January 6, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “The Security Council has a key role to play in holding North Korea accountable by imposing a tough, comprehensive, and credible package of new sanctions, and by ensuring rigorous enforcement of the resolutions it has already adopted. Today’s Security Council meeting marks the first important step in that process. We’re going to continue to protect and defend our allies in the region, our interests in the region, including, of course, the Republic of Korea and Japan, and we will respond appropriately to any and all North Korean provocations.”</p> <p>• January 6, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “The U.S. Government judges North Korea to have conducted a nuclear test yesterday. We’re still evaluating the North’s claims about this test, but our initial analysis is not consistent with North Korea’s claim that this was a hydrogen bomb. In any event, we strongly condemn this violation of UN Security Council resolutions, and again call on North Korea to abide by its international obligations and commitments. We have consistently made clear that we will not accept North Korea as a nuclear-armed state.”</p> <p>• January 6, 2016 – Statement on the North Korean Nuclear Test (Mission to the United Nations) Quote: “The test constitutes yet another violation of the DPRK’s obligations under multiple Security Council resolutions, contravenes the DPRK’s commitments under the September 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks, and increases the risk of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. [...] The Security Council’s commitment today to impose “further significant measures” in a new resolution marks an important step in that process. [...] The United States remains fully committed to the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.”</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• January 4, 2016 – Op-ed: World needs more cooperation in 2016 (People’s Daily) Quote: “Whether reunification happens independently, peacefully or any other way, it can only be achieved through communication—dialogue and cooperation between North and South Korea.”</p> <p>• January 6, 2016 – Statement of the Foreign Ministry (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Today, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) conducted once again a nuclear test in disregard of widespread opposition from the international community. The Chinese government is firmly opposed to that. To realize denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, prevent nuclear proliferation and safeguard peace and stability of Northeast Asia is China’s firm position. We strongly urge the DPRK side to honor its commitment to denuclearization and stop taking actions that worsen the situation. [...] The Chinese side will press firmly ahead with denuclearization on the Peninsula and stay committed to resolving the Korean nuclear issue within the framework of the Six-Party Talks.”</p> <p>• January 6, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Chinese side knew nothing about the nuclear test beforehand. [...] the Chinese side will continue to fulfill its due international obligations and work together with the international community to realize denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula.”</p> <p>• January 6, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Chinese side holds a clear and firm position on the Korean nuclear issue, which is to realize denuclearization on the Peninsula, prevent nuclear proliferation and safeguard peace and stability of Northeast Asia. [...] The situation at the moment is testimony to the significance, urgency and necessity of restarting the Six-Party Talks and including the Korean nuclear issue under the framework of the talks. The Chinese side will work together with all relevant parties for the goal of realizing denuclearization on the Peninsula and stay committed to resolving the Korean nuclear issue within the framework of the Six-Party Talks.”</p>



• **January 6, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “There’s no denying the significant role that China will play in all of this. The subject of North Korea and their repeated violations of their international obligations is something that the President discusses with his counterpart just about every time they get on the phone or meet in person. And this is something that the two leaders discussed when President Xi was at the White House this past fall, and there was an agreement out of that meeting that neither the United States, nor China will accept North Korea as a nuclear-weapons state.”

• **January 6, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “Right now, they apparently are under the misimpression, the wrong impression that there is a path to integrating into the international community that can be pursued by developing nuclear weapons. They’re just wrong about that.”

• **January 6, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “I do think the President’s investment in Asia is at least in part responsible for the unanimity of opinion we see among the Chinese, the South Koreans and the Japanese for confronting this situation. It’s notable that those three countries that don’t often agree on much do all agree on the appropriate approach here. It’s also notable that the Chinese government has confirmed that they agree with the United States that the international community will not accept North Korea as a nuclear-weapons state.”

• **January 6, 2016 – Readout of the President’s Call with President Park Geun-Hye of the Republic of Korea** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “President Obama spoke by phone today with President Park Geun-Hye of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to discuss the international response to North Korea’s nuclear test. The two leaders condemned the test and agreed that North Korea’s actions constitute yet another violation of its obligations and commitments under international law, including several UN Security Council Resolutions.”

• **January 6, 2016 – Nuclear deterrent will not bring DPRK security: Opinion** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The unexpected announcement of the first hydrogen bomb test by the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) will not only deal a huge blow to the unpredicted Korean Peninsula denuclearization process and unnecessarily intensify the tensions in Northeast Asia, but more importantly will also harm the DPRK’s own security.”

• **January 6, 2016 – Commentary: DPRK’s H-bomb test harmful to regional stability** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The DPRK’s defiance was deeply rooted in its strong sense of insecurity after years of hostility with the United States, whose pivot to Asia appears much like a show of muscles. [...] In the long run, dialogue and negotiation remain the only optimal means to erase the deep-seated suspicion between certain parties and eventually solve the decades-old Korean Peninsula stalemate. Just as China has repeatedly advocated, the six-party talks still stands out as the most promising way out of the regional quagmire.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side always believes that reasonable concerns of all parties should be addressed through dialogues within the framework of the Six-Party Talks so as to realize denuclearization and long-term stability on the Korean Peninsula. It takes two to tango. [...] All relevant parties should return to the right track of resolving the Korean nuclear issue through the Six-Party Talks as soon as possible with the larger picture of regional peace and stability in mind.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “On January 7, the UN Security Council held an emergency meeting to discuss DPRK’s nuclear test and issued a press statement. China took a constructive part in the consultations. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China will participate in follow-up discussions organized by the Security Council and work with relevant parties to promote denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, prevent nuclear proliferation and safeguard peace and stability of Northeast Asia.”



• **January 7, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “We’re there every day in South Korea. More than 28,000 U.S. forces on the Korean Peninsula right now. We stand resolutely with our South Korean allies. Our commitment to them is ironclad and we will do everything we can to ensure their defense. We continue to coordinate carefully with the South Koreans. The secretary spoke with his counterpart yesterday; expect that there will be ongoing coordination with the South Koreans with regard to this issue and this provocative act by the North Koreans.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: But he (Dr. Peter Pry, an expert on electromagnetic pulse) says that in -- in the last three to four detonations, they’ve been working on miniaturization. They’ve all been purposely low-yield -- up to about 10 kilotons -- and that this is a purposeful area, to try and miniaturize so they can put it on a warhead and be able to put it into a satellite and spin it around the world and let it loose whenever they choose.

A: I will just reiterate that, no matter what they did the other day, it was a provocative act. It was not helpful to peace and stability on the peninsula, and it clearly remains an area of significant concern for the United States and for our allies. And because of that, we’re going to continue to do everything we can to address the North Korean challenge, standing side by side with South Korea and with our other allies in the region, and that we’ll continue to, obviously, carefully watch what’s -- what the North Koreans do going forward.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Remarks before the Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Do you think that you have a major problem now in North Korea and that too much time may have been paid to Iran and other challenges while North Korea was left without getting enough attention?”

A: North Korea has never been left unattended to, not for one day. We have had meetings, we have had constant consultations. On the first trip that I made to China, when I raised the issue of the climate negotiation that resulted in China joining with us, I spent most of that trip and most of that time on North Korea. Now, China had a particular approach that it wanted to make, and we agreed and respected to give them space to be able to implement that. But today in my conversation with the Chinese, I made it very clear: That has not worked and we cannot continue business as usual.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “To resolve an issue as complex as the Korean nuclear issue, it needs all relevant parties to work as one. Those who blame China for not doing enough shall ask themselves how many constructive efforts they have made. Under the current circumstances, it is more critical for all relevant parties to bear in mind the larger picture of regional peace and stability and return to the Six-Party Talks as soon as possible. We will continue to honor our international obligations and work with the international community to push ahead with denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Nuclear test won't change NK's destiny** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “The country is immersed in misshapen security policies centered on nuclear weapons and is trying to use nuclear deterrence to make up for its economic losses and political insecurity. This is a vicious circle [...] If Pyongyang is determined to develop its economy, it should engage with the outside world, including the West. Nuclear weapons are not the solution to its domestic woes.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Nuclear test to dampen ties with China, escalate tensions** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “China on Wednesday said it was not notified of and “firmly” opposes North Korea’s latest nuclear test, with analysts believing the test will severely affect relations between the two countries and escalate geopolitical tensions [...] The North Korean nuclear issue has always been at the center of clashes with world powers. It provides the US an excuse to deploy its military power in the Far East, while Japan seizes on it to militarize”

• **January 8, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: State Secretary Kerry said that China’s policy and approach to the DPRK did not work. What is your comment on that?”

A: China is not the cause and crux of the Korean nuclear issue, nor is it the key to resolving the problem. Nevertheless, having in mind the international nuclear non-proliferation regime as well as peace and stability of Northeast Asia, the Chinese side has been calling for and seeking proper settlement of different parties’ reasonable concerns and fundamental approach to enduring peace on the Peninsula through dialogues and consultations under the framework of the Six-Party Talks.”



• **January 7, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The U.N. obviously is working after an emergency Security Council meeting that was convened by the United States and Japan to discuss options for a response. Certainly that could include additional economic sanctions. And the administration has also been in touch with Chinese officials, including the National Security Advisor who spoke to the Chinese ambassador to the United States yesterday. Obviously the nation of China wields more influence over the North Korean regime than probably any other country in the world. And we certainly want to work closely with them to determine an appropriate response.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We have been quite consistent in making clear that any sort of U.S. capability, military capability that is deployed to the Korean Peninsula is arrayed solely against the threat that is posed by the North Koreans [...] there have been no discussions or consultations with the South Koreans about the deployment of what’s called a THAAD battery. This is essentially a defensive and anti-ballistic missile capability. But there are a variety of anti-ballistic missile capabilities that we have over the last several years been ramping up in the Asia Pacific region to protect the United States in response to the threat emanating from North Korea.”

• **January 13, 2016 – The Obama Administration's 2016 Foreign Policy Priorities** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Japan and the Republic of Korea are absolutely central to our response to North Korea. And that’s why as soon as you saw the nuclear test you have President Obama, his first calls are to the leaders of Japan and the Republic of Korea [...] I think there’s a role to play in terms of us making clear our ironclad commitment to their defense, manifested by our significant military cooperation, our alliance, our presence in those countries. We work together in terms of demonstrating our joint capabilities in the face of North Korea’s actions. I think we work together on a bilateral basis with each country in terms of joint exercises. We’re discussing capabilities like missile defense that are directly relevant to defending our populations against a threat from North Korea. So there’s a whole series of things that we do in the context of our alliances that I think are important in showing resolve in the face of North Korean provocation.”

• **January 8, 2016 – DPRK nuke tests threaten itself and others** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The US has been trying to deploy anti-ballistic missile defense systems in the ROK, and China has been persuading the latter not to agree to it. By claiming to have tested an H-bomb, the DPRK has offered the best excuse to the US to get the ROK’s nod to do so. [...] To prevent this from happening, China needs to take more effective measures to prevent the US from exploiting the situation and quicken its pace to deploy anti-ballistic missile systems in the ROK. China also needs to coordinate its measures with Russia to exert more pressure on the DPRK to abandon its nuclear program.”

• **January 8, 2016 – Trump is dead wrong on NK nuke issue** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The US and a few Western countries are pointing the finger at China, accusing China of being responsible for the North Korean nuclear problem [...] There is no hope to put an end to the North Korean nuclear conundrum if the US, South Korea and Japan do not change their policies toward Pyongyang. Solely depending on Beijing’s pressure to force the North to give up its nuclear plan is an illusion. In no way will China bear the responsibilities that the US, South Korea and Japan should take. The hostilities between them and Pyongyang are actually the source of the nuclear problems.”

• **January 11, 2016 – DPRK’s nuke test threatens regional stability** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The US President Barack Obama, in the last year of his presidency, is busy with the Middle East affairs and promoting gun control, while Republic of Korea also has an upcoming general election to attend to, may have convinced the DPRK that they are less likely to impose strict sanctions on it. But it is wrong if it assumes that China would refrain from tough measures for the sake of the improving ties with the DPRK.”

• **January 11, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Yesterday the US deployed a bomber jet on a low-level flight over the Korean Peninsula as a show of force. What is China’s comment?”

A: Peace and stability of Northeast Asia serves the common interests of all sides. We hope relevant parties can exercise restraint, act with caution, and avoid ratcheting up tension.”



• **January 13, 2016 – The Obama Administration's 2016 Foreign Policy Priorities** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “China – this has been an intense area of focus, and I think it will continue to be. And we – again, we believe that China can apply additional pressure, should apply additional pressure. We understand their concern about instability on the Korean Peninsula, but the fact of the matter is the current status quo is destabilizing, where you have nuclear tests. So we’ll continue to press that case with China. It is important that we develop our own capabilities to respond, as I said. So whether you’re talking about the recent overflight we did with the B-52 or you’re talking about missile defense capabilities that provide greater assurance that we can protect our citizens, talk about our military cooperation and presence in Japan and Korea. That’s critically important.”

• **January 25, 2016 – Remarks at a Press Roundtable** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The only thing I’m going to say about China is I look forward to having solid conversations – serious conversations – about one of the most serious issues on the planet today, which is a clearly reckless and dangerous, evolving security threat in the hands of somebody who is questionable in terms of judgment and has proven thus to China. But I think the conversations need to be very private, and I don’t want to be telling the Chinese what they ought to hear privately and personally from me or predetermining the talks. We need to have the talks. That’s why I’m going there: to hear their point of view, to share thoughts, to share ideas about how we can proceed – all of us together – in a smart and thoughtful way that could get a result. And I’m not going to get into the what ifs or things we may or may not do one way or the other. I think that deserves to be talked with them privately and carefully.”

• **January 27, 2016 – Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Let me emphasize the United States and China are united in our opposition to North Korea’s nuclear weapons program, and we agree – both of us – on the imperative of achieving a denuclearized Korean Peninsula. And you heard Foreign Minister Wang reiterate that on behalf of China a moment ago. It’s good to agree on the goal, but it’s not enough to agree on the goal. We believe we need to agree on the meaningful steps necessary to get to the achievement of the goal – to the negotiations that result in denuclearization.”

• **January 11, 2016 – Commentary: For peace on Korea Peninsula, all sides should exercise restraint** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “To restore stability on the peninsula, all sides first of all have to exercise restraint and refrain from any actions that may worsen an already fragile situation. For the United States and its allies in the region, they need to make a convincing case about their proclaimed commitment to stability on the Korean Peninsula and beyond. For the DPRK, it needs to understand that by repeatedly violating its non-proliferation obligations, it is making itself increasingly isolated by the international community.”

• **January 12, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “In dealing with the current situation, we should bear in mind the goal of promoting denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, preventing nuclear proliferation, and maintaining peace and stability of Northeast Asia. What is imperative is for all parties to bring the Korean nuclear issue back to the track of dialogues and negotiations, jointly promote denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and maintain peace and stability of Northeast Asia.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Iran talks have set a good example for response to DPRK** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Pyongyang's fourth nuclear test shows the country is determined to continue its pursuit of nuclear capabilities despite vehement opposition from the international community, China included. It also indicates the economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations Security Council after Pyongyang's previous tests in 2006, 2009 and 2013, have failed to deter the country from its nuclear ambitions.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China stands ready to work with the ROK and other parties of the Six-Party Talks and make joint efforts to realize denuclearization of the Peninsula and long-term stability of the region. On your second question, [...] it is our belief that every country should keep in mind other countries' security interests and regional peace and stability while pursuing its own security interests. The situation on the Korean Peninsula is highly sensitive. It is hoped that relevant countries can bear in mind the larger picture of regional peace and stability and cautiously and properly deal with the relevant issue.”



• **January 27, 2016 – Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “As I have said publicly before – it’s not a secret – the United States believes very strongly that China has a particular ability because of its special role and its connections to North Korea, an ability to be able to help us significantly to resolve this challenge. And for our part, the United States will take all necessary steps to defend American people and to honor our security commitments to allies in the region. I say that making clear that we don’t want to raise military tensions, we’re not seeking additional steps other than the Security Council resolution, the negotiations – but we will not walk away from any options that may be necessary to achieve the goal.”

• **January 27, 2016 – Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Why has China been reluctant to more heavily punish North Korea? After meeting with Secretary Kerry, do you anticipate China taking more robust action?”

A: In general, in sort of generic sectors – there are certain goods and services that flow between Korea, North Korea/DPRK and China; there are movements of ships, ports, so forth; aviation is an area and a sector of concern; various resource exchanges, whether it’s coal or fuel – all of these are areas where there are border customs, different things. There are many different ways we think in which non-punitive to the people of North Korea but nevertheless effective steps can be taken.”

• **January 27, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We do, obviously, agree that North Korea’s behavior, most recently through its attempted test of a hydrogen bomb last month, is reckless, is dangerous for the security and stability of the Korean Peninsula and, frankly, the region. And so it’s – there’s an urgency there to convince the government to change its current course of action. And I think that they – they being the Secretary and the – his Chinese counterparts – had a good, thorough, substantive discussion about the ways that we can do that. I think that there was agreement on the need for meaningful steps to get to the goal of North Korea returning to talks. And there was a lot – a little back-and-forth about sanctions being a means to an end, and that end should always be a return to Six-Party Talks. But sanctions are, frankly, one of our most effective tools to convince them of that.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Commentary: U.S. hostility behind DPRK’s nuclear brinkmanship** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “In the past few years, the United States has used various pressure tactics including war games and economic sanctions against Pyongyang, and even refused some rare goodwill gestures by the DPRK. In response to the DPRK’s latest nuclear test, the United States flew a massive nuclear-capable bomber over South Korea, and it is also gearing up to impose tighter sanctions on the DPRK. The DPRK’s nuclear brinkmanship, which indeed deserves worldwide condemnation given its potential to severely disturb regional stability and world peace, may well be seen as a desperate attempt by the country to raise its leverage in wrestling with the United States.”

• **January 14, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: ROK Chief Negotiator for the Six-Party Talks Hwang Joon-kook was interviewed at the airport when he arrived in China, saying that China, as the largest trading partner of the DPRK, should play a bigger role after DPRK’s nuclear test. What is your comment?”

A: As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has been earnestly following relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and honoring its international obligations. What is imperative under the current circumstance is for all parties to bring the Korean nuclear issue back to the track of negotiations.”

• **January 14, 2016 – Deploying missile system in ROK will not defuse crisis** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Considering the tricky situation on the peninsula right now, deployment of THAAD in the ROK could become a new source of tension and even a fresh excuse for an arms race in the region. The US’ desire to deploy the THAAD system on the peninsula is viewed by some as having an ambiguous strategic objective, and its deployment remains controversial. When seeking security of its own, a country should also take into consideration others’ security interests and regional peace and stability as well. [...] As a neighbor of the DPRK, China has repeatedly voiced its grave concern and opposition to Pyongyang’s nuclear program and called for a resumption of the Six-Party Talks, which are the only viable way to address the nuclear issue in peace.”



• **January 27, 2016 – Remarks at the Security Council Stakeout Following Consultations on Syria** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “There is no dispute that I’m aware of between China and the United States on negotiating this sanctions resolution. [...] these are incredibly complex sanctions discussions where everyone involved in negotiations wants to think about what the effects will be on North Korea, on other actors in the region, etc. [...] we feel it’s very important – as Secretary Kerry said today – that we accelerate these negotiations in order to bring something substantial about. [...] But I think reports of further imminent provocations or destabilizing actions only underscore, again, how important it is to get this sanctions resolution locked down, to get it through the Council, and to being for its effects to take hold.”

• **January 28, 2016 – The Proliferation Security Initiative: Readout on the Mid-Level Political Meeting 2016** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: One of the main targets of the Proliferation Strategy Initiative – Security Initiative is the North Korean proliferation attempts. So what effect do you think it had on deterring North Korea’s proliferation efforts for the last 13 years, and what are you going to do from now on about this?”

A: We agreed that we have to use all the tools that are afforded us under the Proliferation Security Initiative and other international arrangements in order to prevent the export of high technology to North Korea. Without question, the efforts made by the United States and our partners have slowed down both the nuclear and the ballistic missile program in North Korea but obviously have not brought it to a complete halt. We do need to work harder on preventing such exports. We also need to recognize that a change in North Korea’s policy requires the world to do more than simply work harder against technology shipments. There needs to be a price that the North Korean regime pays in order for there to be a change in policy in North Korea.”

• **January 28, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “North Korea needs to give up their nuclear program and commit to actions that will make the Korean Peninsula stable and more secure -- we know that the Russians and the Chinese agree with that proposition as well [...] Obviously, China has a closer relationship with North Korea than just about anybody else, and we’re hopeful that they will continue to work closely with us to use their influence to advance safety and security on the Korean Peninsula.”

• **January 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: It is reported that ROK President Park Geun-hye called on members of the Six-Party Talks to meet without the DPRK. Do you believe that a five-nation meeting could work better than the Six-Party Talks in resolving the Korean nuclear issue?”

A: Dialogue and negotiation remains the fundamental approach, given the current situation on the Korean Peninsula. It is hoped that all relevant parties would adhere to the principle and spirit of the September 19 Joint Statement, restart the Six-Party Talks at an early date, strive for denuclearization on the Peninsula and pursue peace and stability in Northeast Asia.”

• **January 26, 2016 – ROK should say no to missile defense system** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The THAAD system, if deployed in the ROK, will obviously have a negative impact on regional security. [...] Strategically, the possible deployment of the THAAD system in the ROK would further worsen the peninsula situation, fueling the arms race between the ROK and the DPRK and leaving less room for China’s neighborhood policy.”

• **January 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: These days, some US officials have been making remarks against China on the Korean nuclear issue via the media. What is your response?”

A: We have noted those remarks, most of which make no sense and are unconstructive. [...] China has been making unremitting efforts and playing an important role. This is an undeniable fact recognized by all. [...] Some parties's failure to do so is one major reason why the denuclearization process on the Peninsula has ran into difficulties and the Six-Party Talks is on a temporary hold. Therefore, we hope and urge that the relevant party earnestly fulfill their due responsibilities and play a constructive role. It should work with China to bring the Korean nuclear issue back to the right track, instead of pointing fingers and making inappropriate remarks.”



• **January 27, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "On the Korean nuclear issue, [...] China has been making unremitting efforts and playing an important role in realizing denuclearization on the Korean [...] However, it cannot solely rely on China to realize that goal. It calls for concerted efforts of all parties to work toward the same direction. Some parties' failure to do so is one major reason why the denuclearization process on the Peninsula has ran into difficulties and the Six-Party Talks stalled. We hope that the relevant party would earnestly fulfill its due responsibilities, play a constructive role, work with China, and make constructive and positive efforts to bring the Korean nuclear issue back to the right track."

• **January 27, 2016 – NK nuke root causes must be addressed** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "China, as a major stakeholder, sticks to the principle that the Six-Party Talks should be resumed as soon as possible, while South Korea, as President Park Geun-hye stated in a recent speech, doubts the feasibility of the long-halted mechanism, proposing to establish a five-party talks program barring North Korea. It is normal that states tend to diverse policies on the same matter for different national interests, but the enormity of the North Korea nuclear issue makes it a difficult one, especially between China and South Korea, whose affinity has been endorsed by both leaderships on many occasions. Their discord on such a fundamental issue can easily catch attention, in particular when the US is willing to back Park's idea, the disagreement might evolve into geopolitical tensions."

• **January 28, 2016 – Address Sino-US concerns** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "As for the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, both sides have agreed to make "accelerated efforts" to reach an agreement on a new United Nations Security Council resolution on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. [...] For the two countries to properly handle their differences, they need to show the spirit of flexibility and gradually bridge the gaps in a constructive manner until consensus can be reached."



• **January 28, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "Q: It is reported that the DPRK will launch a long-range missile in a week. What is China's position on this?"

A: The Chinese side is firmly committed to realizing denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, maintaining peace and stability on the Peninsula, and resolving the issue through dialogues and consultations. DPRK's latest nuclear test has further complicated the situation on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia. China has been following the situation very closely and is highly concerned about where it is heading. We hope relevant parties can treat the situation with calm, exercise restraint, refrain from taking provocative actions, avoid ratcheting up tension, and jointly maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula."

• **January 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "Q: We are all interested in the recent visit by US Secretary of State John Kerry. How do you comment on his visit?"

A: The two sides also had thorough, in-depth and helpful discussions on the issue of the Korean Peninsula, with the mutual understanding increased and important consensus reached [...] Both believe that the UN Security Council should adopt a new resolution on DPRK's nuclear test and take further actions. The two sides will have comprehensive consultation with all the other parties on the content of the resolution through permanent missions to the UN. It is also agreed that sanctions are not an end in themselves, and the key is to restart dialogue and negotiation so as to bring the Korean nuclear issue back to the correct track of dialogues and consultations."



Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S. Hails Implementation of Iranian Nuclear Deal, Continues to Struggle in Fight Against ISIL; China Participates in First Meeting of Quadrilateral Coordination Group and President Xi Visits Middle East

United States	China
<p>• January 4, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “The United States is concerned about rising tensions in the Middle East, of course, following recent executions in Saudi Arabia, attacks on Saudi diplomatic properties in Iran, and the cutting or downgrading by a number of countries of their diplomatic ties with Iran. We call on all sides to avoid any actions that would further heighten tensions in the region.”</p> <p>• January 5, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House Press Briefing) Quote: “It was very difficult and required a lot of painstaking diplomacy to bring Iran and Saudi Arabia into this process several months ago. There were already sufficient differences between those two countries that it was very difficult to get them into the same room. The only reason that we succeeded in making that case is we persuaded them that their own self-interest in the resolution of the political situation inside of Syria trumped the significant objections that they have about their adversary’s behavior.”</p> <p>• January 6, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Col. Warren via teleconference from Baghdad, Iraq (Department of Defense) Quote: “I want to mention our airstrikes for a minute too. We -- we -- we’ve continued to increase both the pace and the intensity of airstrikes in Iraq and Syria. When our airstrikes are coupled with local ground operations, we see ISIL having to react and move around the battlefield, which, in turn, just makes it easier for us to strike them. And finally, since I haven’t mentioned it recently, I want to give you an update on Operation Tidal Wave II. This operation, as you know, targets ISIL’s illicit oil infrastructure in Iraq and Syria.”</p> <p>• January 7, 2016 – Treasury Sanctions Hizballah Financier and His Company (Department of the Treasury) Quote: “The U.S. Department of the Treasury targeted a key Hizballah support network by designating Hizballah financier and member Ali Youssef Charara and Spectrum Investment Group Holding SAL, a telecommunications company of which Charara is the Chairman and General Manager. Charara has received millions of dollars from Hizballah to invest in commercial projects that financially support the group.”</p>	<p>• January 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: With regard to the Syrian issue, do you agree that the priority in resolving the Syrian issue is for Russia and Iran to stop their military actions in Syria?”</p> <p>A: The Chinese side has on many occasions elaborated on its principled position on Syria. [...] We believe that it is imperative to implement UN resolutions and realize a ceasefire and peace talks at an early date. We hope that all relevant parties would make constructive efforts to find a political approach to the Syrian issue at an early date.”</p> <p>• January 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: China used its veto power three times on the Syrian issue at the UN Security Council. If China opposes external interference, then why does China stay silent on military interference by Iran and Russia in Syria? It gives the impression that objection to external interference is not a matter of principle for China. What is your comment on that?”</p> <p>A: No matter what kind of vote China casts, affirmative or negative, China is voting for peace. [...] All that China has been doing is to bring the Syrian issue onto the right track toward a political settlement. It is the only approach that best serves the interests of the Syrian people[...] We support the launch of counter-terrorism operations inside Syria with the permission of the Syrian side under the framework of international law.”</p> <p>• January 5, 2016 – Middle East can do without another conflict (China Daily) Quote: “Having survived the Western economic sanctions over the past decade, Iran has also managed to make notable progress in ballistic missile and submarine research. Besides, The new Shi’ite-majority government in Iraq has fundamentally reshaped Baghdad-Teheran ties, to the benefit of the latter. And even the regional political upheaval, or the so-called Arab Spring, failed to create unrest in Iran. As such, the latest confrontation between Iran and Saudi Arabia has a lot to do with the latter attempting to contain the former’s rise. Also, the confrontation has highlighted the fact that Islam as a religion stands divided, not least because of non-religious factors.”</p>



• **January 7, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The assistance that is provided by the United States is reaching some Syrians inside of Syria. We also know that there are millions of Syrian migrants that have fled to neighboring countries in the region. Countries like Jordan, even Turkey, are bearing a significant burden when it comes to trying to meet the basic humanitarian needs of those fleeing violence in Syria. And the United States has provided substantial financial resources to those countries as they try to meet the basic humanitarian needs of the Syrian people.”

• **January 11, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The pressure is on the Iranians to deliver at this point. What we have said is that the international community and certainly not the United States, we’re not going to provide relief from sanctions to the Iranians until they have taken the steps that are described in the agreement to dismantle large portions of their nuclear program.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Remarks on the United States Foreign Policy Agenda for 2016** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Our strategy with respect to Syria certainly is three-fold [...] So with respect to Daesh, we have, first of all, intensified our campaign – first, through a 65-member international coalition that we have mobilized to degrade and defeat the terrorist group known as Daesh – ISIL [...] The second is to work with our partners to prevent the violence from spreading. Just the other day we had a significant meeting with respect to Libya, and you can anticipate additional efforts with respect to Daesh’s efforts to spread its tentacles into Libya and elsewhere. And we are doing more to strengthen the defense capabilities of Jordan, Lebanon, and other friends in the region. This is really important work, and I guarantee you it’s going to continue [...] The third pillar of our strategy is to de-escalate the conflict in Syria, and that can only happen through a political transition.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We’re obviously gathering more information -- the Department of Defense is gathering more information, so we can get a better picture of what exactly led to these individuals ending up -- these sailors ending up in Iranian custody. And we’re certainly going to want to understand more about how they were treated and what transpired while they were in the hands of the Iranians.”

• **January 5, 2016 – China and UK Issue a Statement on Syrian Issue** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The humanitarian situation in Syria is extremely serious and requires urgent support. There are 13.5 million Syrians in need of humanitarian assistance. We call on the international community to do more and we, alongside over sixty other countries, will come together at the London Conference in February to agree how to provide immediate assistance, including responding to the UN’s urgent request for further funding, and also provide support over the longer term.”

• **January 5, 2016 – UK-CHINA STATEMENT ON SYRIA** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “As members of the P5 we voted in favour of the recent UNSCR 2254. [...] We both commit ourselves to promote the political settlement of the Syrian issue. We stress that the Syrian people will decide the future of Syria, with the UN playing the role as the main mediator. We acknowledge the close linkage between a ceasefire and a parallel political process and reconfirm our support for a national ceasefire as set out in UNSCR2254.”

• **January 6, 2016 – Commentary: Regional row shows weakening U.S. leadership in Middle East** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Without a strong political will to engage the region, the United States has also become less committed militarily. [...] In economy, the United States has little to showcase either. In Libya and Yemen, where the “Arab Spring” has largely destroyed their institutions and infrastructure, the United States has been absent from their rebuilding efforts, leaving people there in instability. The United States may well have excuses for being less involved in the Middle East, such as its less reliance on regional resources or its pivot to Asia, but a rushed retreat that leaves nothing but chaos in the region is just as irresponsible as its reckless intervention in the region.”

• **January 11, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China supports “the Afghan-led, Afghan-own” reconciliation process, and stands ready to play a constructive role to that end. On the premise of respecting Afghanistan’s sovereignty and the will of all sides, China will work with all parties to support and help relaunch peace talks inside Afghanistan.”



• **January 13, 2016 – Remarks of President Barack Obama – State of the Union Address As Delivered** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “For more than a year, America has led a coalition of more than 60 countries to cut off ISIL’s financing, disrupt their plots, stop the flow of terrorist fighters, and stamp out their vicious ideology. With nearly 10,000 air strikes, we’re taking out their leadership, their oil, their training camps, their weapons. We’re training, arming, and supporting forces who are steadily reclaiming territory in Iraq and Syria.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Remarks to the 101st Airborne Division on the Counter-ISIL Campaign Plan** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “The ISIL parent tumor has two centers – Raqqa in Syria, and Mosul in Iraq. [...] They constitute ISIL’s military, political, economic, and ideological centers of gravity. [...] We will begin by collapsing ISIL’s control over both of these cities and then engage in elimination operations through other territories ISIL holds in Iraq and Syria. This defeat of ISIL in Iraq and Syria is a vital and necessary [...], President Obama is committed to doing what it takes – as opportunities arise, as we see what works, and as the enemy adapts – until ISIL is delivered a lasting defeat. [...] ISIL must and will be dealt a lasting defeat, a lasting defeat in Syria and Iraq. The defeat must be lasting, so that similar extremism does not recur and emerge from the same places after the campaign. For the defeat to be lasting, it has to be achieved and sustained by local forces that are motivated and capable.”

• **January 16, 2016 – Statement on Implementation Day of the Iran Nuclear Agreement** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Today, the IAEA verified that Iran has completed certain key steps specified in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), thereby significantly constraining its nuclear program and cutting off Iran’s pathways to a nuclear bomb. [...] With the arrival of “Implementation Day,” the provisions of the seven current Iran-related Security Council resolutions terminate, and the binding UN provisions imposed in UNSC Resolution 2231 enter into force. [...] The United States appreciates the international community’s collective efforts to make this day possible. We extend particular thanks to the International Atomic Energy Agency and its inspectors for their tireless work, and we call on them to ensure that Iran continues to fulfill its commitments under the JCPOA.”

• **January 11, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Iranian side said that it is willing to maintain high-level exchanges with China, push forward the building of the Belt and Road, and enhance bilateral cooperation [...] The Iranian side also thanked China for its positive efforts in promoting a comprehensive deal on the Iranian nuclear issue. [...] Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Ming also had an in-depth exchange of views with the Iranian side on the current regional situation, Iran-Saudi Arabia relations in particular. He stressed that the Chinese side hopes relevant parties can remain calm, exercise restraint, resolve differences through dialogues and consultations, and jointly uphold regional peace and stability.”

• **January 12, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The first meeting of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group of Pakistan, Afghanistan, China and the US on Afghan peace and reconciliation issued a joint statement, emphasizing the need for direct talks between representatives of the Government of Afghanistan and representatives from Taliban groups. How does China comment on the outcomes of the first meeting?

A: The first meeting of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group [...] saw the Group unanimously agree to implement the consensus reached at the 5th foreign ministerial meeting of the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan which was held last year. [...] On the premise of respecting Afghanistan’s sovereignty and the will of all sides, China stands ready to work with all parties to create favorable conditions to that end.”

• **January 13, 2016 – China’s Arab Policy Paper** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China is willing to have pragmatic cooperation in the principle of mutual benefit and win-win results with Arab states. In particular, in the process of jointly pursuing the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiative, China is willing to coordinate development strategies with Arab states, put into play each other’s advantages and potentials, promote international production capacity cooperation and enhance cooperation in the fields of infrastructure construction, trade and investment facilitation, nuclear power, space satellite, new energy, agriculture and finance, so as to achieve common progress and development and benefit our two peoples.”



• **January 16, 2016 – Statement by Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew on Reaching Implementation Day under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action Regarding Iran’s Nuclear Program** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “As the result of these steps, Iran’s pathways to a nuclear weapon have been cut off and the international community is more secure [...] it does not resolve other areas where Iran’s behavior remains unacceptable. We will continue to target sanctionable activities outside of the JCPOA – including those related to Iran’s support for terrorism, regional destabilization, human rights abuses, and ballistic missile development [...] Today, the P5+1 (the United States, China, France, Germany, Russia, and the United Kingdom), the European Union, and Iran announced that we have reached Implementation Day under the JCPOA.”

• **January 17, 2016 – Treasury Sanctions Those Involved in Ballistic Missile Procurement for Iran** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) today designated 11 entities and individuals involved in procurement on behalf of Iran’s ballistic missile program [...] This action is consistent with the U.S. government’s commitment to continue targeting those who assist in Iran’s efforts to procure items for its ballistic missile program.”

• **January 17, 2016 – Statement by the President on Iran** ([White House, Speeches](#))

Quote: “Whereas Iran was steadily expanding its nuclear program, we have now cut off every single path that Iran could have used to build a bomb. Whereas it would have taken Iran two to three months to break out with enough material to rush to a bomb, we’ve now extended that breakout time to a year -- and with the world’s unprecedented inspections and access to Iran’s program, we’ll know if Iran ever tries to break out.”

• **January 18, 2016 – Statement on the Situation in Syria** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Today, the United Nations Security Council heard a briefing from Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Syria Staffan de Mistura, who briefed the Council on the situation in Syria, including progress toward political negotiations set to begin at the end of January. [...] The United States remains deeply concerned about the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Syria [...] for lack of access to assistance. [...] The United Nations, relief agencies and the larger international community should not accept access on a piecemeal basis.”

• **January 15, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The UN Special Envoy for Syria said that Syria peace talks are planned to start in Geneva on January 25. What is China’s comment?”

A: China supports all parties in Syria in holding peace talks as scheduled under the auspices of the UN. All sides should continue to support the mediation efforts made by the UN Special Envoy for Syria and work on the two sides in Syria so as to ensure positive results from the peace talks. The Chinese side will continue to promote the peace talks and play a constructive role.”

• **January 15, 2016 – Commentary: China plays indispensable role in Iranian nuclear issue** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “During the negotiation process, China’s proactive efforts and mediation have demonstrated the manner and style of diplomacy that a major power should possess in the new era [...] When [the] U.S. and Iran hit an impasse on issues such as enriched uranium and sanction relief, China stepped up to guide the negotiation through constructive proposals. These efforts were appreciated by the involved parties [...] As a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, China always sticks to the truth during negotiations for the sake of global security. At present, the U.S. and Iran remain challenged by a mutual lack of trust. Europe and the U.S. are also somewhat hostile toward Russia. Given this political context, China has an edge as an objective mediator.”

• **January 17, 2016 – Foreign Minister Wang Yi Gives Interview to Xinhua News Agency on "Implementation Day" of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iranian Nuclear Issue** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China constructively participated in the whole process of negotiations on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and put forward helpful solutions and approaches to promote the settlement of difficult issues such as uranium enrichment and lifting sanctions. After reaching the JCPOA, China has positively made preparations for the implementation of the agreement with all parties. [...] I would like to reiterate that China’s solemn commitment to maintaining international peace and stability will never change, its political will to advance the implementation of the JCPOA will never be shaken, and its diplomatic efforts to seek peaceful settlement of the Iranian nuclear issue will never be reduced.”



• **January 19, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Gen. Shoffner via Teleconference from Afghanistan** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “We support -- we continue to support an Afghan-led and an Afghan-owned peace process as the surest path to peace here in Afghanistan. And we support any violent extremist organization laying down their weapons and joining the peace process led by the Afghan government.”

• **January 21, 2016 – Counter ISIL Campaign Remarks at the Ecole Militaire, Paris** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “ISIL is a cancer that’s threatening to spread. And like all cancers, you can’t cure the disease just by cutting out the tumor. You have to eliminate it wherever it has spread, and stop it from coming back. The coalition military campaign plan that unites our efforts accordingly focuses on three military objectives: One, to destroy the ISIL parent tumor in Iraq and Syria by collapsing its two power centers in Mosul and Raqqa, Two, to combat the emerging metastases of the ISIL tumor worldwide, and three, to protect our nations from attack. [...] This campaign is not up to our two nations alone, the United States and France, to accomplish. The lasting defeat of ISIL must be a global undertaking, because it’s a global threat. [...] Now as we destroy the parent tumor and disrupt its metastases, we are constantly mindful that the fundamental mission of our militaries – yours, as well as ours – is protecting our people at home.”

• **January 21, 2016 – Implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “China has also been, much like Russia, has been an incredibly important partner in bringing about the success of the JCPOA – particularly, one of the projects I mentioned was this plutonium heavy-water reactor at Arak. And China really has played the leading role in terms of supporting the modernization of that reactor. And so now that Iran has removed the previous reactor core, it’s now going to build the reactor in a different way. And the United States and China will be co-chairing a working group within the P5+1 to oversee the design of that reactor. I think Chinese firms will play a role in modernizing that reactor, and we’ll be working together to make sure that as this new reactor comes online, it will be in a way that eliminates concerns about nonproliferation. So in other words, it won’t – the new design of the reactor will not permit it to produce weapons-grade plutonium. And China has a lot of experience with heavy-water reactors that I think will be very helpful. We would just hope that, just as China has played a very constructive role throughout this process, that China will continue to play that role in all of its engagement with the Iranian Government.”

• **January 19, 2016 – Fresh Middle East trip broadens path to peace** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China is bound to play a role in the Middle East. Hence, the world will be paying close attention to how Xi espouses China’s views on major issues in the Middle East and presents China’s vision for defusing crises and rebuilding peace and stability in the region.”

• **January 19, 2016 – China to Blaze New Trail in Middle East Diplomacy** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Contrast to some who distort and defame Islamic civilization using the excuse of counter-terrorism, China opposes associating terrorism with certain ethnicities or religions, the article explained, adding that double standards born out of political bias should also be avoided when combating terrorism.”

• **January 19, 2016 – Saudi senior journalist: Time to work more closely with Riyadh** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The role of China in restoring peace and stability in the Middle East, away from the interventions and military projects dreadfully dominating the region, is most welcome, particularly because Beijing has a project which is aimed at spreading prosperity and development in the region, unlike those with unknown objectives that foment violence and radicalism.”

• **January 20, 2016 – Xi arrival shows commitment to Mideast** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “This is also Xi’s first visit to the Middle East since he assumed the presidency in 2013. Saudi Arabia has not had a Chinese president on its turf for seven years, Egypt for 12 years, and Iran for 14 years [...] Xi’s visit to the three countries sends out a signal that China’s involvement in the Middle East has no exterior motives other than economic reciprocity and political goodwill [...] In stark contrast with other major powers, China has a good reputation in the Middle East for its impartial position in regional affairs, constructive contribution to regional balance, and active response to multi-party needs.”

• **January 20, 2016 – China-Egypt relationship will see best period of all time** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Cairo is actively seeking for cooperation with Beijing in railway, aviation and new energy. Egypt is also expecting to make use of the “One Belt, One Road” initiative to meet mutual demands and be complementary in industries.”



• **January 21, 2016 – Readout of Vice President Biden’s Meeting with Prime Minister Haidar Al-Abadi of Iraq** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “The Vice President encouraged continued dialogue between Iraq and Turkey to resolve concerns about Turkish troop deployments in northern Iraq and reiterated U.S. respect for Iraq’s sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Vice President offered continued U.S. support to help Iraq strengthen its economy as the Iraqi government implements key reforms.”

• **January 24, 2016 – Statement by National Security Council Spokesperson Ned Price on Escalating Violence in Yemen** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “We are deeply concerned about recent reports of escalating violence in Yemen and resulting deaths of civilians [...] We urge all parties to cooperate with the United Nations in reaching a cease-fire and resuming the peace talks so that a durable solution to the crisis in Yemen can be reached as soon as possible.”

• **January 27, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “The secretary and Chairman Dunford visited U.S. Cyber Command or CYBERCOM in Fort Meade, Maryland, this morning. They discussed a range of cyber-related topics with the leadership there, including the latest on efforts to degrade ISIL’s messaging campaign. As the secretary made clear in his remarks to the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell and in his speech in meetings with allies last week in Paris, our effort to accelerate the campaign to deliver a lasting defeat to ISIL includes targeting their use of the Internet to spread their message of hate, recruit fighters and inspire acts of terror. CYBERCOM is charged with supporting our inter-agency partners in our whole of government effort to counter ISIL messaging in addition to several other vital aspects of the counter ISIL campaign. Secretary was able to engage directly with some of the men and women directly engaged in cyber operations. He encouraged them, the entire CYBERCOM team, to do what they can to intensify the fight against ISIL.”

• **January 20, 2016 – China, Iran need each other in development: scholar** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “If Iran transports its oil and gas through Central Asia rather than the Persian Gulf, their collaboration will also benefit other economies along the route, he stressed, explaining that a spillover of cooperation in politics, economy and culture can be generated from this. Marandi called on Iran to deepen economic and trade ties with China, saying that the world’s second largest economy will be its best partner. Hailing the China-initiated Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), the scholar noted that it greatly complements current international financial order by bringing dividends to all Asian people.”

• **January 24, 2016 – Xi concludes Middle East trip with promoted ties, cooperation** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The Chinese leader made it clear that his country is not looking for proxies or trying to fill any “vacuum” in the Middle East, but aspiring to build “a network of mutually beneficial partnerships.””

• **January 25, 2016 – Fruitful Middle East trip brightens region’s future** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “China has a growing stake in the security of the region, which well explains its consistent approach to tackling crises in the region through political solutions. [...] During his trip, Xi proposed a series of measures that will help countries in the region actively participate in China’s ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to connect the vibrant East Asia economy with the developed European economy via Central Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This promises to bring real benefits to local people. China has also offered billions of US dollars in loans and investment as well as political and security support to help the Middle East.”

• **January 25, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: An international conference on the issue of Syrian refugees will be held in London, the UK on February 4. US President Obama will attend this meeting. Will China take part in it? Who will represent China at the meeting?

A: We believe that in order to fundamentally resolve the issue of Syrian refugees, a political settlement of the Syrian issue must be reached at an early date. A rare window of opportunity for that has presented itself. The Syrian government and the opposition will start peace talks very soon under the auspices of the UN. China welcomes and supports that.”



• **January 27, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: I wanted to ask you about the possibility of the U.S. expanding its counter ISIL efforts into Libya. The chairman traveling in Europe this week said that it was fair to say that the U.S. needed to take decisive military action -- he said, in conjunction with the political events in Libya. Can you help us understand what he’s talking about and what’s under consideration in terms of expanding efforts against ISIL into Libya?”

A: Well, as the chairman has discussed, as the Secretary has spoken on numerous occasions, including just last week in our visit to Paris and our meetings with other members of the ISIL coalition, we are extremely worried about the metastasis of ISIL to other locations, Libya being just one of those locations. We continue to monitor the situation there. Continue to work very closely with our coalition partners, with others in the region who have similar concerns about the situation in Libya. And I think it's fair to say that we are closely monitoring the situation. As Chairman Dunford has indicated, working with those partners and also continuing to have conversations with people on the ground as to exactly what is happening there and the threat that ISIL poses to the United States and others.”

• **June 29, 2016 – Video Statement on Syria Negotiations** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United Nations Security Council has created a framework for bringing the war in Syria to an end. It embraces a ceasefire, humanitarian access throughout the country, a transition process, and elections within 18 months in which Syrians can determine the future of Syria. So the opportunity now is real and present to achieve a future that ensures Syria’s unity, independence, territorial integrity, and non-sectarian character; to keep state institutions intact; and to protect the rights of all Syrians, regardless of ethnicity or religious denomination. We call upon the parties in Geneva to take the first urgent steps and not to miss the chance this moment presents.”

• **January 25, 2016 – New four-party group could steer Afghanistan toward reconciliation** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “ The first meeting of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) of Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the US was held in Islamabad, Pakistan on January 11. China’s participation in the QCG can help both China and the US utilize their own diplomatic resources and mobilize countries such as Pakistan and India to play more roles. It can also help improve relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan and enhance mutual trust between the two, paving a favorable environment for the peace process. Besides, the development of Afghanistan and Pakistan, which can be achieved through China’s Silk Road economic belt proposal, will accelerate reconciliation. ”

• **January 28, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Foreign Minister Wang Yi will also attend the Conference on Supporting Syria and the Region in the UK. What is the consideration behind this? What proposals will Foreign Minister Wang Yi make?”

A: Foreign Minister Wang Yi will pay a special visit to the UK for the Conference on Supporting Syria and the Region. [...] We hope that this meeting could further draw the attention of all sides to the Syrian refugee issue and encourage the international community to increase input and coordinate efforts to better assist and resettle refugees. Meanwhile, we should support UN’s mediation efforts to strive for an early progress in Syria’s political settlement process and a fundamental solution to the humanitarian crisis. Foreign Minister Wang Yi will expound on China’s proposals on the humanitarian situation and political process in Syria as well as the measures taken to alleviate sufferings of the Syrian displaced and refugees.”



Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Calls for Decreased Tensions in South China Sea Including Condemning Taiwanese President’s Planned Visit to a Disputed Island; China Reiterates “One China” Policy during Taiwanese Elections; Rejects Rulings in Territorial Dispute with the Philippines

United States

• **January 4, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “On the Fiery Cross Reef in China, we are concerned by China’s decision to land its aircraft on Fiery Cross Reef in the South China Sea. To begin flight operations at this new airfield in a disputed area raises tensions and threatens regional stability. We again call for all claimants to halt land reclamation, further development of new facilities, and the militarization on their outposts, and instead focus on reaching agreement on acceptable behavior in disputed areas.”

• **January 5, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “The United States is, as the secretary said, will continue to play a critical role in that part of the world in ensuring stability in the Asia-Pacific, a rebalance to the Asia-Pacific is emblematic of that. [...] the U.S. military has played in preserving that kind of stability and security, the prosperousness of that part of the world. A key reason for that has been the presence of the U.S. military in that part of the world. And we're going to continue to play that role and try and do everything we can to maintain that security and stability in the South China Sea and beyond.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: Peter, how many Chinese flights have landed on the Spratly base in recent days? And does the Pentagon plan to respond? And does the Pentagon plan to respond?”

A: We can now confirm that there may have been three flights that have landed. [...] There may have been three flights that have landed of a civilian nature on one of the islands in question in the South China Sea. Well, we clearly are concerned by these flights, as we indicated in the past. And we're concerned by all of these activities being conducted by the Chinese in disputed islands in the South China Sea. We call on all parties -- as you know, Jennifer, we don't pick sides in these disputes, but anything being done by any country to try and raise tensions over these disputed islands, and to try to militarize or engage in reclamation activities in these islands, we think only adds to instability in the South China Sea. “

China

• **January 2, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on Test Flight to Newly-Built Airport on Yongshu Jiao of China's Nansha Islands** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Relevant activity falls completely within China's sovereignty. China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters. The Chinese side will not accept the unfounded accusation from the Vietnamese side. China-Vietnam relations, on the whole, are riding a momentum of development. It is hoped that the Vietnamese side can work with China towards the same direction and make concrete efforts to sustain the sound and stable growth of bilateral ties.”

• **January 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: US politicians including John McCain have criticized the Obama Administration for not conducting further “freedom of navigation” patrols near relevant islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands. I wonder how you respond to that?”

A: The current situation in the South China Sea is peaceful and stable. The freedom of navigation and overflight to which all countries are entitled under international law has never been affected. I would like to ask those in the US who have doubts about that whether or not they have any specific example about when and where has any ship's freedom of navigation been threatened. The US should say things conducive to regional peace and stability in a responsible, objective and just manner, rather than make remarks that mislead the public and disrupt regional peace and stability.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Hyping up airfield disrupts peace in S.China Sea** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “All China's construction endeavors on reefs and islands of the Nansha Islands are in accordance with international law and it has promised to use the newly built reefs and islands for civilian purposes. If they were used to escalate tensions, this will run counter to China's interests. It's understandable that some South China Sea countries have misgivings. However, China and these countries are able to prevent the misunderstanding from deepening through enhancing communication and thus avoid territorial disputes casting a shadow on regional cooperation. In recent years, despite spats on occasion, relevant parties all show restraint. “



• **January 19, 2016 – Fact Sheet: United States – Australia Cooperation: Deepening Our Strategic Partnership** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “The United States and Australia also share an interest in maintaining freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea, including in the South China Sea. We have made clear that claimants in the South China Sea should exercise restraint and halt land reclamation, construction and further militarization of outposts, and voiced support for the peaceful settlement of disputes, including the right to pursue arbitration consistent with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).”

• **January 26, 2016 – Press Roundtable in Tokyo** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “To begin with, the purpose of our diplomacy in the South China Sea is to make very clear that countries need to first of all respect freedom of navigation and respect navigation through international waters. Secondly, that disputes about land claims or maritime claims need to be addressed on the basis of international law, and they need to be addressed in a way that respects the norms and regulations and laws formed over time globally, but also respect the results of legal decisions and arbitration decisions. And currently there’s an arbitration decision that will address a dispute between the Philippines and China. We believe the decision will be coming out in the near future, and this will be, I think, an interesting decision because it will help begin to determine some of the competing claims in the South China Sea. But in the meantime, it’s our belief that it’s not appropriate for claimants to change the status quo while they pursue resolution in some other forums, and we also believe that that claimant should not be taking action that limits what we consider to be freedom of navigation. So we reserve the right to undertake freedom of navigation exercises, and we will do them when we consider them appropriate.”

• **January 27, 2016 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “We don’t take sides in terms of these disputes. We encourage a diplomatic resolution to these disputes. But what he’s said is that efforts to reclaim these areas and to militarize these disputed islands is counterproductive to the effort to try and get a final resolution. And in the meantime, the United States will continue to be a force for stability in the region. And we’re going to continue to fly, sail and operate wherever international law allows. But we don’t take sides in these disputes, whether it’s disputes involving China or other players in the region.”

• **January 7, 2016 – Hyping up airfield disrupts peace in S.China Sea** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The most disruptive force comes from outside, primarily the US. Warships and fighters dispatched by the US repeatedly harassed the South China Sea last year. Washington has no interest in the peace of the South China Sea. It meddles for geopolitical gains, as does Tokyo.China hopes to build reefs and islands into service centers and promote cooperation in the sea [...] If Washington doesn’t want to see the South China Sea reefs and islands become militarized, it should stop sending warships and fighters to China’s reefs and islands.”

• **January 10, 2016 – Tribunal’s award in Philippines’ case turns blind eye to facts** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “First, it is critical to go through the 2009-2011 Sino-Philippine exchange of NVs to know the nature of their disputes and agreement. Second, the Philippines is fabricating China’s SCS maritime claims on groundless evidence and reasoning. Third, even the Philippines considers some of the islands and reefs in “KIG” to qualify as islands. Such a position of the Philippines’ defeats all its Submissions in this arbitration. Fourth, the overlapping Sino-Philippine EEZ and CS claims in SCS and the ensuing sea boundary delimitation disputes are undeniable.”

• **January 11, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side independently, safely and successfully completed inspection and test flights to the newly-built airport on Yongshu Jiao. The results showed that the airport completely meets the standards for civil aviation and is fully capable of guaranteeing safe flight of civil aircraft. It will provide a convenient means of transportation for personnel exchanges and emergency aid and enable the South China Sea region to better offer public services including maritime search and rescue.”

• **January 12, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China’s position on Diaoyu Dao is consistent and clear. Diaoyu Dao and the affiliated islands have been China’s inherent territory since ancient times. China’s resolve in upholding territorial sovereignty is unswerving. Meanwhile, an escalation of tension in the East China Sea is the last thing we want to see. We are willing to properly manage and settle the relevant issue through dialogues and consultations.”



• **January 27, 2016 – Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Let me just say with respect to one of the issues that the foreign minister raised on Taiwan, that since they’ve just had an election and a new party has won, the United States does reaffirm the three communiques which have been the basis of our policy. We remain committed to a one-China policy. But we encourage cross-straits dialogue for resolution of that issue.”

• **January 27, 2016 – Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We had a constructive exchange of the subject of the concerns that exist about tensions between China and many neighbors over the South China Sea and the East China Seas. Let me emphasize again the United States does not take sides on the sovereignty questions underlying the territorial disputes. We ask that all parties clarify their claims under international law, that they exercise restraint, and that they adhere to peaceful and diplomatic ways of addressing disagreements. I stressed the importance of finding common ground among the claimants and avoiding a destabilizing cycle of mistrust or escalation.”

• **January 27, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We view such an action (President Ma Ying-jeou’s plans to travel to Taiping Island) as unhelpful, and it does not contribute to the peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea. We urge Taiwan and all claimants to lower tensions and de-escalate tensions rather than taking actions that could possibly raise them [...] We want to see a halt among all claimants to further land reclamation, construction of new facilities, militarization of outposts. All of that would help lower tensions and create space for a peaceful resolution.”

• **January 12, 2016 – Op-ed: Vietnam's protests against China's test flights to Yongshu Jiao groundless** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “Vietnam recently responded with outrage to China’s inspection and test flights to the newly built airport on Yongshu Jiao in the Nansha Islands. The negative reaction, however, is groundless [...] as a major international power, China always adheres to protocol and international rules. When Vietnam deliberately neglected to respond, the Chinese government decided that the flights would be conducted by civil aircraft as state aviation activities to ensure the safety and effectiveness of the inspection and test flights.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told the press on January 12 that if a foreign naval vessel transits Japanese waters for purposes other than “innocent passage”, they will order a naval patrol to deal with it. Some Japanese media believe that this is a new policy by the Japanese government to cope with Chinese naval vessels sailing near Diaoyu Dao. What is your comment?”

A: The Chinese side has the right to carry out normal navigation and patrol in territorial waters of Diaoyu Dao. We advise the Japanese side not to take any provocative actions and ratchet up tension. Otherwise, they will face all the consequences.”

• **January 13, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The Philippine Congress yesterday proposed to issue bonds to acquire new warships so as to secure its strategic reserves in the South China Sea. The Philippine side also asked the US to patrol the South China Sea again in the near future. What is China's comment?”

A: The Chinese side respects and safeguards the freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea to which all countries are entitled under international law, but stands firmly against any country flexing military muscles and undermining China's sovereignty and security interests under the cloak of exercising navigation and over-flight freedom.”



• **January 13, 2016 – Jurisdiction award in South China Sea case wrong** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: "On October 29th, 2015, the award on jurisdiction and admissibility of the South China Sea Arbitration was released by the Arbitral Tribunal established at the request of the Philippines. Seven out of the 15 Philippines' submissions passed both thresholds of admissibility and jurisdiction, and are being examined in the trial on their merits. I (Lu Yang) have discovered errors in the jurisdictional award on all the Philippines' submissions. [...] the Tribunal is advised to declare in the award on merits that, upon further examination, no dispute can be crystallized by the formulation of Philippines' submissions 3-4 and 6-7, and thus bravely end the embarrassment and a process started erroneously."

• **January 15, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: Taiwan will hold the election on January 16. How will China handle the cross-Straits relations?"

A: The spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council has already made our position clear regarding the election and the cross-Straits relations. I want to stress that we stick to the one-China principle, oppose "Taiwan independence", "two Chinas", "one China, one Taiwan". This policy remains unchanged and will not change regardless of what happens in Taiwan."

• **January 15, 2016 – Sovereignty issues invalidate award** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: "The award on jurisdiction and admissibility of the South China Sea (SCS) arbitration (hereinafter referred to as 'the award') is full of errors. Here, I (Lu Yang) will address the misrepresentations hidden in this award on the Philippines' Submissions 10-11 and 13 concerning maritime confrontation and environmental issues occurring in Huangyan Island and Ren'ai Jiao. These submissions passed the thresholds of admissibility and jurisdiction according to the award. [...] For the dispute concerning 'the Philippines' traditional fishing rights,' China considers Philippines' fishing vessels to only enjoy innocent passage without any fishing rights. The Philippines insists that the water as its territorial sea where its fishing vessels enjoy fishing rights, leaving China's law enforcement vessels innocent passage, with no right to intervene in the Philippines' fishing activities. The dispute becomes 'who is the real coastal State,' a territorial dispute."



• **January 16, 2016 – Editorial: Tsai should prove sincerity about peace across Taiwan Straits** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "Tsai has reportedly expressed wishes that both sides could work together for peace across the Taiwan Straits. If she means what she says, and accepts the 1992 Consensus, prospects for cross-Straits relations will remain promising. The mainland has kept the door to dialogue open with the DPP so long as it accepts that both the mainland and Taiwan belong to one China. The mainland has also taken a flexible approach when handling relations with the DPP. The channel of communication remains unblocked."

• **January 16, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Remarks on the Election in Taiwan** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "There is only one China in the world. [...] The Chinese government sticks to the one-China principle and opposes "Taiwan independence", "two Chinas" and "one China, one Taiwan". This position remains unchanged and will not change regardless of what happens in Taiwan. [...] We hope and believe that the international community will adhere to the one-China principle, stand against any forms of "Taiwan independence" and support, with concrete actions, the peaceful development of the cross-Straits relations."

• **January 18, 2016 – Tsai faces the test to keep cross-Straits ties on track** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "Tsai has yet to accept the consensus, though she says she wants to maintain the "status quo". Her mainland policy remains ambiguous, and it will take some time for people to understand what a "consistent, predictable and sustainable" cross-Straits relationship, which she says she will pursue, actually means. Yet she has a responsibility to keep the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations on track. The future development of the cross-Straits situation, to a large extent, depends on where Tsai will steer the island. A wise and capable leader uses his or her power to maximize the well-being of the people, instead of being hijacked by populism."



• **January 19, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: "China's oil and gas development activities in the East China Sea are all conducted in undisputed waters under the jurisdiction of China. They are within the realm of China's sovereign right. [...] Japan should reflect upon rather than forget what it has done during the aggression, act and speak cautiously on issues concerning the East China Sea and the South China Sea, and make more efforts to increase mutual trust with its neighbors and promote regional peace and stability instead of sowing discord. China is on high alert against Japan's attempt to poke its nose in the issue of the South China Sea."

• **January 19, 2016 – No dispute over China's historical rights** (Permanent Mission to the UN)

Quote: "Submission 1-2 contend that 'China's maritime entitlements in the SCS, like those of the Philippines, may not extend beyond those permitted by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)'; and that 'China's claims to sovereign rights and jurisdiction, and to 'historic rights', with respect to the maritime areas of the SCS encompassed by the so-called 'nine-dash line' are contrary to UNCLOS and without lawful effect to the extent that they exceed the geographic and substantive limits of China's maritime entitlements under UNCLOS.' These Submissions intend to reflect a dispute concerning China's claim of "historical rights" to justify its extra-UNCLOS maritime claim within the nine-dash line. [...] The Philippines' Submission 5 claims that Meiji Jiao and Ren'ai Jiao are part of its EEZ and CS. [...] No dispute can be reflected by the Philippines' (but not the Tribunal's) Submission 5, which should have been barred from entering the merits phase. According to the non ultra petita principle declared by the ICJ in the Asylum Case the Tribunal has a duty to abstain from deciding points not included in the submission."

• **January 20, 2016 – Tribunal's award in Philippines' case turns blind eye to facts** (Permanent Mission to the UN)

Quote: "First, it is critical to go through the 2009-2011 Sino-Philippine exchange of NVs to know the nature of their disputes and agreement. Second, the Philippines is fabricating China's SCS maritime claims on groundless evidence and reasoning. Third, even the Philippines considers some of the islands and reefs in "KIG" to qualify as islands. Such a position of the Philippines' defeats all its Submissions in this arbitration. Fourth, the overlapping Sino-Philippine EEZ and CS claims in SCS and the ensuing sea boundary delimitation disputes are undeniable."



• **January 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: "Q: President Xi Jinping told [...] that although some of the islands over which China has sovereignty have been occupied by others, we have all along advocated a resolution of these issues through peaceful negotiations. Does that mean that China will recover relevant islands through negotiations rather than military actions?"

A: The Chinese side has all along exercised a high level of restraint, and stayed committed to resolving relevant issues with countries directly concerned through dialogues and consultations on the basis of respecting historical facts and in accordance with the international law. China will work together with ASEAN countries to safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea. This position remains the same."

• **January 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: "Q: The Communist Party of Vietnam is holding the 12th National Congress for the election of a new leadership. Given the dispute between China and Vietnam in the South China Sea, is China concerned that Vietnam may be tilting toward the US?"

A: The Party and government of China value relations with Vietnam and stand ready to work with Vietnam to forge a stronger comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership guided by the principle of "long-term stability, orientation to the future, good-neighborly friendship and all-round cooperation" and the spirit of "good neighbors, good friends, good comrades and good partners". We are also willing to properly manage maritime disputes and maintain maritime stability with Vietnam."

• **January 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: "The Japanese side should learn lessons from history instead of sowing discord on the issue of the South China Sea. [...] Diaoyu Dao and its affiliated islands have been China's inherent territory since ancient times. The Chinese government is resolute in safeguarding its territorial sovereignty. China conducts oil and gas development in undisputed waters under China's jurisdiction in the East China Sea. It is within the realm of China's sovereign rights."



• January 25, 2016 – Japan moves to rope in Philippines ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Japan wants the Philippines to be a key pivot in countering China, particularly diverting China's attention from the Diaoyu Islands to the South China Sea. In the meantime, Manila needs Tokyo's economic support and help in improving its military capabilities [...] An important step in the Philippine diplomacy is to woo other powers like the US and Japan to counterbalance China. In mid-January, the Philippine defense and foreign ministers held a meeting with their US counterparts in Washington over the possibilities of further military cooperation in the South China Sea [...] Given the serious consequences, powers involved will carefully manage the conflicts. But smaller countries involved will not be so lucky. When two elephants circle around each other cautiously, they may suffer no injury, but the grasslands will be tramped terribly."

• January 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: What is your response to US criticism on China's reclamation and test flights in the South China Sea?"

A: We do not accept such unfounded criticism. [...] The setting up of relevant facilities will improve maritime search and rescue in the South China Sea as well as other public service capabilities. It is hoped that the relevant country can have a correct view on this and stop making groundless accusations and hyping up the issue. If it sincerely wishes for peace and stability in the South China Sea, it should work with the Chinese side and play a constructive role to that end."

• January 27, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: On the South China Sea issue, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong of Cambodia said that individual countries should settle disputes among themselves without the involvement of ASEAN. What is your response?"

A: China maintains that the South China Sea issue should be properly addressed through the "dual track" approach, that is, relevant disputes should be resolved peacefully through negotiations and consultations between parties directly concerned, and China and ASEAN countries should work together to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea. This also reflects the consensus among the majority of ASEAN countries. The statement made by the Cambodian side once again testifies to the fact that the "dual track" approach is widely accepted."



• **January 28, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "The Nansha Islands have historically been China's territory. Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Straits share the responsibility to protect the ancestral property of the Chinese nation. The Chinese government has been committed to making the South China Sea a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation, and will continue to make positive efforts to safeguard navigation freedom, peace and stability, and prosperity and development of the South China Sea."

• **January 28, 2016 – Reunification must obey iron laws of history (People's Daily)**

Quote: "Albeit unexpected twists and turns, Taiwan's reunification with the Chinese mainland is an inexorable development trend that no one and nothing can ever hinder [...] Reunification can be achieved in two ways: peacefully or by force. We will try our best to gain peaceful reunification and seek the maximum national interests with the minimum cost of the people. We once promised not to fight against our fellow countrymen. However, we have no alternative but resort to military force if Taiwan independence proponents push us into a corner."

• **January 30, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on US Navy Vessel's Entry into Territorial Waters of Zhongjian Dao of China's Xisha Islands (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "According to the Law of the People's Republic of China on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, foreign ships for military purposes shall be subject to approval by the Government of the People's Republic of China for entering the territorial sea of the People's Republic of China. The US navy vessel violated the relevant Chinese law and entered China's territorial sea without authorization. The Chinese side conducted surveillance and vocal warnings to the US navy vessel in accordance with the law. We urge the US to respect and abide by the relevant Chinese law, and make more efforts to increase mutual trust between China and the US and safeguard regional peace and stability."



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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

