

North by Southeast

February 2016

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North Korea and Southeast Asia loomed large in U.S.-China relations in February 2016. Constructing a new sanctions regime which was acceptable to both countries required a couple rounds of diplomacy this month during which other issues consistently popped up creating new tensions or reigniting some that had gone dormant. A historic U.S.-ASEAN summit in Sunnylands, California also ensured that the territorial disputes in the South China Sea would remain at the top of the agenda. Overall the month was marked by significant progress in areas where common interests can be found and heated exchanges on diverging issues, the typical pattern of U.S.-China relations. The following summarizes issues that were highlighted most prominently by the two governments in February 2016.

Negotiating a Response to North Korea

The U.S. and China struggled to conclude negotiations on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution which was to implement harsher sanctions in response to North Korea's January 2016 nuclear test. To negotiate the new sanctions regime, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met twice in February, once in Beijing and once in Washington. The two countries were eventually able to agree on the language of the resolution and a proposal was submitted to the UNSC for consideration.¹ However, Wang Yi introduced a new Chinese approach to the denuclearization talks by calling for parallel tracks of denuclearizing North Korea while concurrently replacing the armistice with a peace treaty to officially end the Korean War.² So while the two were able to devise a new round of sanctions on North Korea,³ other complications emerged including the contrasting opinions on a peace treaty and China's dissatisfaction with the U.S. move to independently sanction North Korea outside of the UN resolution.⁴

¹ UCR February Issue 2016 – Korean Peninsula, Issue 7, pg. [49](#)

² pg. [48](#)

³ pg. [49](#)

⁴ pg. [47](#)

THAAD Reemerging as a Source of Tension

Another important issue that has come to the forefront in the wake of North Korea's nuclear test in January is the ongoing debates about the deployment of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) system to South Korea. Apart from the responses from both sides on the nuclear launch by North Korea in the beginning of the month, China repeatedly emphasized how the THAAD system is an unnecessary measure taken by South Korea,⁵ expressing its fear of a potential security imbalance in the region⁶ as well as insisting that such measures threatened China's national security.⁷ On the other hand, the U.S. stated that it is a defensive anti-missile system needed to deter the increasing nuclear activities of North Korea in light of its obligation as an ally to South Korea.⁸

U.S.-ASEAN Summit Highlights Disagreement in South China Sea

The U.S. held a summit with leaders from all ten member states of ASEAN in California in what was billed as a demonstration of U.S. commitment to its rebalance to Asia strategy. The meeting reaffirmed the progress made during a meeting in November 2015 as the parties agreed to continue deepening their economic cooperation, words that came on the heels of the signing of the TPP,⁹ and reaffirmed their commitment to “a regional order where international rules and norms are upheld.”¹⁰

The ASEAN-US summit also served as a platform for exchanges between the U.S. and China where the two sides keep arguing within different scenarios. Whereas China's argumentation is based on a potential future confirmation of their sovereignty rights, the U.S. still argues within the present situation of

⁵ pg. [45](#)

⁶ pg. [43](#)

⁷ pg. [44](#)

⁸ pg. [44](#)

⁹ UCR February Issue 2016- Economic Relations, Issue 2, pg. [15](#)

¹⁰ UCR February Issue 2016 – Asia Pacific Issues, Issue 6, pg. [39](#)



uncertainty about who has sovereignty over what. The U.S. emphasized their previous claims that China's construction activities on various islands in the disputed areas contribute to militarization, and their own military maneuvers are thus necessary to secure the freedom of navigation.¹¹ China paints a contrary picture stating it is these maneuvers that militarize the conflict¹² which should be solved peacefully and solely between the claiming parties, i.e. without involvement of the US, ASEAN or international arbitration: "The South China Sea issue is an issue between China and some ASEAN countries, rather than [...] China and ASEAN."¹³ However, at the same time, China did not wish to alienate its neighbors to the south and took special care to highlight cooperative projects between China and ASEAN nations as well.¹⁴

Structural Change and Trade Rules

As the "new normal" continues to grip China, attention is being given to "optimizing economic structure."¹⁵ In the midst of this restructuring effort, China is taking on criticism from various fronts. The European Commission has accused China of dumping surplus steel into its markets¹⁶ and other elements in Europe suspect the "Belt and Road" initiative of being a means for dispersing Chinese surpluses.¹⁷ The U.S. also continued to call for reforms to increase domestic demand in China.¹⁸ For its part, the Chinese government insists that the restructuring process is underway and that a new development model is being sought.¹⁹ This month also witnessed the signing of the TPP and the U.S. continues to push for domestic ratification.²⁰ The U.S. is also pushing the TTIP, the Atlantic

version of the TTP, while China steps up efforts to conclude negotiations on the RCEP by the end of this year.²¹

Long-term Perspective on Syria Crisis and Chinese Engagement in Africa

Aside from Asia, two other world regions kept the US and China busy. Especially during the Munich Security Conference the ISIL/Syria crisis was intensively discussed, and despite all sides agreeing that bringing back peace and stability to the Middle East will be a long-term process that requires the combined efforts of the international community, Secretary of State Kerry remained optimistic in light of the established ceasefire agreement.²² Whereas the U.S. was quite forward in demanding more positive contributions, especially from Russia,²³ China emphasized the importance of upholding peace talks and urged all involved actors to find a political solution.²⁴

Furthermore the U.S. used the African Union Summit to address African issues, something the U.S. has not done much of as of late.²⁵ This may be in response to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's African tour during which he strengthened Xi Jin Ping's focus on Africa, as expressed on the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in December 2015. In several meetings with African Ministers he expressed that China regards "developing countries [as] the cornerstone of China's foreign policy, while Africa is the chief cornerstone"²⁶ and coastal states like Mozambique are even considered a "natural extension of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road."²⁷

¹¹ UCR February Issue 2016 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes, Issue 9, pg. [62](#)

¹² pg. [62](#)

¹³ pg. [72](#)

¹⁴ UCR February Issue 2016 – Asia Pacific Issues, Issue 6, pg. [39](#)

¹⁵ UCR February Issue 2016- Economic Relations, Issue 2, pg. [19](#)

¹⁶ pg. [20](#)

¹⁷ pg. [25](#)

¹⁸ pg. [19](#)

¹⁹ pg. [25](#)

²⁰ pg. [16](#)

²¹ pg. [23](#)

²² UCR February Issue 2016 – Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8, pg. [52](#)

²³ pg. [53](#)

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²⁵ pg. [55](#)

²⁶ pg. [53](#)

²⁷ pg. [53](#)



TIME PERIOD: February 1 ~ 29, 2016

MAIN ISSUES:

1. **U.S. – China Bilateral Relations:** U.S. Acknowledges the Co-existence of Cooperation and Conflict in Relations with China ; China States it Does Not Seek to Subplant the U.S. or Current World Order

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities • February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 10, 2016 – Press Call on the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 24, 2016 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Ned Price on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice’s Meeting with Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 3, 2016 – Commentary: China bashing by U.S. presidential candidates pure scapegoat politics • February 14, 2016 – China stands for common security, inclusive world order: official • February 15, 2016 – Possible US THAAD deployment in ROK confuses and angers Chinese people • February 24, 2016 – Wang Yi Talks with Secretary of State John Kerry of US • February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference • February 24, 2016 – No more US military presence in South China Sea, says FM • February 26, 2016 – A Changing China and Its Diplomacy: Speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi At Center for Strategic and International Studies • February 27, 2016 – Wang: China won’t be major rival to US

2. **Economic Relations:** U.S. Signs TPP with Other Member States and Continues Domestic Push for Ratification; China Shrugs Off Concerns Over Slowing Economic Growth and Argues Structural Reform is Progressing Well

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 3, 2016 – Statement by the President on the Signing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership • February 4, 2016 – Trans-Pacific Partnership Ministers’ Statement • February 5, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 5, 2016 – Statement by the President on the Economy • February 8, 2016 – Remarks on the Seventh Anniversary of the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement • February 9, 2016 – Press Briefing on the FY17 Budget • February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 10, 2016 – The U.S. Economic and Trade Relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations • February 10, 2016 – Press Call on the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 10, 2016 – Message to the Senate -- The Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 1, 2016 – Feature: Ukraine-China cargo train on Silk Road opens up prospects for trade promotion • February 2, 2016 – Why doom predictors always get it wrong when it comes to China • February 2, 2016 – Monetary easing expected after weak PMI data • February 3, 2016 – Commentary: Bearish on China isn’t the international mainstream • February 3, 2016 – Commentary: Early recognition of China’s market economy status wise option for EU • February 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference • February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 12, 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman at the Bavarian Parliament • February 13, 2016 – Remarks at the 2016 Munich Security Conference • February 16, 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman at Stanford University • February 22, 2016 – Remarks by the President at National Governors Association Reception • February 22, 2016 – Sheets Op-ed: The Importance of China's Transition to Smarter Growth • February 24, 2016 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 26, 2016 – Governor Lael Brainard: What Happened to the Great Divergence? • February 29, 2016 – Remarks at the World Affairs Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • February 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 5, 2016 – US-led TPP can't crush Chinese economy • February 8, 2016 – Spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce Comments on European Commission's Appealing to China to Take Measures to Cut Down the Steel Productivity • February 14, 2016 – Commentary: Blaming China for market rout obscures focus of real problem • February 15, 2016 – Commentary: Market turbulence exposes weakness of global economy, rather than China • February 16, 2016 – Official from Trade Remedy and Investigation Bureau Comments on EU's Trade Remedy Investigation against Steel Products Imported from China • February 16, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 16, 2016 – Sunnylands wrong place to discuss South China Sea row • February 16, 2016 – Commentary: China faces economic challenges with confidence, resolution • February 18, 2016 – Official of the Department of Outward Investment and Economic Cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce Comments on China's Foreign Direct Investment Situation in January 2016 • February 18, 2016 – Op-ed: U.S. should be more inclusive in diplomacy • February 19, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • February 19, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • February 19, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • February 19, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • February 22, 2016 – The State Council Information Office (SCIO) holds a Press Conference on China's Commerce Development in 2015 • February 22, 2016 – The State Council Information Office (SCIO) holds a Press Conference on China's Commerce Development in 2015 • February 22, 2016 – Official of the Trade Remedy and Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Commerce Makes a Statement on the Anti-dumping and Countervailing Investigation Launched by the United States against China's Tyre of Truck and Car • February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 27, 2016 – Wang Yi Meets with President of BRICS New Development Bank K.V. Kamath
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3. **Military and Security Relations:** U.S. Focuses on Improving Cybersecurity and Preventing Spread of Nuclear Weapons; China Provides Updates on Peacekeeping Missions and Adjustments to Organization of Army Commands

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 9, 2016 – Press Briefing on the FY17 Budget • February 9, 2016 – Remarks by the President on New Cybersecurity Initiatives • February 9, 2016 – FACT SHEET: Cybersecurity National Action Plan • February 10, 2016 – Nuclear Security in the 21st Century • February 17, 2016 – Remarks by the President on the Cybersecurity National Action Plan • February 25, 2016 – Submitted Statement -- House Appropriations Committee-Defense (FY 2017 Budget Request) • February 25, 2016 – America and the Nuclear Future • February 25, 2016 – Submitted Statement -- House Appropriations Committee-Defense (FY 2017 Budget Request) • February 26, 2016 – Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE): Sixteenth Regular Session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2, 2016 – Feature: Chinese blue helmets in Darfur safeguard regional peace despite harsh conditions • February 2, 2016 – PLA’s theater commands adjustment & establishment accomplished • February 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference

4. **Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues:** U.S. Continues to Call for Release of Political Prisoners in China; China Seeks to Uphold UN Development Standards while Criticizing UNHCHR Report

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 1, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing • February 2, 2016 – Remarks at the UNICEF Executive Board; U.S. Representative for Economic and Social Affairs Ambassador Sarah Mendelson • February 4, 2016 – Remarks at the Syria Donors Conference • February 4, 2016 – Remarks at the Every Woman Every Child Cervical Cancer Event; U.S. Deputy Representative to ECOSOC Stefanie Amadeo • February 8, 2016 – Remarks at the 2016 UN Commission for Social Development; Adviser for Economic and Social Affairs Laurie Shestack Phipps • February 8, 2016 – Remarks at the OIC Event on Female Genital Mutilation; U.S. Deputy Representative to ECOSOC Stefanie Amadeo • February 9, 2016 – Remarks at the Techfugees Collaborative Conference; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power • February 11, 2016 – Statement by National Security Council Spokesperson Ned Price on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice’s Meeting with Southeast Asian Civil Society Leaders • February 12, 2016 – FACT SHEET: Unprecedented U.S.-ASEAN Relations • February 15, 2016 – Remarks at the Israel Middle East Model United Nations Conference on “Building a More Model UN”; U.S. Permanent Representative to the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 1, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 2, 2016 – Interview: Cooperation with China helps reduce disease burden in Africa: AU official • February 4, 2016 – Statement by Ambassador Wang Min at the 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development under the Priority Theme • February 5, 2016 – Statement by Mr. CHU Guang of the Chinese Delegation at the 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development under agenda item 3(b) • February 10, 2016 – Statement by Chu Guang of the Chinese Delegation at the first regular session of UN-Women Executive Board in 2016 • February 16, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 22, 2016 – Xi’s Media visits signal reform



United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 15, 2016 – Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz • February 19, 2016 – Secretary Kerry's Call with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov • February 22, 2016 – Remarks at a UN General Assembly Briefing by the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria; U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Michele J. Sison • February 26, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing 	
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5. **Climate Change and Environmental Issues: Both Countries Seek to Continue Work on Stopping Climate Change**

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2, 2016 – Remarks at the UNICEF Executive Board; U.S. Representative for Economic and Social Affairs Ambassador Sarah Mendelson • February 6, 2016 – Weekly Address: Doubling Our Clean Energy Funding to Address the Challenge of Climate Change • February 9, 2016 – EPA's FY 2017 Budget Request Increases Support for Communities to Deliver Core Environmental and Health Protection • February 16, 2016 – U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern Travel to Europe • February 16, 2016 – Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs Amos J. Hochstein Travels to India To Discuss Clean Energy Investment and Energy Security • February 16, 2016 – U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman and Congressman Sam Farr Highlight the Environmental and Economic Benefits of the Trans-Pacific Partnership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 11, 2016 – Why spending - not saving - will help make China greener • February 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference

6. **Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Holds Summit with Leaders of ASEAN; China Also Touts Positive Relations with ASEAN, Grows Quiet on Japan**

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 10, 2016 – The U.S. Economic and Trade Relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations • February 10, 2016 – Telephonic Media Briefing With Dan Kritenbrink, NSC Senior Director for Asian Affairs and Daniel Russel, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs • February 10, 2016 – Press Call on the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 15, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama at Opening Session of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 16, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama at U.S.-ASEAN Press Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • February 15, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 17, 2016 – Commentary: The U.S. needs to respect the ASEAN principle of centralit • February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 25, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 25, 2016 – Telephonic Media Briefing With U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN Nina Hachigian • February 29, 2016 – Remarks at the World Affairs Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conference • February 25, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference
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7. **Korean Peninsula:** U.S. and China Negotiate the Response to North Korea's Nuclear Test; U.S. and South Korea Discuss Possibility of Deploying THAAD on the Korean Peninsula to which China Objects

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 2, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities • February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities • February 5, 2016 – Readout of the President's Call with President Xi Jinping of China • February 6, 2016 – D.P.R.K. Missile Launch • February 6, 2016 – Statement by National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice on the North Korean Missile Launch • February 7, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Samantha Power, Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa and Ambassador Oh Joon, Following Security Council Consultations on North Korea • February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing • February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 9, 2016 – Readout of the President's Call with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe • February 9, 2016 – Readout of the President's Call with President Park Geun-Hye of the Republic of Korea • February 18, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes • February 18, 2016 – Statement by the Press Secretary on H.R. 757, H.R. 907, H.R. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 3, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 3, 2016 – Commentary: Pyongyang's planned satellite launch feared to complicate peninsula situation • February 4, 2016 – Beijing won't allow war on Peninsula • February 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 6, 2016 – Wang Yi Holds Telephone Talks with Foreign Minister Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov of Russia • February 6, 2016 – Wang Yi Talks about Situation of Korean Peninsula • February 7, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on DPRK's Launch of Satellite • February 7, 2016 – Commentary: Vicious circle on Korean Peninsula benefits none • February 7, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on ROK and US's Decision to Officially Start Talks on Deploying THAAD System in ROK • February 7, 2016 – Spotlight: DPRK launches satellite amid fears of escalating tensions on Korean Peninsula • February 12, 2016 – Wang Yi Meets with Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se of ROK • February 13, 2016 – Wang Yi Gives Exclusive Interview to Reuters on Syrian Issue and Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue • February 13, 2016 – Commentary: U.S. should not use Korean Peninsula predicament to infringe upon other nations' interests • February 13, 2016 – Wang Yi Meets with Secretary of State John Kerry of US • February 15, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 15, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference



<p>3033</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 22, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 25, 2015 – Remarks at the Security Council Stakeout Following Consultations on the DPRK; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power • February 25, 2015 – Remarks at the Security Council Stakeout Following Consultations on the DPRK; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power • February 26, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • February 26, 2015 – Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session) : Alternate Representative to the UN for Special Political Affairs Ambassador David Pressman • February 26, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 29, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 29, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 15, 2016 – Possible US THAAD deployment in ROK confuses and angers Chinese people • February 15, 2016 – News Analysis: S.Korea divided over U.S. THAAD deployment for diplomacy, plausibility • February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 17, 2016 – Commentary: U.S. shouldn't be befuddled on Korean Peninsula issue • February 18, 2016 – Commentary: Strategic patience, dialogue needed to ease tensions on Korean Peninsula • February 19, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 25, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 25, 2016 – Defense Ministry's regular press conference • February 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 26, 2016 – A Changing China and Its Diplomacy: Speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi At Center for Strategic and International Studies • February 26, 2016 – Harsher Sanctions on NK are inevitable • February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference
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8. **Middle East and Africa Issues:** U.S. Seeks End to Syrian Civil War to Focus on ISIL, Incinuates Russian War Crimes in Syria; China Lends Support to Syrian Peace Talks, Calls Africa the Foundation of its Foreign Policy

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 2, 2016 – Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL • February 2, 2016 – Remarks at the Ministerial Meeting of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL • February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities • February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities • February 4, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 4, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 8, 2016 – Remarks by Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing Daniel Glaser at Chatham House • February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 9, 2016 – South Sudan, Africa, and the Challenge of Peacemaking • February 9, 2016 – Remarks With Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry • February 10, 2016 – LiveAtState: Outcomes from the 2016 African Union Summit • February 10, 2016 – LiveAtState: Outcomes from the 2016 African Union Summit • February 10, 2016 – LiveAtState: Outcomes from the 2016 African Union Summit • February 10, 2016 – LiveAtState: Outcomes from the 2016 African Union Summit • February 10, 2016 – LiveAtState: Outcomes from the 2016 African Union Summit • February 11, 2016 – Media Availability with Secretary Carter at NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium • February 11, 2016 – Press Availability at the International Syria Support Group • February 13, 2016 – Interview With Hayvi Bouzo of Orient TV • February 13, 2016 – Interview With Hayvi Bouzo of Orient TV • February 13, 2016 – Readout of the Meeting between Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah • February 15, 2016 – Remarks at the Israel Middle East Model United Nations Conference on “Building a More Model UN”; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power • February 15, 2016 – Remarks at the Israel Middle East Model United Nations Conference on “Building a More Model UN”; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power • February 16, 2016 – Readout of the Meetings of Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Government of Israel Officials • February 16, 2016 – Readout of the Meetings of Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Israeli Civil Society Leaders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 1, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 2, 2016 – Wang Yi: China Will Advance Connection in Two Fields, Explore Expansion in Two Sectors and Deepen Cooperation in Two Aspects with Mauritius • February 2, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 3, 2016 – President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique Meets with Wang Yi • February 3, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 3, 2016 – Op-ed: Africa still benefits from China's development • February 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • February 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 5, 2016 – Spotlight: Major players pin high hopes on Syria political solution, skepticism remains • February 6, 2016 – Wang Yi Holds Telephone Talks with Foreign Minister Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov of Russia • February 6, 2016 – Wang Yi: Roll up Sleeves to Work Solidly for Africa's Self-Development • February 6, 2016 – Wang Yi: Convert Ten Major China-Africa Cooperation Plans to Concrete Actions in China-Namibia Cooperation • February 12, 2016 – Wang Yi expressed that after long discussions, the fourth ISSG foreign ministers' meeting finally made positive and meaningful progress at dawn of that day, and China is glad about it. • February 12, 2016 – Wang Yi Meets with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif of Iran • February 12, 2016 – Commentary: Counter-terrorism battleground is no wrestling ring for big power rivalry • February 13, 2016 – Wang Yi Gives Exclusive Interview to Reuters on Syrian Issue and Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue • February 13, 2016 – Spotlight: Syria deal reached in Munich to be tested • February 15, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 16, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 19, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 21, 2016 – Press Availability with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh • February 22, 2016 – US and Russia discuss cease-fire agreement in Syria • February 24, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and His Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan After Bilateral Meeting • February 25, 2016 – Submitted Statement -- House Appropriations Committee- Defense (FY 2017 Budget Request) • February 25, 2016 – Remarks by the President on Progress Against ISIL • February 27, 2016 – WEEKLY ADDRESS: Degrading and Destroying ISIL 	<p>Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 17, 2016 – Commentary: Syrian situation threatens to spin out of control • February 19, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce • February 23, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 24, 2016 – Interview: Kenyan experts praise China's effort to bolster development in Africa
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9. **Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes:** U.S. Continues Calls Claimants to Settle Disputes Safely and Urges China Not to Militarize South China Sea; China Criticizes U.S.-ASEAN Summit, Claims Actions in South China Sea Are in Accordance with International Law

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities • February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 10, 2016 – Press Call on the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 15, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama at Opening Session of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 16, 2016 – Joint Statement of the U.S.-ASEAN Special Leaders' Summit: Sunnylands Declaration • February 17, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing • February 17, 2016 - Remarks With Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski • February 18, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing • February 18, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 22, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • February 23, 2016 – Remarks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi • February 25, 2016 – Telephonic Media Briefing With U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN Nina Hachigian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 1, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 1, 2016 – Commentary: Who is challenging international order? • February 2, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 2, 2016 – Mainland committed to peace, stability across Taiwan Strait • February 3, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference • February 15, 2016 – News Analysis: ASEAN countries not to take sides between U.S., China in upcoming U.S.-ASEAN Summit • February 15, 2016 – Commentary: U.S. self-serving Asia policy is root cause of regional tension • February 16, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 16, 2016 – Sunnylands wrong place to discuss South China Sea row • February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 17, 2016 – Commentary: Imbalance of U.S. rebalancing toward Asia-Pacific • February 17, 2016 – Wang Yi: Demilitarization in the South China Sea Requires Joint Efforts from Countries both Inside and Outside the Region • February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press



	<p>Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February 18, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 18, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 18, 2016 – Washington's destabilizing role in South China Sea • February 19, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 19, 2016 – Commentary: U.S. should bear healthy mindset when developing ties with ASEAN • February 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 23, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 23, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 23, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 24, 2016 – FM: other countries have deployed radar for decades • February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 25, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • February 26, 2016 – A Changing China and Its Diplomacy: Speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi At Center for Strategic and International Studies • February 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference
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Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. Acknowledges the Co-existence of Cooperation and Conflict in Relations with China ; China States it Does Not Seek to Subplant the U.S. or Current World Order

United States	China
<p>• February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities (State Department) Quote: “But nobody wants to see tensions rise, and the U.S.-China relationship is incredibly important to us, absolutely [...] Again, a complicated relationship; we don't agree on everything, but there is a lot we can do together [...] it's an important relationship that we want to obviously see improve and continue to mature. And the peaceful, prosperous rise of China is something we welcome because it's not just good for the region, it's good for the whole world.”</p> <p>• February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit (State Department) Quote: “This summit is not about China. This summit is about the United States and ASEAN and our increasingly broad and deep strategic partnership [...] the positive, cooperative agenda we have with our Chinese friends on a range of global issues is as successful and as broad as it's ever been. At the same time, we are exceptionally candid in confronting the many differences and tensions that exist between us. But our relationship with China is mature, it's stable, it's broad, it's complex, and we're very open and transparent about that and we would encourage our other friends in the region to do the same, and we know that they do aim to do the same.”</p> <p>• February 10, 2016 – Press Call on the U.S.-ASEAN Summit (White House, Press Briefing) Quote: “And at any given time in the U.S.-China relationship, there are going to be areas where we cooperate, and there are going to be areas where we have differences. And so for instance, we would not have been able to achieve some of the most significant breakthroughs that we've had in our foreign policy absent cooperation with China. If you look at the Paris climate agreement, or if you look at the Iran nuclear deal, both of those involved significant cooperation from China. At the same time, we've had strong differences with China on a range of issues -- again, whether it's on cyber or differences with respect to actions in the South China Sea, for instance. But our whole point is that the relationship with China is big enough that we can have a difference on one issue and try to find ways to cooperate on another.”</p>	<p>• February 3, 2016 – Commentary: China bashing by U.S. presidential candidates pure scapegoat politics (Xinhua) Quote: “ It's become routine in U.S. elections of past decades to pounce on China [...] yet China and the U.S. have forged an ever closer relationship in recent decades, with China becoming the U.S.'s biggest trade partner and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries also expanding rapidly. This new reality means that any chest-puffing during the election campaign won't translate into concrete action by whoever is sworn into office. The reason is simple: pragmatism always prevails when it comes to running a country. Moreover, the world's top two economies are so closely intertwined that their relationship won't be easily undermined by some irresponsible campaign rhetoric. But the candidates should exercise caution. Irrational claims could lead to misunderstanding and even misjudgment and could cause a setback in bilateral ties. ”</p> <p>• February 14, 2016 – China stands for common security, inclusive world order: official (People's Daily) Quote: “On China-U.S. relations, she said as the two countries have growing common interest in world affairs, they need to cooperate to address global challenges. For this purpose, Xi has proposed to build a new model of major-country relationship with the United States that features non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation.”</p> <p>• February 15, 2016 – Possible US THAAD deployment in ROK confuses and angers Chinese people (People's Daily) Quote: “American values, its system of military alliances and international organizations including the U.N. are the three pillars of the "U.S.-led world order". China cannot totally agree with this order, as it believes in a U.N.-centered world order together with a series of international mechanisms, laws and principles. As one of the founders, China has a sense of belonging to the current world order. Apart from benefiting from and contributing to the international order, China also participates in its reform.”</p>



• **February 24, 2016 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Ned Price on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice’s Meeting with Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice met today with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the White House. Ambassador Rice and Foreign Minister Wang affirmed their commitment to expanding practical bilateral cooperation while also addressing and, where possible, narrowing differences. They highlighted important areas of ongoing bilateral cooperation, including on climate change and implementation of the Iran nuclear deal. They also agreed on the importance of a strong and united international response to North Korea’s provocations, including through a UN Security Council Resolution that goes beyond previous resolutions. They agreed that they will not accept North Korea as a nuclear weapons state. Ambassador Rice and Foreign Minister Wang candidly discussed maritime issues, with Ambassador Rice urging China to take concrete steps to address U.S. and regional concerns. She emphasized strong U.S. support for upholding the principles of respect for international law, unimpeded lawful commerce, freedom of navigation and overflight, and peaceful resolution of disputes. Ambassador Rice also raised U.S. concerns about human rights developments in China. President Obama joined the meeting to underscore his interest in building a durable, constructive, and productive U.S.-China relationship. He expressed the importance of the upcoming Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC, on March 31-April 1, 2016. He noted he looked forward to welcoming President Xi and China’s delegation to the Summit and to working together towards its success.”

• **February 24, 2016 – Wang Yi Talks with Secretary of State John Kerry of US** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The two sides should adhere to the consensus reached by the two heads of state, maintain and strengthen dialogues and exchanges at the top and other levels, accelerate the negotiation process of China-US Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT), improve anti-corruption and law enforcement cooperation, further broaden people-to-people and cultural exchanges and local exchanges through carrying out projects like “China-US Tourism Year” [...] Wang Yi enunciated China’s principled stance on the Taiwan issue and the South China Sea issue meanwhile clarified China’s solemn attitude that China opposes the US’s intention to deploy Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system in the Republic of Korea (ROK). The US hopes to further deepen bilateral cooperation in global issues such as climate change, stands ready to carry out sound interactions with China in the Asia-Pacific, and does not expect the South China Sea issue to be a problem between the US and China. The US sticks to the one-China policy and opposes “Taiwan Independence”.”

• **February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “I want to stress that China and the US, as world’s largest developing and developed countries, shoulder major responsibilities in safeguarding world peace, stability and security and driving world development. The sustained, sound and steady growth of China-US relations serves the fundamental and long-term interests of the two countries and benefits the world. We hope and believe that the US government will pursue a positive policy toward China in a responsible manner.”

• **February 24, 2016 – No more US military presence in South China Sea, says FM** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “One of the topics for the two top diplomats is a series of high-level meetings this year. Wang said China supports the US in hosting the 4th Nuclear Security Summit in Washington in late March and early April, and the US supports China’s hosting of the G20 summit in East China’s Hangzhou in September. The two sides agreed to work together to ensure the success of the next rounds of the Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED), the High-Level Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (CPE), the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) and the joint high-level dialogue on combating cyber crimes and related issues.”



• **February 26, 2016 – A Changing China and Its Diplomacy: Speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi At Center for Strategic and International Studies** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Would China become the US’s principal rival some day, or even replace the US? This is a pseudo-argument. If that happens, it will be a lose-lose situation [...] There are strong complementarities between China and the US. We should constantly explore the potential and space for China-US cooperation. There is another reason why China will not replace the US. It is that China is not the US. China is always China, and will not become another United States. Expansionism is not in the DNA of the Chinese people. There is no urge for China to be the savior of the world.”

• **February 27, 2016 – Wang: China won't be major rival to US** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Foreign Minister Wang Yi rejected the notion that China will become a major rival of the United States or supersede it. In a 90-minute talk at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington on Thursday morning, Wang said China will focus on its own development for a long time and has no intentions of challenging any other country. According to Wang, the interests of the two countries have become so interconnected and interdependent that only cooperation can ensure a win-win scenario, while conflict is destined to bring about a no-win situation.”



Issue 2 – Economic Relations: U.S. Signs TPP with Other Member States and Continues Domestic Push for Ratification; China Shrugs Off Concerns Over Slowing Economic Growth and Argues Structural Reform is Progressing Well

United States	China
<p>• February 3, 2016 – Statement by the President on the Signing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (White House, Statements) Quote: “It eliminates more than 18,000 taxes that various countries put on Made in America products. It promotes a free and open Internet and prevents unfair laws that restrict the free flow of data and information. It includes the strongest labor standards and environmental commitments in history – and, unlike in past agreements, these standards are fully enforceable. TPP allows America – and not countries like China – to write the rules of the road in the 21st century, which is especially important in a region as dynamic as the Asia-Pacific.”</p> <p>• February 4, 2016 – Trans-Pacific Partnership Ministers’ Statement (Office of the US Trade Representative) Quote: “TPP will set a new standard for trade and investment in one of the world’s fastest growing and most dynamic regions. We signatories comprise nearly 40 percent of global GDP, a market of more than 800 million people, and around one third of world trade.”</p> <p>• February 5, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefing) Quote: “The biggest risk to the U.S. economy right now is economic weakness and instability around the world. That we are encountering some headwinds in our economy because we’re not seeing other economies grow as quickly as we would like them to see [...] that means if we start to encounter some headwinds from China or some European economies, that creating additional opportunities in places like Vietnam and Singapore all of a sudden become pretty appealing. So that certainly needs to be a part of our strategy, and that’s part of the President’s approach.”</p> <p>• February 5, 2016 – Statement by the President on the Economy (White House, Statements) Quote: “There is softness in the global economy. China is going through a transition. Europe’s economy is still slow. A lot of the emerging markets are challenged. So that’s all creating headwinds for a lot of U.S. companies who do business overseas. It makes it more difficult for us to sell exports.”</p>	<p>• February 1, 2016 – Feature: Ukraine-China cargo train on Silk Road opens up prospects for trade promotion (Xinhua) Quote: “The first cargo train freight connecting Ukraine and China has recently completed its journey, after passing through three other countries along the Silk Road in a test run of a planned regular service. Although much work is yet to be done to establish a fixed railway route, the new train service is seen here as a promising instrument to boost inter-connectivity and trade between Ukraine and China and in particular between European and Asian markets in general. ”</p> <p>• February 2, 2016 – Why doom predictors always get it wrong when it comes to China (People’s Daily) Quote: “Since 2012, China has changed its economic development strategy from export and foreign direct investment driven to endogenous growth which emphasizes internal structural change, innovation and industrial upgrading to escape the so-called middle income trap [...] Economic slowdown is an inevitable outcome of the new development strategy, but given the tough external economic environment and surging domestic factor costs, China’s growth of 6.9% in 2015 was still the best among the world’s 10 largest economies except India. ”</p> <p>• February 2, 2016 – Monetary easing expected after weak PMI data (People’s Daily) Quote: “Analysts on Monday suggested that further monetary easing could come soon, with the latest official PMI data falling to a 40-month low, indicating the difficulties being faced by the nation’s manufacturing industry [...] The official manufacturing Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI), a closely watched gauge of the country’s factory activity, fell to 49.4 percent for January, according to data released Monday by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) [...] The contraction in manufacturing activity could drag on the non-manufacturing sectors and slow their expansion.”</p>



• **February 8, 2016 – Remarks on the Seventh Anniversary of the U.S.-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Minister Silva has just returned from the signing of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. Going forward, our number one trade priority is getting the TPP through the domestic process for each of the twelve TPP members. It represents such a tremendous opportunity for Peru, for the region, and for all the Americas.”

• **February 9, 2016 – Press Briefing on the FY17 Budget** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The global competition is intense. China and other countries are investing heavily in research and development, and they’re doing everything they can to eat into our lead. So we need to accelerate the pace of innovation to build the economy of the future and continue to create high-quality jobs, and that’s exactly what the President’s budget does. It proposes investments that will ensure the U.S. continues to set pace in technology and innovation.”

• **February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “First, the United States is committed to ratifying the TPP. I think it’s a tremendous accomplishment whereby all the member countries of the TPP have reached this agreement. We think it highlights what the TPP is designed to do: to set out a series of very high, ambitious standards – economic rules of the road, so to speak – to which all of our 12 member-countries can aspire [...] a number of countries in ASEAN and elsewhere in Asia have expressed a desire to join TPP in the future. That is part of the design of TPP, again, to construct a race to the top, whereby all countries are striving so as to enjoy the benefits of TPP, to live up to those high standards [...] The first priority now is for all the member-countries of TPP to focus on ratification and implementation. And then we’ll continue a dialogue going forward about ways that other countries who are interested in joining TPP can meet those high standards so that they can have the opportunity to do so at some future date [...] net effect of TPP not only on the part of the four ASEAN partner countries but for the whole region is to create incentives for trading partners to up their game [...] the non-TPP countries – can count on us, the United States, to assist them in upping their game. We want a region with lower barriers, greater access, higher standards, more responsible environmental practices, good adherence to international standards for labor rights. We want the free flow of goods and services and ideas, and every country in ASEAN can count on us to help them to up their game.”

• **February 3, 2016 – Commentary: Bearish on China isn't the international mainstream** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “However, many presumptuous forecasts about China’s economy were not delivered via incorrect methodologies, but stem from either partial perspectives or market speculation. No matter what, they are all prejudiced against China, making them far from consistent with the real achievements and potential of the Chinese economy [...] Economic analysis should always be conducted in a responsible manner, even if it is just a “chat” at an international event. False information could easily stir up market fluctuations.”

• **February 3, 2016 – Commentary: Early recognition of China's market economy status wise option for EU** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “The European Parliament (EP) debated Monday whether the European Union (EU) should recognize China as a market economy [...] since EU has not regarded China as a market economy country, China has fallen victim to some unfair and discriminatory EU practice [...] some politicians in Europe are still sticking to protectionist mentality and positions, using non-market economy status as a weapon against China, and failed to see their side-effect.”

• **February 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China-Russia economic relations and trade have been developing fast over these years [...] Both China and Russia are emerging markets, boasting great potential for growth and bilateral cooperation. The sluggish world economic growth may impact some of our cooperation. But against the backdrop of world economic recovery based on the concerted efforts of the international community, we are still full of confidence in the respective economic growth of China and Russia as well as their economic cooperation, as long as the two countries work in tandem to fully tap their potential for cooperation, including to further align the Silk Road Economic Belt with the Eurasian Economic Union.”



• **February 10, 2016 – The U.S. Economic and Trade Relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Well, I don’t think that the RCEP is an alternative to TPP or something that’s counter to TPP. I think it’s more helpful to think of them as existing in parallel. And the TPP was always meant to be a high-standards, aspirational agreement that countries would move towards participating in when they were ready to meet the high standards that are expected of it. RCEP, by the nature of it, is pitched at a level that some of the ASEAN countries that are newer to international trade can meet and have success with. We would hope that those ASEAN countries that are participating in both would maintain as many of their high standards as they can, but we certainly wouldn’t view them as oppositional, but rather parallel tracks.”

• **February 10, 2016 – Press Call on the U.S.-ASEAN Summit** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We have several TPP countries in ASEAN to include Vietnam, Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia, and we also see interest in TPP from other members of ASEAN, as well. So this is a region that the President has prioritized in his economic engagement because it’s a growing market that is going to be central to driving American growth and job creation going forward. ASEAN has been working to integrate their own economies through the ASEAN community, and that creates new opportunities for us to engage the collective of ASEAN in deepening our trade and commercial ties.”

• **February 10, 2016 – Message to the Senate -- The Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “This copyright treaty, concluded under the auspices of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), advances the national interest of the United States in promoting the protection and enjoyment of creative works. The Beijing Treaty provides a modern international framework for the rights of performers in motion pictures, television programs, and other audiovisual works, similar to that already in place for producers of such works, for authors, and for performers and producers of sound recordings, pursuant to other WIPO copyright treaties the United States has joined. The United States played a leadership role in the negotiation of the treaty, and its provisions are broadly consistent with the approach and structure of existing U.S. law.”

• **February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “Since its launch in 2008, the U.S.-China bilateral investment treaty negotiations have drawn wide attention from relevant industries and business circles in the two countries, which hold high expectation therefor. As at January 2016, [...] the smooth development of the negotiations is inseparable from great concern and support from the two countries [...] in September 2015, the U.S.-China bilateral investment treaty negotiations became a major economic achievement. The two sides reaffirmed its role as the most important matter in the bilateral economic and trade relations, and they will make great efforts to promote the negotiations to reach a high-level treaty of mutual benefit and win-win results. The above consensus have sent a very positive signal to the outside, giving a powerful political force for the negotiations. In respect of the next negotiations, we still take the attitude that the two sides shall continue to focus on implementing the important consensus of leaders of the two countries, and strive to reach a high-level investment treaty as soon as possible, thus bringing real benefits to the industries and people in the two countries.”

• **February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “The development of Sino-US relations needs to root in the local, rely on the local and benefit the local. Sino-US economic and trade relations play the roles of “ballast” and “propeller” in Sino-US relations [...] Vigorously promoting the Sino-US economic and trade cooperation between provinces and states and between cities is of great significance in deepening Sino-US economic and trade relations, expanding common interests of the two countries, deepening the friendship between people in the two countries and enriching the connotation of new Sino-US relations. In the future, we will continue to devote major efforts to do so.”

• **February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “We have noticed that all parties to TPP are scheduled to sign TPP on February 4. At present, China is still assessing TPP in a comprehensive and systematic manner in accordance with the relevant documents. According to the requirement of “establishing a high-level global free trade zone network” determined at the Third Plenary Session of 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, China will actively promote the negotiations on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP), the China-Japan-Korea FTA and others. We hope that free trade arrangements in the Asian-Pacific region can facilitate each other, and jointly make contributions to trade, investment and economic development in the Asian-Pacific region.”



● **February, 12 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman at the Bavarian Parliament** ([Office of the US Trade Representative](#))

Quote : “That’s why we recently brought together a diverse group of 12 economies, and we’ve united them around the highest-standard trade agreement in history: the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or TPP. That agreement includes, among other achievements, the highest enforceable labor and environmental standards ever negotiated, the first rules to keep the Internet open and free, and the first rules to level the playing field between state-owned enterprises and private firms. But if we are going to succeed with T-TIP, we need political will on both sides to step up the pace and bring a pragmatic, problem-solving approach to the negotiations. Let’s stand together now. Let’s lead together on trade. Let’s get T-TIP done.”

● **February 13,2016 – Remarks at the 2016 Munich Security Conference** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We will support new jobs and spur growth on both sides of the Atlantic. And concluding negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, my friends, this year will strengthen our economies, and let me be absolutely clear: Nothing in TTIP – T-TIP – nothing requires Europe to reduce or undo important regulations or weaken existing standards. That is false. On the contrary, the agreement will underscore our support for the inclusion of high environmental and labor standards in trade agreements, just as we have done in the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which encompasses 40 percent of the planet’s GDP. We have encompassed in that agreement, in the four corners of the agreement, the highest labor standards and the highest environment standards enforceable by law.”

● **February, 16 2016 – Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman at Stanford University** ([Office of the US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “TPP will raise national income not only for the U.S. and other TPP members, but on net for the rest of the world as well. During a time of global economic uncertainty, TPP can provide a boost to global growth. As Christine Lagarde, the Managing Director of the IMF, has said, TPP is part of the solution for avoiding a “new mediocre” in the global economy. But TPP isn’t just about promoting higher growth. TPP is focused on the quality of growth. It is focused on new and emerging issues in the global economy and setting high-standard rules.”

● **February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “We have noticed the related reports made by the US Rice Federation on the export of American rice to China. As far as I know, at the request of America, the inspection and quarantine department of China is carrying out consultations on inspection and quarantine matters relating to the export of American rice to China. Related admission procedures have not been completed, and at present, no American rice has exported to China.”

● **February 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The US claimed that the TPP allows America, and not countries like China, to write the rules of the road in the 21st century. What is your comment on that?”

A: We never believe that world trade rules can be made by any specific country alone. We have never thought that China or any other specific country could decide by itself how to write the rules or agenda of global trade in the 21st century. We always maintain that the World Trade Organization (WTO) play a leading role in making global trade rules [...] There is no need to politicize the economic issue. Don't make people feel that the US is pursuing some political ends throughout the process of promoting the TPP. Remarks as such will mislead the public and do harm to state-to-state relations.”

● **February 5, 2016 – US-led TPP can't crush Chinese economy** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “ The US does seem to have gained the upper hand in rule-making. But the TPP only paints a picture based on US wishes for the Asia-Pacific economic landscape in the 21st century. What the 21st century really looks like and what the actual rules are will be shaped by real influencing factors, including the trade vitality of emerging economies like China and diverse demands from each country, including TPP member states. These two elements are not sufficiently reflected in the TPP.”



• **February 22, 2016 – Remarks by the President at National Governors Association Reception** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Now, maybe the way to answer this is to give sort of a broad overview of how I think the politics have shaped the narrative around trade, and then let me give you some of the facts and what’s going on with TPP. [...] And it is because of my confidence in our ability to compete, and the fact that we have no choice but to compete, that we said, where’s the next big market where folks are selling us goods but we’re not able to sell them goods? And we looked to the Asia Pacific region. That is the fastest-growing, most dynamic, youngest population in the world, and where, invariably, economic activity is going to be driving much of the world economy for decades to come. And our concern there was that China was the 800-pound gorilla, and if we allowed them to set trade rules out there, American businesses and American workers were going to be cut out.”

• **February 22, 2016 – Sheets Op-ed: The Importance of China's Transition to Smarter Growth** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “We continue to believe that if China implements the market-based economic reforms it has committed to, it has the necessary tools to support domestic demand and succeed in this economic transition. China’s economic rebalancing will also require reallocating productive resources in the Chinese economy away from heavy industry. Consistent with its commitment, China must implement reforms of inefficient state-owned enterprises and reduce industrial overcapacity [...] Opening up its economy, including the services sector, will send a strong signal to markets that China is committed to reform and encourage greater foreign direct investment that can help support China’s transition process. It must also strengthen the social safety net, implement land reform, and promote a more market-based financial system. We want to see China make this transition, because we recognize that China’s success ultimately benefits our own.”

• **February 24, 2016 – Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “I think the first observation I would have at least when it comes to the example of agricultural products, the American Farm Bureau is a strong supporter and has endorsed the Trans-Pacific Partnership. They didn’t do that just as a political favor to President Barack Obama. In fact, on most political issues, they come down on the opposite side of President Obama. But in this case, they recognize that the U.S. agricultural industry has much to gain from leveling the playing field with countries in Southeast Asia -- or Asia and the Asia Pacific.”

• **February 8, 2016 – Spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce Comments on European Commission’s Appealing to China to Take Measures to Cut Down the Steel Productivity** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “The Chinese government attaches great importance to handling the problem of the excessive capacity of iron and steel and has adopted a series of practical and effective measures and paid a very heavy price [...] He pointed out the over capacity is the common problem faced by the global steel industry, and should be dealt with by all countries. The Chinese government is willing to conduct sincere communication with the members of the WTO through all kinds of dialogues and negotiation mechanism and makes positive efforts to create a fair, just and expectable international market environment. He emphasized that the WTO rules are the legal basis for all members to conduct the multilateral trade and economic activities.”

• **February 14, 2016 – Commentary: Blaming China for market rout obscures focus of real problem** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Despite the fact that the global market is in a sense insulated from China’s impact last week, there are still attempts to blame China for the meltdown, instead of focusing on real global economic woes [...] The slowing growth is largely a result of China’s endeavor to optimize its economic structure. And such efforts have already shown effect as the tertiary sector is becoming the potential new engine of the Chinese economy. China aims to build a healthier, more sustainable economy and contribute more to global economy. It is believed that the international community is pleased to see a successful economic restructuring in China. “

• **February 15, 2016 – Commentary: Market turbulence exposes weakness of global economy, rather than China** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “The slowing growth is largely a result of China’s endeavor to optimize its economic structure. Such efforts have already shown effect as the tertiary sector is increasingly a new engine of the Chinese economy. It is of utmost urgency that the world economies make coordinated efforts to restore investor confidence and stabilize the market and support growth. They should also be prudent with the introduction of measures that have potential spillovers to other economies. ”



• **February 26, 2016 – Governor Lael Brainard: What Happened to the Great Divergence?** ([Federal Reserve](#))

Quote : “China’s investment has slowed sharply recently after accounting for nearly one-third of global investment over the past three years and about one-half of global consumption in certain metals such as iron ore, aluminum, copper, and nickel. Commodity exporters and close trading partners in Asia will be most affected, but the changes in the composition and rate of growth in a country that has accounted for about one-third of the growth in world output and trade will likely ripple through the global economy much more generally. ”

• **February 29, 2016 – Remarks at the World Affairs Council** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “China has already committed tens of billions of dollars to building roads and rails to connect its factories with markets in Asia and Europe [...] China’s One Belt One Road definitely isn’t the only game in town [...] the New Silk Road, our own flagship initiative, seeks to connect Central Asia to South Asia, with Afghanistan at the hub. The New Silk Road has four principal lines of effort: (1) building a regional energy market; (2) improving trade and transport routes; (3) streamlining customs and border crossings; and (4) creating linkages between peoples and between businesses [...] let me make clear that the United States does not see this region through a “Great Game” lens [...] we see a region where everyone can benefit from stronger connectivity, smarter security, and greater trade – especially trade that is inclusive, multi-directional, and rules-based. The bottom line is that when the countries of Central Asia look around the room for partners, they can and should choose as many as they can.”

• **February 16, 2016 – Official from Trade Remedy and Investigation Bureau Comments on EU’s Trade Remedy Investigation against Steel Products Imported from China** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “The official pointed out that the steel industry has become a major area of the frequent China-EU trade friction [...] The official stressed that excessive capacity is a common issue for the global steel industry, requiring joint efforts of all member countries. The Chinese government attaches much importance to the issues of excessive capacity and is taking a series of practical and effective measures and endeavoring hard to make remarkable achievements. On the disputes of steel trade, the Chinese government has insisted on solving problems through dialogue and cooperation and we would like to conduct frank talks with all WTO members and make positive efforts to build a fair, just and predictable international market environment. Meanwhile, the Chinese government encourages the steel industry and relevant enterprises to positively respond to the investigation and safeguard their legitimate rights by the WTO rules. ”

• **February 16, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Last week, the European Commission announced a new round of anti-dumping probe into China’s steel exports. What is your comment?”

A: As a member of the WTO, China has been earnestly honoring each and every of its legal obligations since its accession and is entitled to every right bestowed by the WTO. Recent years have seen sound development of China-EU economic relations and trade. We hope that the EU can abide by the WTO rules and elevate economic cooperation and trade between the two sides to greater heights.”

• **February 16, 2016 – Sunnylands wrong place to discuss South China Sea row** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “The TPP is considered to be partly aimed at China. But if more ASEAN countries join the TPP, it will not help the TPP isolate China, but it will only complicate the issue. China has long been ASEAN’s largest trading partner. The TPP and the China-ASEAN free trade zone can be compatible. ”



• **February 16, 2016 – Commentary: China faces economic challenges with confidence, resolution** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: "China's confidence and courage are rooted in sound economic fundamentals, massive economic volume and the government's management and mobilization capability. First of all, China's economic fundamentals remain sound [...] Secondly, the Asian giant, which possesses the world's largest foreign exchange reserves and a high savings rate, enjoys much leeway in financial market and monetary policy [...] Thirdly, the Chinese government is very strong in mobilization and action, which has been admired by many other countries [...] As the Chinese premier put it, China's economic development has been constantly growing despite being faced with challenges, and the more difficult the situation, the more tenacious the Chinese economy. "

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

Quote: "The Ministry of Commerce will continue to focus on the strategic measures such as the construction of the "Belt and Road" and the international capacity cooperation, insist on the principle of "being guided by government, being operated by market, with the enterprises being the main body". MOFCOM, together with the relevant departments of the State Council, local and industrial organizations and the overseas Chinese business and commercial organizations, strengthens plan, guidance, strategic layout, policy support, project promotion and service guarantee, fully stimulates the initiatives of the leading enterprises, and promotes China's outward investment cooperation to zoom to the industrial chain and the high end of the value chain. The aim is to create a favorable start for China to implement the "going abroad" strategy during the "13th Five-Year Plan". "

• **February 18, 2016 – Op-ed: U.S. should be more inclusive in diplomacy** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "With increasing competitiveness, China will certainly air more voice and have more say in writing international rules. What's more important is that the U.S. should realize China's success is not based on hegemony or resource domination. When the U.S. is excluding others such as China, China pursues a philosophy of openness, transparency and inclusiveness. China believes that the global trade rules should be drafted by all countries rather than only a few. The "Belt and Road" initiative, for instance, is never a geopolitical tool for China to establish its sphere of influence. China's proposals are well echoed because it always seeks mutual benefits and never imposes its will on others. "



• **February 19, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce**
([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “In January, Chinese foreign investment played a positive role in driving the growth of the world economy and promoting the mutual benefit and win-win result. At present, China’s foreign investment flow ranks the 3rd in the world and the stock ranks the 8th, which not only creates the employment and tax revenue, promotes the transformation and upgrading of relevant industries, improves the infrastructure conditions, but also makes positive contributions to setting examples for developing countries to realize common development and deepen the bilateral relationship.”

• **February 19, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce**
([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “On December 1 2015, China officially took over the presidency of the G20 and the relevant series of conferences of all channels were successively started [...] China hopes that all parties can conduct deep discussions on topics such as strengthening the construction of the G20 trade and investment mechanism, promoting the increase of the global trade, supporting the bilateral trade system, promoting the coordination and cooperation of the investment policies and promoting the inclusive and coordinative global value chain [...] China will work with all parties to make joint efforts to strive to submit a fruitful list of trade and economic achievements to the G20 Hangzhou Summit.”

• **February 19, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce**
([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side has been following the TTIP negotiations, which have been held for eleven rounds so far, covering areas such as market access, services, investment and intellectual property [...] In terms of the size of the economy, the TTIP, once established, will surpass the NAFTA, TPP and RCEP to become the world’s largest FTA, with major implications for the global politics, economic landscape and rulemaking [...] As for any free trade arrangement that is in the interest of global trade liberalization and regional economic integration, the Chinese side remains open as long as it upholds the open and transparent principle. In other words, we have always been for the view that free trade arrangements of any region or type shall be transparent, open and inclusive, and can create a freer and easier environment for global trade, thus improving the welfare of people across the world. Such is also our attitude towards the TTIP. Thank you for your question.”



• **February 19, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce)**

Quote: “ We certainly hope that export to the US in 2016 will maintain strong growth momentum as China is competitive in textile and apparel sector. However, we face notable challenges. First, due to sluggish global economic recovery, weak international demand and growing cost in factors of production in China, China’s overall textile and apparel export has been declining and growth in its export to the US has slowed down. [...] Second, some industries and orders have been diverted to low-cost countries in Southeast Asia and South Asia, leading to rapid rise of textile and apparel industries in China’s neighboring countries and squeezed US market for Chinese exporters. Third, some countries have substantially devalued their currencies which means the RMB has become more expensive and Chinese products less price competitive. Therefore, we must work harder to make textile and apparel export to the US continue to grow. ”

• **February 22, 2016 – The State Council Information Office (SCIO) holds a Press Conference on China's Commerce Development in 2015 (Ministry of Commerce)**

Quote: “As you know, we and ASEAN signed the upgrade Protocol of the FTA, and negotiations on “Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)” have gained substantial progress. In the East Asian leaders meeting, participants unanimously determined to strive for ending RCEP negotiations in 2016 [...] We promote to reach a large number of agreements and consensus on the tenth meeting of trade ministers of the WTO. Sino-US and Sino-EU bilateral investment agreement negotiations have also made positive progress. The Mainland of China signed the CEPA service trade agreement with Hong Kong and Macao [...] We do not think that the TPP is targeted for China. We also do not believe that TPP and RCEP are opposite, and we just think compatible. In 2014, informal APEC leaders' meeting started the research on strategic framework with respect to the FTA construction and we will continue to promote this work [...] I think that although the development level is different, and the difference is very big, TPP and RCEP are the ways available for the establishment of the Asia Pacific FTA in the open, inclusive and transparent principles.”



• **February 22, 2016 – The State Council Information Office (SCIO) holds a Press Conference on China's Commerce Development in 2015** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: "With respect to the implementation of the "Belt and Road Initiative", it does not delineate the boundaries by ideology, development path, development model and development level or other standards, but intends for mutual benefit and win-win through exchanges and cooperation in policy, trade, currency, infrastructure, cultural and other aspects in the principles of mutual negotiation and sharing; therefore, it is an open and inclusive cooperation initiative. I think this is the biggest difference between it and other initiatives. So, "the Belt and Road Initiative" is a China scheme targeting at the promotion of global cooperation and win-win development [...] We have established 75 overseas economic and trade cooperation zones in the world, which has created a large number of tax and employment for the host country [...] I believe that as long as we stick to the principles of mutual negotiations, construction and sharing, we can draw on the wisdom of the world. "The Belt and Road" construction will obtain more cooperation fruits and benefit more countries and peoples; in addition, it will jointly promote the prosperity and development of the global economy."

• **February 22, 2016 – Official of the Trade Remedy and Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Commerce Makes a Statement on the Anti-dumping and Countervailing Investigation Launched by the United States against China's Tyre of Truck and Car** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: "The head of the Trade Remedy and Investigation Bureau of the Ministry of Commerce stated that the decision of the US Department of Commerce to file the case lacked facts and legal basis; especially, serious problems could be found in terms of applicant qualifications and the representativeness of the industries [...] The Chinese government will pay close attention to the process of this case and unswervingly make full use of the WTO rules to safeguard the legal rights of the Chinese industries. The Head emphasized that China always opposed abusing the trade remedy measures, hoping that the United States can carefully deal with this case and avoid harming the normal trade and sound cooperation between the relevant industries of the two countries. "



• **February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Some Chinese industries do face the problem of overcapacity. However, it is just a phenomenon in the process of China's economic restructuring [...]. Once the restructuring is finished, the Chinese economy is sure to offer stronger boosts to the world economy. We maintain that when we carry forward the Belt and Road initiative and conduct international cooperation on production capacity, we should make joint efforts with all relevant countries based on thorough communication so as to make the best of each other's advantages and achieve win-win results. We design each and every program through consultations with cooperative partners, taking into full account the actual needs of countries where the production capacity goes. [...] I believe that we could combine Chinese manufacturing's advantages in cost and performance with developed countries' high-end technologies as well as developing countries' needs, in a bid to meet the interests of all and inject new impetus to the world economy."

• **February 26, 2016 – A Changing China and Its Diplomacy: Speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi At Center for Strategic and International Studies** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The biggest change and development in China is that for over 30 years, we have registered double-digit economic growth, creating a China miracle. We have not only become the second largest economy in the world, but also lifted over 600 million people out of poverty. We have done better than any country in accomplishing the UN Millennium Development Goals. On the other hand, we have come to realize that the old development model is no longer tenable [...] we must change our development model. The goal is to take an energy conserving, environment friendly, green, circular and sustainable path of development. In other words, among the three drivers of growth, investment, export and consumption, consumption became the biggest driver for the first time. The entire Party and country agree that we need to continue with reform and opening-up."



• **February 27, 2016 – Wang Yi Meets with President of BRICS New Development Bank K.V. Kamath** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: “On February 27, 2016, Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with President of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) K. V. Kamath in Shanghai before attending the signing ceremony of the agreement on the headquarters of the NDB. Wang Yi expressed that in recent years cooperation among BRICS states has become an important platform for cooperation among emerging markets and developing countries. China hopes that the bank, as a flagship project of the BRICS cooperation, will facilitate the development of BRICS states and other developing countries by building a series of longstanding, sustainable, effective and influential projects, advancing the connectivity of all countries concerned, and promoting the international cooperation in production capacity.”



Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: U.S. Focuses on Improving Cybersecurity and Preventing Spread of Nuclear Weapons; China Provides Updates on Peacekeeping Missions and Adjustments to Organization of Army Commands

United States	China
<p>• February 9, 2016 – Press Briefing on the FY17 Budget (White House, Press Briefing) Quote: “More than one-third increase in cybersecurity across the federal government, and a range of other investments to protect the American people and advance development and democracy around the world. The budget shows that these investments in growth opportunity and security are compatible with putting the nation’s finances on a strong and sustainable path.”</p> <p>• February 9, 2016 – Remarks by the President on New Cybersecurity Initiatives (White House, Speeches and Remarks) Quote: “More and more, keeping America safe is not just a matter of more tanks, more aircraft carriers; not just a matter of bolstering our security on the ground. It also requires us to bolster our security online. As we’ve seen in the past few years and just in the past few days, cyber threats pose a danger not only to our national security but also our financial security and the privacy of millions of Americans.”</p> <p>• February 9, 2016 – FACT SHEET: Cybersecurity National Action Plan (White House, Statements) Quote: “Criminals, terrorists, and countries who wish to do us harm have all realized that attacking us online is often easier than attacking us in person. As more and more sensitive data is stored online, the consequences of those attacks grow more significant each year. Identity theft is now the fastest growing crime in America. Our innovators and entrepreneurs have reinforced our global leadership and grown our economy, but with each new story of a high-profile company hacked or a neighbor defrauded, more Americans are left to wonder whether technology’s benefits could risk being outpaced by its costs.”</p> <p>• February 10, 2016 – Nuclear Security in the 21st Century (State Department) Quote: “The United States takes a multi-faceted approach to preventing terrorist acquisition of sensitive nuclear or radioactive materials, such as reducing global stocks of highly enriched uranium (HEU), bolstering of security at nuclear facilities, and promoting the establishment of nuclear security Centers of Excellence (COEs). We also partner with a number of international organizations and multilateral instruments to strengthen the global nuclear security architecture.”</p>	<p>• February 2, 2016 – Feature: Chinese blue helmets in Darfur safeguard regional peace despite harsh conditions (Xinhua) Quote: “Looking forward, the number of Chinese peacekeepers in the region is expected to grow, as Chinese President Xi Jinping announced at the UN headquarters last September that China will set up a permanent peacekeeping police squad and build a peacekeeping standby force of 8,000 troops. The country is also considering sending more engineering, transportation and medical personnel to join UN peacekeeping missions, and will train 2,000 foreign peacekeepers.”</p> <p>• February 2, 2016 – PLA’s theater commands adjustment & establishment accomplished (Ministry of National Defense) Quote: “Q: Why re-adjust and re-divide the theater commands? A: The five new theater commands, namely the Eastern Theater Command, the Southern Theater Command, the Western Theater Command, the Northern Theater Command and the Central Theater Command are set up according to China’s security environment and the military’s missions and tasks. This adjustment is made on the principle that the Central Military Commission (CMC) takes charge of the overall administration of the Chinese armed forces, the theater commands focus on combat readiness, and the various military services pursue their own construction and development. This adjustment is conducive to improving the joint operational commanding institutions, forming the joint operational system, better safeguarding national sovereignty, security and development interests, and maintaining regional stability and world peace.”</p>



• **February 17, 2016 – Remarks by the President on the Cybersecurity National Action Plan** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “But what I’ve indicated is, even as we are vigilant and constantly trying to improve the security of systems that we currently have, and even as we set up frameworks for cooperation with the private sector where there are particular vulnerabilities, this is going to be a big agenda, a long-term agenda that is extremely complicated, extremely technical, and is going to require us to overhaul a bunch of legacy systems that are already in place. And for that reason, part of the Cybersecurity National Action Plan was to put together a bipartisan commission whose task was not to generate some fat report that collects dust, but in a timely way focuses on what are the long-term challenges that we face, what are the systems that we need to build, and can set a clear sense of direction for the federal government, working in concert with the private sector, state, and local actors for the next five years, 10 years, 20 years, so that we can make sure that we get the benefits of the Internet and utilization, and not the dangers and threats.”

• **February 25, 2016 – Submitted Statement -- House Appropriations Committee-Defense (FY 2017 Budget Request)** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Russia and China are our most stressing competitors, as they’ve both developed and are continuing to advance military systems that threaten our advantages in specific areas, and in some cases, they’re developing weapons and ways of war that seek to achieve their objectives in ways they hope would preempt a response by the United States. Because of these facts, because the implications of any great-power conflict would be so dire for the United States and the world, and because of those nations’ actions to date – from Ukraine to the South China Sea – DoD has elevated their importance in our defense planning and budgeting to ensure we maintain our advantages in the future.”

• **February 25, 2016 – America and the Nuclear Future** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The core of our efforts is to acknowledge that nuclear terrorism is the greatest threat to our collective security. [...] the United States has been working to limit and reduce the nuclear threat, while at the same time maintaining a safe, secure and effective nuclear arsenal for as long as nuclear weapons exist [...] And that’s why the President has been bringing together leaders from across the world for a series of Nuclear Security Summits [...] This year’s event will build upon the work of the three previous Summits, placing a renewed emphasis on strengthening the global nuclear security architecture, and enhancing the security of materials through tangible commitments.”

• **February 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Recently there have been a number of cyber attacks on Taiwan "President" Tsai Ing-wen's Facebook page that appeared to be coming from mainland Chinese users. Some speculate that the Chinese government is potentially supporting those attacks. What is your response to the speculation?”

A: First I must say that Taiwan is a part of China. We hope that when talking about sovereignty-related issues, rhetoric would be chosen in line with the one-China principle. I wonder whether there is any evidence to support the speculation you mentioned. We have heard a great variety of speculations concerning cyber security. We don't have that much time to spend our efforts commenting on each and every groundless allegation or hearsay like that.”



• **February 25, 2016 – Submitted Statement -- House Appropriations Committee-Defense (FY 2017 Budget Request)** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “The budget also supports operationalizing our rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region. [...] the budget helps improve DoD’s geographically distributed, operationally resilient, and politically sustainable posture in the region, through which the United States seeks to preserve peace and stability, and maintain our strategic advantage in an area that’s critically important to America’s political, economic, and security interests. Investments in the budget reflect how we’re moving more of our forces to the region – such as 60 percent of our Navy and overseas Air Force assets – and also some of our most advanced capabilities in and around the region, from F-22 stealth fighter jets and other advanced tactical strike aircraft, to P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft, to our newest surface warfare ships. They also reflect how we’re developing and implementing new posture initiatives – in places like Guam, the Northern Marianas, the Philippines, Australia, and Singapore, as well as modernizing our existing footprint in Korea and Japan. And they reflect our efforts to support and strengthen a regional security architecture that benefits everyone – from strengthening and modernizing our alliances, to bolstering our ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to building the security capabilities of our many friends and allies, who increasingly want to do more with us in the region. In support of this effort, the budget fully supports our five-year, \$425 million Southeast Asia Maritime Security Initiative begun in FY 2016.”

• **February 26, 2016 – Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism (CICTE): Sixteenth Regular Session** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “here are three key elements to this framework: global affirmation of the applicability of international law to state behavior in cyberspace; the development of international consensus on additional norms and principles of responsible state behavior in cyberspace that apply during peacetime; and the development and implementation of practical confidence building measures that can help ensure stability in cyberspace during times of crisis [...]The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) have both been working on regional cyber CBMs and we have found the discussion very productive in those venues. In both venues, we are now at the stage of implementing specific regional cyber CBMs.”



Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Continues to Call for Release of Political Prisoners in China; China Seeks to Uphold UN Development Standards while Criticizing UNHCHR Report

United States	China
<p>• February 1, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “We remain deeply concerned by the disappearance of five Hong Kong residents associated with Mighty Current Media and the Causeway Bay bookstore. We continue to follow closely the developments of these cases. They – these cases, including two involving individuals holding European passports, raise serious questions about China’s commitment to Hong Kong’s autonomy under the “one country, two systems” framework as well as its respect for the protection of universal human rights and fundamental freedoms. We urge China to clarify the current status of all five individuals and the circumstances surrounding their disappearances and to allow them to return to their homes.”</p> <p>• February 2, 2016 – Remarks at the UNICEF Executive Board; U.S. Representative for Economic and Social Affairs Ambassador Sarah Mendelson (Mission to the United Nations) Quote: “The United States sees the 2030 Agenda as an opportunity to build upon the success of the Millennium Development Goals in driving accelerated progress in child and maternal survival. We were gratified that our joint work launched at the 2012 Call to Action ultimately led to the inclusion of aggressive 2030 targets for child and newborn mortality in the SDG agenda [...] We support UNICEF’s decision to keep a strong inclusive equity focus and emphasize country-level implementation to avoid duplication.”</p> <p>• February 4, 2016 – Remarks at the Syria Donors Conference (State Department) Quote: “To date, the United States has provided over 4.5 billion to help Syrian refugees and those displaced within Syria, and I am proud that that makes us to date the largest single donor from external in the world [...] So today the United States is announcing our latest contribution, which is over \$925 million. That includes more than 600 million in direct humanitarian aid to provide food, shelter, water, medical care, and other vital relief to millions of people inside of Syria and across the region. It also includes 325 million in development assistance, 290 million of which is new funding specifically to support schooling for 300,000 refugee youth in Jordan and Lebanon – meeting directly, hopefully, the challenge that we face here today.”</p>	<p>• February 1, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “We have asked Chinese citizens about to travel abroad and those already in epidemic affected areas to keep an eye on the development of the epidemic and the alert issued by relevant countries, and take necessary measures for epidemic prevention. Cooperation between China and Latin American and Caribbean countries in the field of public health is based on a sound foundation. The Chinese side supports Latin America’s anti-epidemic efforts and stands ready to cooperate with Latin America and provide them with assistance as capacity allows.”</p> <p>• February 2, 2016 – Interview: Cooperation with China helps reduce disease burden in Africa: AU official (Xinhua) Quote: “Chinese President Xi Jinping in his address to the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) summit held last December in Johannesburg said Beijing will strengthen health cooperation with African states.”</p> <p>• February 4, 2016– Statement by Ambassador Wang Min at the 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development under the Priority Theme (Permanent Mission to the UN) Quote: “Members of the international community should respect each other’s choice of development path, and learn from each other’s experience so as to improve their own performance, thus making common effort towards global social development [...] sum up and reflect upon the experience and lessons in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action [...] China appreciates the acknowledgment contained in the Secretary General’s report for the measures taken by China to strengthen its social security system, and calls on all countries to strengthen coordination, promote the reform of institutions and mechanisms and improve resource allocation, so as to realize a kind of social development in which all participate, to which all contribute, and from which all benefit[...]The international community should [...] make an effort to address the unevenness of development between the North and the South, and promote global development partnerships characterized by win-win cooperation, so as to realize common development and prosperity.”</p>



• **February 4, 2016 – Remarks at the Every Woman Every Child Cervical Cancer Event; U.S. Deputy Representative to ECOSOC Stefanie Amadeo** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “The U.S. President’s Emergency Program for AIDS Relief, known as PEPFAR, addresses cervical cancer as well as HIV and AIDS. PEPFAR supports procurement of equipment and supplies for screening and treatment, and supports training, mentoring and clinical oversight. It also provides technical assistance or seconded staff to help Ministries of Health develop and implement national cervical cancer policies, strategies and clinical guidelines and procedures. PEPFAR is also an organizing member of the Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon, an innovative Public Private Partnership designed to leverage public and private investment into a powerful partnership effort to combat cervical and breast cancer in sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America.”

• **February 8, 2016 – Remarks at the 2016 UN Commission for Social Development ; Adviser for Economic and Social Affairs Laurie Shestack Phipps** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “We support its overall emphasis on inclusive sustainable development and its goals of reducing poverty; promoting inclusion and equal opportunity; providing social protections for people of all ages and abilities through services such as health care, education, and shelter; and increasing participation [...] We would like to outline some recent U.S. initiatives aimed at achieving the objectives of inclusive social development. The United States has made progress on education [...] made great progress toward countering racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance [...] adoption of anti-bullying policies protecting LGBTI students in many parts of the United States [...] Activities are underway on behalf of indigenous older persons [...] the White House launched a National Native Youth Network using an interactive online portal to connect indigenous youth across the United States and empower them to become community leaders.”

• **February 5, 2016– Statement by Mr. CHU Guang of the Chinese Delegation at the 54th Session of the Commission for Social Development under agenda item 3(b)** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “China is in favor of continuing to set up the special rapporteur for the issues concerning persons with disabilities by the Commission for Social Development. China is also ready to discuss the possibility to establish other relevant mechanism to monitor the implementation of the targets relating to persons with disabilities in the 2030 Agenda, as well as the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities [...] China supports the United Nations in focusing on youth development and formulating youth-oriented policies and programs of action. Countries should actively implement the World Program of Action for Youth, provide more guidance and training to the youth, resolve issues concerning development, employment and education, and help them contribute to the social development and progress [...] China will participate fully in the international cooperation in the area of social development, strengthen its exchanges and cooperation with the international community and contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of persons with disabilities and older persons, guiding youth to their assumption of their social responsibility, and bringing into play the basic role of the family.”

• **February 10, 2016 – Statement by Chu Guang of the Chinese Delegation at the first regular session of UN-Women Executive Board in 2016** ([Permanent Mission to the UN](#))

Quote: “UN-Women should promote the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda as the core objective of the work, fully carrying out the Strategic Plan 2014-2017, and to ensure the resource requirements in the priority areas [...] UN-Women field projects should emphasize both perspectives, balancing human rights and development [...] China supports the coordinating role played by UN-Women in promoting the incorporation of goals and targets related to women contained in the 2030 Agenda in the countries’ domestic strategic development programs and the translation of commitments made at the Global Leaders’ Meeting into concrete actions [...] UN-Women should increase transparency in fund utilization, attract more contribution by non-traditional donors and strive for greater contribution to the core resources.”



• **February 8, 2016 – Remarks at the OIC Event on Female Genital Mutilation; U.S. Deputy Representative to ECOSOC Stefanie Amadeo** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Here at the United Nations, the U.S. Mission has been honored to work closely with the Africa Group on, and co-sponsor, their biennial resolution in the General Assembly on Intensifying Global Efforts for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation. We support the work that UNFPA, UN Women, UNICEF and other UN agencies are doing to combat this harmful traditional practice. These steps taken at the multilateral level are important to help spread awareness of this irreversible, irreparable harm, and to reverse the misperception that this is a required or normative practice. Increased education and empowerment of women, and attention to their needs for sexual and reproductive health and rights, will help to address this problem [...] Religious leaders also play a vital role in raising awareness on this issue [...] Internationally, the U.S. addresses FGM/C through three tools: diplomacy, policy, and programming.”

• **February 9, 2016 – Remarks at the Techfugees Collaborative Conference; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “So in that pursuit, the pursuit of giving these kids more hope than they have today, I leave you with three suggestions. The first is to try to remember the individual [...] Second, take advantage of the unique resources available for this particular challenge [...] And then third and finally, think beyond today [...] I think what you all are working on is as urgent as anything any of us could be doing with our time, and you have a chance to fill in a future and to create hope for some number of Syrians who need it desperately.”

• **February 11, 2016 – Statement by National Security Council Spokesperson Ned Price on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice’s Meeting with Southeast Asian Civil Society Leaders** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “The participants—who included leaders in their home countries on women’s rights, civil-political rights, LGBTI rights, religious freedom, justice and accountability, and pro-environment economic development—underscored the need to respect universal rights and fundamental freedoms and expand political space for civil society. Ambassador Rice reiterated the United States’ steadfast commitment to sustaining and supporting civil society in Southeast Asia and around the world, including through the President’s Stand with Civil Society initiative.”

• **February 16, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: [...] the US Senate has passed a bill to name a street in Washington after Liu Xiaobo. Do you have any comment on that?”

A: The relevant bill passed by the US Senate violates the basic norms of international relations. China firmly opposes that. If this bill is passed into law, it would cause severe consequences. We urge the US Congress to stop the approval procedure of the bill. We also hope that the US administration can put an end to this political farce.”

• **February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: On February 16, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR) said in a statement that he is concerned about the recent so-called arrests of lawyers, harassment and intimidation of government critics and workers of non-governmental organizations in China and he urges China to release human rights lawyers immediately and without conditions. What is China’s comment?”

A: The UNHCHR launched groundless accusations against China’s domestic affairs. It is unjust and unprofessional. The Chinese government firmly opposes and will not accept that. China is a law-based country. Everyone is equal before the law. Whoever violates the law will be punished accordingly. The Chinese side hopes that the UNHCHR can view the development of China’s human rights cause in an all-round, just and objective way and respect China’s judicial sovereignty.”

• **February 22, 2016 – Xi’s Media visits signal reform** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Speaking at a symposium Friday afternoon after touring the People’s Daily, the Xinhua News Agency and China Central Television, Xi, also the General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said that all news media run by the Party must work to speak for the Party’s will and its propositions and protect the Party’s authority and unity.”



• **February 12, 2016 – FACT SHEET: Unprecedented U.S.-ASEAN Relations** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “The United States strongly supports ASEAN’s effort to realize a “rules-based” Community that serves the people of ASEAN and ensures human rights and fundamental freedoms, including by helping ASEAN integrate international human rights standards into legislative and judicial processes.”

• **February 15, 2016 – Remarks at the Israel Middle East Model United Nations Conference on “Building a More Model UN”; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “We have to open up more slots in all of our countries – including the United States – to allow more Syrians who have been screened and vetted to be granted asylum so they can live in dignity and security with their families. Europe cannot shoulder this burden alone. The neighboring countries to Syria, which have been shouldering the burden for so long, they, too – their services are at the breaking point, so it has to be dispersed, that responsibility, and that privilege, frankly, to welcome refugees has to be dispersed more broadly around the world.”

• **February 15, 2016 – Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We deal with countries around the world, including in Asia, with whom we have serious disagreements on human rights, on democracy, on corruption, and yet we do talk to them. But at the same time, we take every opportunity, both publicly and privately, to underscore our grave concerns about human rights. That’s why I made mention of that in my opening statement. That’s why I spent an hour and a half last week with leaders of ASEAN civil society to hear their points of view, to ensure that their perspectives and concerns were incorporated into our thinking and planning for this summit.”

• **February 19, 2016 – Secretary Kerry’s Call with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov** ([US State Department](#))

Quote: “Secretary Kerry also restated his deep concern over the indiscriminate nature of continued bombing by Russian military aircraft and the lives being lost as a result. The United States continues to call for all sides to abide by international obligations to avoid civilian casualties.”



• **February 22, 2016 – Remarks at a UN General Assembly Briefing by the Chair of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria; U.S. Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Michele J. Sison**
(Mission to the United Nations)

Quote: “The United States strongly supports the renewal of the COI’s mandate at the March Human Rights Council session and urges other states to do so as well [...] we, the United States and Russia, as co-chairs of the International Syria Support Group and International Syria Support Group Ceasefire Task Force, announced the adoptions of the terms of the cessation of hostilities in Syria and proposed that the cessation of hostilities commence on February 27, 2016.”

• **February 26, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** (US State Department)

Quote: “We are very concerned about Chinese state media’s airing of a purported confession by Zhang Kai prior to any indictment and, frankly, any judicial process whatsoever. Such confessions are counter to the standards of a rule of law society. And you’re right that he was detained, as you noted, before he could meet with U.S. Ambassador-at-Large David Saperstein during his August visit to China. We urge China to release Zhang and others detained for seeking to peacefully uphold the freedom of religion guaranteed in China’s constitution.”



Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: Both Countries Seek to Continue Work on Stopping Climate Change

United States	China
<p>• February 2, 2016 – Remarks at the UNICEF Executive Board; U.S. Representative for Economic and Social Affairs Ambassador Sarah Mendelson (Mission to the United Nations) Quote: “On climate change, we appreciate ED Lake’s comments this morning and are glad to see UNICEF taking strong action in this area. Climate change is expected to affect both the health and the determinants of health (clean water and air, nutritious food, health care access), with vulnerable populations - especially children - facing particularly high risks. [...] This is, in part, why President Obama mandated that climate resiliency considerations be mainstreamed into all U.S. development assistance programs.”</p> <p>• February 6, 2016 – Weekly Address: Doubling Our Clean Energy Funding to Address the Challenge of Climate Change (White House, Speeches and Remarks) Quote: “As I said in my State of the Union address, rather than subsidize the past, we should invest in the future. That’s why the budget I will send to Congress this Tuesday will double funding for clean energy research and development by 2020. This will include new investments to help the private sector create more jobs faster, lower the cost of clean energy faster, and help clean, renewable power outcompete dirty fuels in every state.”</p> <p>• February 9, 2016 – EPA’s FY 2017 Budget Request Increases Support for Communities to Deliver Core Environmental and Health Protection (Environmental Protection Agency) Quote: “The Obama Administration’s Fiscal Year 2017 budget announced today for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lays out a strategy to ensure that steady progress is made in addressing known environmental problems and ensuring the agency and its partners in environmental protection, states and tribes, are positioned to meet the challenges of the future. [...]The Administration is committed to continuing crucial work to curb climate change while improving air quality, protecting our water, conducting rigorous scientific research, maintaining an effective compliance and enforcement program, and making sure the public is safe from toxic chemicals.”</p>	<p>• February 11, 2016 – Why spending - not saving - will help make China greener (People’s Daily) Quote: “China’s coal use - a major source of global CO2 emissions - should peak around 2020, while the nation’s overall CO2 emissions would peak around 2030, or maybe even sooner [...] At the moment, household earnings in China are tucked away in banks, where they get loaned out to fund massive infrastructure projects - highways, dams, power plants - that pump out huge amounts of CO2. In the future, if China’s households save less, they will be spending more on services and everyday goods, which leave a smaller carbon footprint.”</p> <p>• February 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China has made important efforts for the global campaign against climate change by conducting international cooperation, and made significant contributions to the conclusion of the relevant agreement at last year’s Paris conference on climate change. The Chinese side attaches importance to the upcoming signing ceremony. As for who will represent China at the ceremony, we will release the information in due course.”</p>



• **February 16, 2016 – U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern Travel to Europe** ([US State Department](#))

Quote: “U.S. Special Envoy for Climate Change Todd Stern will travel February 16 – 19 to Brussels, London and Paris, where he will meet with European officials to discuss climate change. This trip is one of several long-planned post-COP21 visits, aiming to reinforce the U.S. commitment to the Paris Agreement and to taking action on climate change. Stern and his counterparts will discuss major international climate change objectives for this year, including the April 22nd signing ceremony for the Paris Agreement that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon will host in New York.”

• **February 16, 2016 –Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs Amos J. Hochstein Travels to India To Discuss Clean Energy Investment and Energy Security** ([US State Department](#))

Quote: “Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs Amos Hochstein will travel to India February 17 – 18 to discuss clean energy investment efforts with key officials. Envoy Hochstein and the Bureau of Energy Resources (ENR) engage with India through the U.S.-India Clean Energy Finance Task Force in support of the implementation of India’s Paris clean energy commitments. “

• **February 16, 2016 –U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman and Congressman Sam Farr Highlight the Environmental and Economic Benefits of the Trans-Pacific Partnership** ([Office of the US Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “We are encouraged that the Trans-Pacific Partnership sets a new bar for ocean conservation measures in a trade agreement by including specific provisions to encourage sustainable fisheries management, fight illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, protect sharks and other key marine species, and eliminate harmful fishing subsidies. To make a measureable difference for the ocean, the United States and its trade partners will need to ensure comprehensive implementation and enforcement of these new and important provisions within each nation. “



Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Holds Summit with Leaders of ASEAN; China Also Touts Positive Relations with ASEAN, Grows Quiet on Japan

United States	China
<p>• February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit (State Department) Quote: “First, the Sunnylands summit represents our commitment to the President’s rebalance strategy to the Asia Pacific [...] Second, the Sunnylands summit highlights the importance of the ASEAN countries to the United States and also highlights the depth and breadth of our relationship [...] It is an informal summit [...] It’s a personal engagement and it’s built on the personal relationships that have been forged over the last seven-plus years [...] it’s not about China [...] this summit is also underpinned by our firm commitment to universal human rights and to the rule of law [...] we are able to lift up our values – and these are universal values, not American values – through our programs with ASEAN – programs on good governance, on press freedom, on education, on human rights – and also through the consistent diplomacy and messaging that the President and Secretary Kerry, that others of us convey at every opportunity and undoubtedly will convey again at Sunnylands.”</p> <p>• February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit (State Department) Quote: “Unlike Europe, Asia lacks the developed institutions that we’ve seen take place in Europe. Yet again, with ASEAN at the core, I think the region is making tremendous progress. We think it’s a fundamental pillar of our rebalance strategy and our effort to build a rules-based order from which all of us will benefit. So again, it will be one of the primary emphases of the Sunnylands summit and I think it’ll be a real focus of American policy going forward [...] We respect the ASEAN way [...] sure, there are moments of frustration. But at the heart of ASEAN is a principle, “Consensus, yes, but paralysis, no.”</p> <p>• February 10, 2016 – The U.S. Economic and Trade Relationship with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (State Department) Quote: “We find that those are tremendously productive areas of engagement to get things done because we can address top-level concerns that are important across ASEAN for U.S. companies. We can make sure that our views are heard when ASEAN is looking at the rules and plans for integration. We can provide feedback when policies maybe aren’t working the way that they were originally anticipated to. And having the U.S. Government there to amplify our concerns and make sure that we know every venue that we should be speaking to makes a tremendous difference.”</p>	<p>• February 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Chinese side is willing to see further development of relations between the US and ASEAN countries. We hope that their relationship will be truly conducive to regional peace, stability and development. We also particularly hope that the US could render some tangible assistance to countries in the region to support their sustainable development. As for whether or not China’s worried that the meeting may be aimed at China, you may have noted that a senior official of the US government said publicly yesterday that the meeting is not anti-China. We hope that when the meeting is concluded, messages from your media reports could tell us that this meeting is indeed not aimed at China.”</p> <p>• February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce) Quote: “Currently, China is coordinating with Malaysia about the plan for holding the third meeting of the China-Malaysia “Two Countries, Twin Parks” Joint Collaborative Council as soon as possible, in order to hear and deliberate the work reports of the two parks, and to consult about matters relating to further promoting the major cooperation.”</p> <p>• February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce (Ministry of Commerce) Quote: “In recent two years, Japan’s investment in China has been tending to decline [...] There are four major factors as analyzed by some experts: Firstly, [...] the continued appreciation of RMB compared with Yen [...] leads to the decline in competitiveness of Japan-funded export-oriented companies to some extent. Secondly, the economy of China has entered the new normal with slowed growth to some extent [...] Thirdly, [...] Japanese enterprises [...] slow down the expansion of investment scale temporarily. Fourthly, [...] market competition in China becomes increasingly fierce, and some Japanese companies were forced to withdraw from the Chinese market. It should be noted that according to many surveys, the majority of Japanese enterprises hold an opinion that the Chinese market is very important and has great potential, and they will not give up.”</p>



• **February 10, 2016 – Telephonic Media Briefing With Dan Kritenbrink, NSC Senior Director for Asian Affairs and Daniel Russel, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs** ([US State Department](#))

Quote: “Furthermore, from the very beginning, the President has emphasized the importance of strengthening relations with ASEAN. It’s been a core focus of the President’s rebalance strategy. ASEAN is at the heart of Asia, which is diplomatically, economically and strategically central to our interests in the 21st Century. I think this Summit is a tremendous opportunity again to highlight the importance of our ties with Asia, and with ASEAN in particular. Our economic ties are booming. We have a quarter trillion dollar trade relationship with ASEAN.”

• **February 10, 2016 – Press Call on the U.S.-ASEAN Summit** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “This is a truly unique and historic occurrence with the President hosting these leaders in a standalone U.S.-ASEAN Summit here in the United States. And it’s central to the President’s broader strategy of rebalancing to the Asia Pacific region, which he has pursued since he took office. When we took office, our belief was that the U.S. was underweighted in the Asia Pacific, and that was represented in the way in which we were engaging with the different regional institutions and the regional architecture.”

• **February 15, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama at Opening Session of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “I’m proud to be the first U.S. President to meet with leaders of all 10 ASEAN countries. This summit marks our seventh meeting. At your invitation, the United States joined the East Asia Summit, and together we’ve made it the region’s leading forum for addressing political and security challenges. I’ve made now seven visits to the ASEAN region -- more than any previous American President. At our last meeting in Kuala Lumpur, we forged a new Strategic Partnership. And our sustained engagement is delivering concrete results that benefit all of us -- momentum that we can build on here at this summit.”

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

Quote: “Q: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said the other day that he hoped that foreign ministerial meeting between Russia, China, and India could be held in April in Moscow. What is China’s expectation for the meeting? Do you have any details on the agenda?”

A: China attaches great importance to the trilateral cooperation between China, Russia and India. We are in close communication with the Russian and Indian sides on the date of the meeting. We hope that the trilateral cooperation can further enhance our relationship with each other and make due contribution to international and regional peace, stability and development.

• **February 17, 2016 – Commentary: The U.S. needs to respect the ASEAN principle of centrality** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “The U.S. has been diverting military resources to the Asia-Pacific and seeking controversial trade agreements to solidify its pivot to Asia. It has also been galvanizing countries in the region by offering them some assistance. Such moves, using the pretext of the freedom of navigation, have only fanned the flames of tension in Asia. More importantly, the U.S. has not shown due respect for ASEAN’s cherished principle of centrality, and its approach runs the risk of dividing the group and jeopardizing regional cooperation. Luckily, ASEAN has not allowed itself to be hijacked. The bloc has long learned that it is important to try and manage differences and seek common ground. Doing so is the only way to prosper and move forward.”

• **February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side attaches great importance and stays committed to developing relations with ASEAN [...] This year, which marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of China-ASEAN dialogue relations and the year of China-ASEAN educational exchanges, is significant for bilateral relations to build on the past and open up the future. The two sides will hold a commemorative summit on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of China-ASEAN dialogue relations this September. We look forward to working with ASEAN to hold a series of commemorative activities, deepen practical cooperation in various fields, and advance China-ASEAN relations to a greater height.”



• **February 16, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama at U.S.-ASEAN Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “First, we agreed to do more together to encourage the entrepreneurship and innovation that are at the heart of modern, competitive economies. [...] I affirmed our strong support for the ASEAN Community and pledged that the United States will continue to be a partner in ASEAN’s efforts to integrate economies and reduce barriers to trade and investment. [...] Second, with regard to security, the United States and ASEAN are reaffirming our strong commitment to a regional order where international rules and norms -- and the rights of all nations, large and small -- are upheld. We discussed the need for tangible steps in the South China Sea to lower tensions, including a halt to further reclamation, new construction and militarization of disputed areas. [...] Third, I made it clear that the United States will continue to stand with those across Southeast Asia who are working to advance rule of law, good governance, accountable institutions and the universal human rights of all people. [...] And finally, the United States and ASEAN are doing more to deal with transnational challenges together.”

• **February 25, 2016 – Telephonic Media Briefing With U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN Nina Hachigian** ([US State Department](#))

Quote : “An overall message of the Summit was that ASEAN can count on the United States continuing to be engaged with the region, no matter who the next president is. We are investing in ASEAN because it’s in our clear national interest to do so. The third reason that ASEAN is important to the United States is that it is geopolitically stabilizing. It’s stabilizing because ASEAN works to institutionalize cooperation, threatens no one, dedicates itself to non-violence and seeks strategic independence. Finally but in some ways, the most important reason why the United States is focused on ASEAN is this: ASEAN plays a vital role in advancing the rules-based order for the Asia Pacific.”

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

Quote: “We have noted the new defense white paper released by Australia today, in which the Australian side expressed its welcome to China’s continued economic growth and the opportunities this is bringing for Australia and other Asia-Pacific countries, highlighting the importance Australia attaches to developing cooperation with China in various fields. [...] we are seriously concerned about and dissatisfied with the white paper’s negative statement on issues concerning the South China Sea and the development of China’s military strength. China’s stance on relevant issues is very clear. The Chinese side has also publicly made that clear with the Australian side on bilateral occasions. It is hoped that the Australian side would take a correct and positive view of China’s development and strategic intention, take concrete steps and make joint efforts.”

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

Quote: “Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin said that Lancang-Mekong River cooperation has taken substantial steps forward and made important progress thanks to the concerted efforts over the past one year and more. [...] This year is the first year after the establishment of ASEAN community, the 25th anniversary of the China-ASEAN dialogue relations and the beginning year of Lancang-Mekong River cooperation. The first leaders’ meeting will lay down rules and set the tone for the development of Lancang-Mekong River cooperation. The Chinese side will work alongside all parties to ensure the full success and fruitful results of the leaders’ meeting and make positive contributions to Mekong sub-regional development and ASEAN community building. [...] The senior officials’ meeting had in-depth discussions and reached broad consensus on outcomes expected to be achieved at the first leaders’ meeting.”

• **February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The diplomatic authorities of China and Japan have been in contact. As agreed by the two sides, Assistant Foreign Minister of China Kong Xuanyou met with Deputy Foreign Minister of Japan Shinsuke Sugiyama in Tokyo today for the regular consultation between diplomatic authorities of China and Japan. The two sides exchanged views on bilateral relations as well as issues of common interest. The Chinese side attaches importance to the development of China-Japan relations. We hope that the two sides can act in accordance with the principled consensus reached between the two sides on improving and developing bilateral ties on the basis of adhering to the four political documents so as to move forward bilateral ties.”



• February 29, 2016 – Remarks at the World Affairs Council ([State Department](#))

Quote: “All of our country-specific policies reinforce our overall regional policy, which is founded on two distinct principles: first, that our own national security is enhanced by a stable, secure Central Asia – an insecure and unstable Central Asia is bad for US security – and, second, that regional stability is best achieved through sovereign, independent Central Asian states with secure borders, linked economies and populations, and accountable governments. Based on those principles, we are promoting three main objectives: security and stability; economic prosperity through more trade and investment and greater connectivity; and good governance, human rights, and internal reform.”

• February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat, as a regular meeting of ASEAN, is the first high-level internal gathering after the establishment of ASEAN community at the end of last year. We are glad to see that the meeting demonstrated the political willingness of all ASEAN countries to advance ASEAN community building, support ASEAN centrality in regional cooperation and deepen cooperation with dialogue partners. The Chinese side always regards ASEAN as the priority of its neighborhood diplomacy and will continue to support ASEAN community building and ASEAN centrality in regional cooperation. It is believed that under Laos' chairmanship and with the concerted efforts of all ASEAN parties, new progress will be made in ASEAN community building.”



Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: U.S. and China Negotiate the Response to North Korea’s Nuclear Test; U.S. and South Korea Discuss Possibility of Deploying THAAD on the Korean Peninsula to which China Objects

United States	China
<p>• February 2, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefing) Quote: “China is in a unique position. They have unique influence over the North Korean regime. And we certainly are pleased to be able to work cooperatively and effectively with the Chinese to counter this threat. And that work will continue.”</p> <p>• February 2, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefing) Quote: “We have been working with the international community, both at the U.N. and with our allies and partners in the region, to confront North Korea for their destabilizing activities. Just a few weeks ago they conducted a nuclear test that violated sort of their basic international obligations. And carrying out a satellite launch like the one that has been discussed publicly would just be another destabilizing provocation on the part of the North Koreans. And that’s not just the view of the United States. I feel confident in telling you that is a view that is shared by our partners at the United Nations Security Council and by our allies and partners in the region that had been seeking to stabilize and denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.”</p> <p>• February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities (State Department) Quote: “Q: China has proposed that maybe we can adopt the practice as we did in the Iran nuclear deal. So what is your comment on that?”</p> <p>A : Comparing North Korea and Iran is very difficult. I mean, the Iran deal prevented Iran from ever getting those capabilities. In the North, obviously, the pursuit of those capabilities is farther – is far more advanced, number one. Number two, there’s already a process that has been established to try to get to a better outcome here with respect to the North and their pursuit of nuclear capabilities and that is the Six-Party process. And we have long said that we are willing – able and willing – to resume the Six-Party process. But the onus is on the North to prove that they are willing and able to do so, and they have not yet shown any inclination.”</p>	<p>• February 3, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The DPRK has the right to make peaceful use of the space, but this right is subject to restrictions of the Security Council resolutions. Under the current situation, it is hoped that the DPRK would exercise restraint, act with discretion and refrain from any actions that might escalate the tension on the Korean Peninsula [...] China is willing to stay in communication and coordination with all relevant parties, and continue to play a constructive role for peace and stability of the Peninsula and the region.”</p> <p>• February 3, 2016 – Commentary: Pyongyang’s planned satellite launch feared to complicate peninsula situation (Xinhua) Quote: “It is crystal clear that the West’s speculations and countermeasures result from the lack of mutual trust with the DPRK wrought from a Cold War mentality [...] But Pyongyang’s move will also make those endorsing the political settlement of the current deadlock stuck in the quagmire of hawkish and bellicose accusations, inducing more suspicions and challenge to the effectiveness of the resumption of the long-suspended six-party talks. What is worse, the DPRK’s repeated flagrant disregard for the international consensus exemplified by the UN resolutions will only wear and tear the good faith and patience of the international community.”</p> <p>• February 4, 2016 – Beijing won’t allow war on Peninsula (People’s Daily) Quote: “Beijing was deeply concerned over Pyongyang’s announced plan to launch a satellite later this month, only weeks after it tested a nuclear bomb in defiance of international sanctions [...] The US does not feel threatened since it is difficult for North Korea to recover any missiles it launches, so it cannot precisely target intercontinental ballistic missiles at the US, even if it can manufacture and launch them.”</p> <p>• February 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “A principle of China is that we never approve unilateral sanctions in international affairs. This position will not change no matter how the situation varies. As for issues relating to the fourth nuclear test by the DPRK, you may have already known that members of the UN Security Council are discussing them. We sincerely hope that all parties could meet each other halfway rather than further complicate the issue.”</p>



• **February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The Secretary and Foreign Minister Wang Yi [...] agreed in lengthy meetings that the North needed to be held to account for continued provocations and violations of international obligations represented in a whole series of UN Security Council resolutions [...] they both agree that more action needs to be taken. What we would like to see – and I can’t speak for the Chinese, but I can tell you that there was general agreement that we’d all like to see a strong international consensus here that – to hold the North to account for these continued destabilizing activities and specifically with respect to this test in early January [...] Obviously, sanctions are one such measure, and we are pursuing in the UN the possible development of additional, tougher sanctions [...] you also have to have good, strong enforcement of those measures [...] We believe that as a strong leader in the Asia Pacific region and as a nation that borders the North, China has a unique role to play, has unique leadership that it can exert and influence that it can bring to bear [...] we’d like to see them exert that leadership and to bring to bear that influence on the North to try to alter the behavior of this very unpredictable young man [...] So we look forward to continuing the conversation with China on this, and – bilaterally, but also multilaterally through the UN. And again, the United States very much favors a strong international consensus represented through the UN to hold the North to account.”

• **February 5, 2016 – Readout of the President's Call with President Xi Jinping of China** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “The President today spoke by phone with President Xi Jinping of China to coordinate efforts in responding to North Korea’s January 6 nuclear test. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the complete and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Both leaders also conveyed that they will not accept North Korea as a nuclear weapon state. They agreed that North Korea’s planned ballistic missile test would contravene multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions and represent another provocative and destabilizing action.”

• **February 6, 2016 – D.P.R.K. Missile Launch** ([US State Department](#))

Quote: “This is the second time in just over a month that the D.P.R.K. has chosen to conduct a major provocation, threatening not only the security of the Korean peninsula, but that of the region and the United States as well. We reaffirm our ironclad commitment to the defense of our allies, including the Republic of Korea and Japan. We will continue to work with our partners and members of the UN Security Council on significant measures to hold the D.P.R.K. to account.”

• **February 6, 2016 – Wang Yi Holds Telephone Talks with Foreign Minister Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov of Russia** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “With regard to the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, both sides [Russia and China] held that under the current situation, all parties should not take new actions that will once again intensify the tension and should pull the issue back on the track of negotiation through the UN Security Council resolutions and efforts of all sides.”

• **February 6, 2016 – Wang Yi Talks about Situation of Korean Peninsula** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Wang Yi said the current situation of the Korean Peninsula has gradually slipped into a negative cycle, and this trend by no means meets the interests of any party. Since the DPRK conducted nuclear test despite international objections. Our goal is to pull all parties back to the negotiating table, as negotiations are the sole right way to solve the issue. The key to the development of the situation in the future still depends on what kind of political decisions will be made by the US and the DPRK.”

• **February 7, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on DPRK's Launch of Satellite** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “We believe that the DPRK has the right to make peaceful use of the space, but this right is subject to restrictions of the Security Council resolutions. The Chinese side regrets that the DPRK insisted on using ballistic missile technology to carry out the launch in spite of the pervasive opposition of the international community. The Chinese side hopes that relevant parties could react with calm and caution, refrain from taking actions that may further escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula, and jointly uphold regional peace and stability. The Chinese side always maintains that dialogue and consultation is the only way to ensure lasting peace and stability in the region. All parties should resume contacts and talks as soon as possible and avoid further worsening the situation on the Peninsula.”

• **February 7, 2016 – Commentary: Vicious circle on Korean Peninsula benefits none** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “What should be borne in mind is that negotiations are the only viable solution to the predicament on the Korean Peninsula, as China has repeatedly pointed out [...] As the holder of the presidency of the six-party talks, China has been making great efforts to bring the related parties back to the negotiating table, hoping to help find a way out through dialogue and political consultation. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said China will continue to exercise strategic composure and play a constructive role in helping seek a solution to the peninsular conundrum.”



• **February 6, 2016 – Statement by National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice on the North Korean Missile Launch** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “We condemn today’s launch and North Korea’s determination to prioritize its missile and nuclear weapons programs over the well-being of its people, whose struggles only intensify with North Korea’s diversion of scarce resources to such destabilizing activities. The United States is fully committed to the security of our allies in the region, and we will take all necessary steps to defend ourselves and our allies and respond to North Korean provocations. We call upon the international community to stand together and demonstrate to North Korea that its reckless actions must have serious consequences.”

• **February 7, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Samantha Power, Ambassador Motohide Yoshikawa and Ambassador Oh Joon, Following Security Council Consultations on North Korea** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “We have been engaging in discussions with Security Council members on the appropriate response to the nuclear test that North Korea carried out now more than a month ago [...] President Obama spoke with President Xi on Friday and in that call they agreed on the importance of a strong and united international response to North Korea’s illegal actions – including through an impactful UN Security Council resolution [...] Because of the DPRK’s decisions and actions, we will ensure that the Security Council imposes serious consequences. DPRK’s latest transgressions require our response to be even firmer.”

• **February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([US State Department](#))

Quote: “Well, we talked about this. China has a unique influence inside North Korea because of the border they share and because of the trade which exists between them. And China is a regional power, a regional leader, and we’ve said before that we look to China to use that leadership and to use that influence to leverage as best they can bilaterally on the North to meet its international obligations but also to contribute in meaningful, productive ways to the international mechanisms that we’re pursuing, the international measures through the UN to hold the North to account.”

• **February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “As it relates to discussions about the THAAD -- for those following along at home, that’s the Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense System -- this is essentially an anti-missile system. And as a result of this launch, the United States has begun formal consultations with our allies in South Korea about moving equipment and technology that could support a THAAD system into South Korea to protect our allies there.”

• **February 7, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Remarks on ROK and US’s Decision to Officially Start Talks on Deploying THAAD System in ROK** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side is deeply concerned about it. China holds a consistent and clear position on anti-missile issues. No country shall undermine other countries’ security interests while pursuing its own. Moving ahead with the deployment of anti-missile systems in the region will further raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula. It will not help maintain regional peace and stability, nor will it lead to a proper settlement of the current situation. We urge relevant parties to deal with this issue with care and caution.”

• **February 7, 2016 – Spotlight: DPRK launches satellite amid fears of escalating tensions on Korean Peninsula** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: Regardless of its true nature, the launch marks a negative development of the situation on the Korean Peninsula as it has sparked extensive world anxiety and concern. China on Friday said it opposes unilateral sanctions against the DPRK, for efforts to avoid complicating the situation. “China is against any unilateral sanction in international affairs,” Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said at a press briefing in response to possible U.S. sanctions against the DPRK. ”

• **February 12, 2016 – Wang Yi Meets with Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se of ROK** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China and the ROK generally have the same goal regarding the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, namely, sticking to push for denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and realizing the everlasting peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. China supports the UN Security Council in adopting a new resolution as soon as possible and taking further measures to effectively refrain the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) from further developing plans of nuclear missiles. But sanctions themselves are not the end, in the final analysis, the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula should be pulled back onto the track of settlement through negotiations. Yun Byung-se expressed that the ROK-China relations are at the best of times in history, and President Park Geun-hye and the ROK government cherish the strategic partnership with China more than any preceding government did.”



• **February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We certainly have welcomed the statements that we’ve seen from President Xi and other senior Chinese officials about how they find North Korea’s provocative actions just as intolerable as we do. And we’re going to continue to work closely with the Chinese and our other allies in Asia to respond. What’s notable about the Chinese is they probably have closer relations with the North Koreans than anybody else. That means that they have unique influence with the North Koreans. And we certainly will work with them as they make decisions about how to use that influence to try to nudge the North Koreans in a direction that’s less destabilizing and less provocative.”

• **February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “As it relates to the THAAD deployment, we’ve made quite clear that the deployment of that equipment and that technology is geared solely at the risk that is posed by North Korea. South Korea is a treaty ally of the United States, and we take those obligations quite seriously. We’re committed to the security of South Korea, and that is exactly what this technology is intended to address, which is the threat that emanates from North Korea.”

• **February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The North Korean economy is quite constrained and it’s not as if they are engaged in a significant number of financial transactions in the international system. If there were, they would be more vulnerable to the kinds of sanctions that actually did put a lot of pressure on Iran, for example. So that’s why we’re going to continue to explore the kinds of steps that the United States can take in close coordination with the international community. That kind of coordination is going to be critical to our success, to ensuring that these financial sanctions, if they’re imposed, have the kind of impact that we intend.”

• **February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “This is a threat that our South Korean allies are justifiably concerned about, and the United States of America is going to stand shoulder to shoulder with our allies in the Republic of Korea to protect them from this threat. And that’s why we have begun formal consultations with them about locating additional equipment that could be used in protecting that country from the ballistic missiles that are being developed by the North Koreans.”

• **February 13, 2016 – Wang Yi Gives Exclusive Interview to Reuters on Syrian Issue and Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China proposes that the UN Security Council adopt a new resolution and take further steps to make the DPRK pay the necessary price and show there are consequences for its behavior. Therefore, on the one hand, we support the UN Security Council to adopt a new sanction resolution while on the other hand we should endeavor to resume the Six-Party Talks as soon as possible. That is exactly a just and objective stance. We show grave concerns about the possible deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system by the US in the ROK.”

• **February 13, 2016 – Commentary: U.S. should not use Korean Peninsula predicament to infringe upon other nations’ interests** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “The THAAD deployment [...] will undermine the strategic security interests of China and other neighboring countries [...] jeopardize the multilateral efforts to promote Korean Peninsula reconciliation and denuclearization, and thus undermine peace and stability in the region. [...] the plan will not only complicate the already fragile situation in the region, but also escalate tensions in Northeast Asia [...] The nuclear crisis there is actually an offspring of the deep-rooted distrust and hostility between Washington and Pyongyang. [...] the United States has used various pressure tactics, including war games and economic sanctions, against Pyongyang, and dismissed some rare goodwill gestures by the DPRK. Now, as Washington’s antagonistic approach has pushed the DPRK further down the path of nuclearization, the United States, instead of making tangible moves to defuse the crisis, is using the escalating tension as a cover to ramp up its already massive military buildup in the Asia-Pacific.”

• **February 13, 2016 – Wang Yi Meets with Secretary of State John Kerry of US** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Our common goal is still to bring the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue back to the right track of dialogues and negotiations, which fully serves the interests of every side including China and the US. John Kerry agreed with that. Wang Yi also expressed China’s opposition to the US’s possible deployment of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) missile defense system in the Republic of Korea (ROK), requesting that the US side should act prudently, and should not take advantage of current situation to jeopardize China’s security interests or increase new complexities to the peace and stability of the region.”



• **February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “There has been the deployment of two ballistic missile warning radars to Japan that could be, again, used to counter North Korea’s ballistic missile program. And what made me think of this is the second thing here, which is that we have seen an increased deployment of U.S. Navy Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense ships to the Pacific region, again, mindful of the risk that’s emanating from North Korea.”

• **February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “I’m not aware of any specific plan at this point to carry out some sort of military operation or military deployment to exert greater pressure on the Chinese. Right now, we’re engaged in diplomatic discussions with them and with others about an appropriate response.”

• **February 9, 2016 – Readout of the President’s Call with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “The President spoke by phone with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan last night to discuss North Korea’s recent launch using ballistic missile technology. The two leaders condemned the launch, and they agreed that it represents yet another destabilizing and provocative action by North Korea in flagrant violation of numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions. The President assured Prime Minister Abe that the United States’ commitment to the security of Japan is ironclad and that we will take any steps necessary to defend our allies. The two leaders underscored the importance of a strong and united international response to North Korea’s provocations, including through a robust UN Security Council Resolution.”

• **February 9, 2016 – Readout of the President’s Call with President Park Geun-Hye of the Republic of Korea** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: “The President spoke by phone with President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea last night to discuss North Korea’s recent launch using ballistic missile technology. The two leaders condemned the launch, and they agreed that it represents yet another destabilizing and provocative action by North Korea in flagrant violation of numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions. The President assured President Park that the United States stands in solidarity with the ROK and will take the necessary steps to fulfill our ironclad commitment to defend the ROK and our other allies in the region.”

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

Quote: “We believe that both the nuclear test and the satellite launch by the DPRK violate relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council. China has a clear stance on that and has publicly voiced its opposition from the very beginning. China proposes that the UN Security Council adopt a new resolution and take further steps to make the DPRK pay the necessary price and bear the consequences for its behavior. Meanwhile, we believe that the UN Security Council’s new and strong actions should have a definite direction with the objective of effectively curbing the DPRK’s efforts to advance its nuclear and missile program. On the other hand, sanctions are not the end. Our purpose is to make sure that the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula would be brought back to the channel of a negotiation-based resolution. It’s the only correct approach and serves the common interests of relevant parties.”

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

Quote: “The coverage of the THAAD missile defense system [...] goes far beyond the defense need of the Korean Peninsula and will reach deep into the Asian hinterland. It will damage directly China’s strategic security interests and also harm security interests of other countries in the region. China’s stance is clear enough that we firmly oppose any countries’ attempt to infringe China’s strategic security interests with the excuse of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. [...] China will remain committed to advancing denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, upholding peace and stability on the Peninsula, and resolving relevant issues through dialogues and consultations. Meanwhile, we will not allow our legitimate national security interests to be harmed.”

• **February 15, 2016 – Possible US THAAD deployment in ROK confuses and angers Chinese people** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China will never control other countries, or be controlled by them. Take the DPRK nuclear issue, on the one hand, the U.S. has requested China’s cooperation, on the other hand, it planned to deploy the THAAD system with its allies, which confuses and angers the Chinese people [...] firstly, nuclear weapons must not exist on the Korean Peninsula under any circumstances; secondly, military action is not an option; and lastly China’s national security must not be undermined [...] China is fulfilling its responsibility, while the U.S. should do the same [...] the key to solving the issue lies with the U.S. “



• **February 18, 2016 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: "If North Korea is prepared to put an end to those kinds of provocative acts, come into compliance with international obligations, and make clear that they are committed to the goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, that would give North Korea the opportunity to begin to reengage with the international community. And if that's something that they desire, they know precisely the path that they can take. It would give them an opportunity not just to improve their relationship with United States, it would give them an opportunity to reengage in the world and in the international community. It certainly would improve their economy. It would improve their relationship with South Korea. It would improve their relationship with other countries in the region like Russia and China and even Japan."

• **February 18, 2016 – Statement by the Press Secretary on H.R. 757, H.R. 907, H.R. 3033** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: "On Thursday, February 18, 2016, the President signed into law: H.R. 757, the "North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act," which strengthens and expands statutory sanctions on North Korea"

• **February 22, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: "There was interest expressed by the North Koreans in discussing a peace treaty. We considered their proposal, but also made clear that denuclearization had to be part of any discussion. And the truth is the North Koreans rejected that response. [...] President Xi made clear that the Chinese government would not tolerate a nuclearized Korean Peninsula; and that de-nuclearization is a goal shared not just by the United States and our allies, but by the players throughout the region. But North Korea's insistence on preserving their nuclear stockpile and attempting to develop it further is what has led to their extreme isolation."

• **February 15, 2016 – News Analysis: S.Korea divided over U.S. THAAD deployment for diplomacy, plausibility** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: "Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi spoke out against possible THAAD deployment in South Korea at a meeting with his U.S. counterpart John Kerry on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference on Friday. He said it would complicate the regional stability situation. "The deployment of the THAAD system by the United States...goes far beyond the defense needs of the Korean Peninsula and the coverage would mean it will reach deep into the Asian continent," Wang said on the sidelines of the Munich meeting."

• **February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "As Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, the approach of advancing denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula in parallel with transition from armistice to peace is to replace the armistice mechanism on the Korean Peninsula with a peace regime and deliver long-term stability to Northeast Asia. The purpose is to address all parties' major concerns in a balanced manner, lay down the objectives of dialogues and negotiations, and find a breakthrough to resume talks as soon as possible. We believe that this approach is conducive to fundamentally addressing the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. China will remain in close communication with all relevant parties of the Six-Party Talks on that."

• **February 17, 2016 – Commentary: U.S. shouldn't be befuddled on Korean Peninsula issue** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "The U.S. kept saying it will address the nuclear issue, but tensions were escalated due to a lack of contact and trusts between the U.S. and North Korea. The stance that the U.S. holds on the peninsular issue is clearly self-contradictory. Therefore it begs the question: is the superpower incapable of or insincere in its attempts to solve the nuclear issue? Furthermore, does the U.S. really want to resolve the nuclear issue or expect it to turn into a gateway to exert its influence in the Asia-Pacific region and the whole world? [...] It is known to all that the THAAD system covers a range that is far beyond the needs of defense of the Korean peninsula. The possible THAAD system in South Korea will directly threaten China's strategic and security interests and lead to a security imbalance in northeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region, which could spark strategic rebalancing across a wider range."



• **February 25, 2015 – Remarks at the Security Council Stakeout Following Consultations on the DPRK; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “In response to the DPRK’s recent nuclear test and subsequent proscribed ballistic missile launch, the United States tabled a draft UN Security Council resolution that, if adopted, would break new ground and represent the strongest set of sanctions imposed by the Security Council in more than two decades [...] all cargo going in and out of the DPRK would be subjected to mandatory inspection [...] all small arms and other conventional weapons would be prohibited from being sold to the DPRK [...] impose financial sanctions targeting DPRK banks and assets, and ban all dual-use nuclear and missile-related items [...] the Security Council would impose sectoral sanctions on the DPRK – limiting, and in some instances banning outright, exports from the DPRK of coal, iron, gold, titanium, and rare earth minerals, and banning the supply to the DPRK of aviation fuel, including – notably – rocket fuel [...] These sanctions – if adopted – would send an unambiguous and unyielding message to the DPRK regime: the world will not accept your proliferation; there will be consequences for your actions, and we will work relentlessly and collectively to stop your nuclear.”

• **February 25, 2015 – Remarks at the Security Council Stakeout Following Consultations on the DPRK; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Q: China has raised the question all the time that these kind of sanctions might end up with a lot of suffering for the people in North Korea. What are you going to do to just avoid that kind of back draw?”

A: Our concern is reflected in the provisions in the text that make clear in a number of places exceptions for livelihood [...] what we’ve seen is North Korea making arguments about how it’s importing things for the sake of the people and then diverting funds, and technology, and everything toward its nuclear and ballistic missile program. So my impression from the session we just came from is that Council members seem broadly of the view that that balance had been struck, and I should say the text of the resolution itself speaks of the grave hardship that the people of North Korea are being subjected to. So even the resolution itself speaks to, again, the devastation that North Koreans live with – ordinary North Koreans live with every day.

• **February 18, 2016 – Commentary: Strategic patience, dialogue needed to ease tensions on Korean Peninsula plausibility** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “The current vicious circle on the Korean Peninsula issue is disheartening as it pushes the prospect of peacefully solving the Korean Peninsula problem far away [...] All parties concerned should be conscious of the extreme sensitivity of the current situation on the troubled peninsula, which can be pushed into an uncontrollable quagmire by any slight strategic miscalculation, let alone the deterrence strategy bigotedly pursued by some parties.”

• **February 19, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: US President Barack Obama has signed into law new sanctions on the DPRK on February 18, which will freeze the assets of anyone related to the DPRK’s nuclear programme or involved in human rights abuses. What is your comment?”

A: China believes that no hotspot issue can be fundamentally resolved merely through pressure or sanction. No action that undermines a third party’s legitimate interests will help resolve the issue. It would only complicate the situation. We urge relevant parties to act prudently and not to make troubles.”

• **February 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China and the US are in close communication and coordination on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue [...] We stay committed to realizing denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, upholding peace and stability there and peacefully resolving the issue through dialogues and negotiations. In response to the nuclear test and satellite launch by the DPRK, we support the UN Security Council in passing new and effective resolutions on the DPRK, and call on all parties to refrain from actions that may heighten tensions on the Korean Peninsula [...] We are seriously concerned about the possible deployment of the THAAD system by the US in the ROK, and have made clear China’s solemn position with the relevant parties. We maintain that countries must not pursue their own security at the expense of others’ security interests. We are firmly opposed to any country’s attempt to hurt China’s strategic security interests by making use of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.”



• **February 26, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([US State Department](#))

Quote: Q: “But also Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi wants to have the United States and North Korea sign a peace treaty. What is the U.S. position on it?”

A: We continue to believe – and we spoke about this earlier this week – where the focus needs to be is the – is to – is, rather, to get the DPRK to engage on denuclearization.”

• **February 26, 2015 – Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session); Alternate Representative to the UN for Special Political Affairs Ambassador David Pressman** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “North Korea’s nuclear tests and missile launches are often described as quote “provocations.” This euphemism doesn’t do justice to what the North Korean regime is doing. They are not merely “provoking.” They are not merely acting in defiance of the demands of the Security Council, and indeed the world. No, North Korea, with each test, with each launch, is steadily and practically advancing its operational capacity to develop and deploy nuclear weapons. ”

• **February 26, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “Obviously, this resolution has been the topic of extensive diplomatic conversations between the United States and China. And Ambassador Power up at the U.N. intends to submit for consideration a draft sanctions resolution that would be a response to North Korea’s flagrant violations of their international obligations. And I do think it is indicative of how productive diplomacy can be. It’s not easy, but it certainly is an indication that the United States and China, when our interests are aligned, can cooperate quite effectively to advance the interests of citizens in both our countries. I would point out that these kinds of diplomatic discussions have occurred at a variety of levels.”

• **February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China’s position on the deployment of the THAAD system is clear and consistent. We have been stressing that the Chinese side understands the ROK’s reasonable security concerns, but no country can pursue its own security interests at the expense of others’. We believe that the deployment of the THAAD system will have a direct impact on China’s national security interests. Therefore, we oppose that.”

• **February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: It is reported that Chinese companies in the border city of Dandong will suspend coal trade with the DPRK. Can you confirm that? Is that a countermeasure of China in response to the DPRK’s nuclear test?”

A: I am not aware of the specifics. The UN Security Council is deliberating on the new resolution against the DPRK. As a responsible country, China always acts in strict accordance with relevant Security Council resolutions and fulfills its due international obligations.”

• **February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Important progress has been made in UN Security Council’s consultation on the new resolution against the DPRK [...] At the same time, China would like to emphasize that the Security Council resolution cannot provide a fundamental solution to the Korean nuclear issue. To really do that, we need to return to the track of dialogue and negotiation. [...] China, as the chair of the Six-Party Talks, has been exploring ways to resume the Six-Party Talks in an objective and impartial manner. [...] the Chinese side has proposed to pursue in parallel tracks the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the replacement of the Korean armistice with a peace agreement. China sees the parallel-track approach as a reasonable one. It highlights the overriding goal of denuclearizing the Peninsula, at the same time it seeks to address the major concerns of the various parties.”



• **February 29, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “U.S. and Chinese officials have been for several weeks now engaged in intensive diplomacy to put together a set of sanctions against North Korea that would require the support of the international community through the U.N. Security Council [...] It would subject all cargo going in and out of the DPRK to mandatory inspection. [...] For the first time, it would impose broad, sectoral economic sanctions against the North Koreans. And it would include, in some instances, even banning outright exports from North Korea of things like coal, iron, gold, titanium and other rare-earth minerals.”

• **February 29, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “President Obama has chosen to use our influence around the world, our standing has been enhanced and our interests have been advanced based on that strategy. And there are a variety of ways to measure this [...] even just as we saw at the end of last week, working effectively with the Chinese and other members of the United Nations Security Council to put forward the most robust sanctions that have ever been put in place against North Korea in response to some of their destabilizing activities there. So I think that is an indication that President Obama has succeeded in enhancing our standing in the world. It has made America safer. And there’s no denying that some of the rhetoric that we see from the other side does have the potential of rolling back some of that progress. And the President certainly doesn’t want to see that.”

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

Quote: “Since the DPRK’s latest nuclear test and satellite launch, the Chinese side has been in close communication with the US and other relevant parties on that. Foreign Minister Wang Yi who is on a visit to the US had thorough discussions with US Secretary of State John Kerry in Washington yesterday. Important progress has been made in the UN Security Council’s consultation on the new resolution against the DPRK, and we are looking forward to an agreement in the near future. [...] The Chinese side has proposed to pursue in parallel tracks the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the replacement of the Korean armistice with a peace agreement. We understand that there are different views on this proposal, and China is open to new ideas. China sees the parallel-track approach as an important, reasonable and constructive one [...] The Chinese side would like to have further discussions with all parties about specific steps to carry forward the approach.”

• **February 25, 2016 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “We are deeply concerned about the possible deployment of the THAAD missile defense system by the US in the Republic of Korea. The X band radar equipped with the THAAD system has a long detection range, which far exceeds the peninsula and reaches as far as inner Asia. This directly endangers China’s strategic security interests and compromises global strategic stability.”

• **February 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The UN Security Council is consulting on the new resolution against the DPRK. The Chinese side believes that the new resolution should focus on curbing the progress of the DPRK’s nuclear and missile program. Relevant sanctions should be clearly targeted and must not affect the ordinary people’s life in the DPRK. [...] At the same time, we believe that sanctions are not an end in themselves. What is most pressing is to bring the Korean nuclear issue back to the track of dialogue and negotiation. The Chinese side has proposed to pursue in parallel tracks the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the replacement of the Korean armistice with a peace agreement. The approach will help denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, address various parties’ reasonable concerns and realize enduring peace and stability on the Peninsula. We would like to have further discussions with all parties about the approach.”



• **February 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The Chinese side supports the UN Security Council in making necessary response to the DPRK's nuclear test and satellite launch, and stays committed to relevant resolutions of the Security Council. We also call on all parties to work as one and enhance cooperation in a bid to restart the Six-Party Talks at an early date and bring the issue concerning the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula back to the track of dialogue and negotiation. [...] As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China has been earnestly implementing resolutions of the UN Security Council and fulfilling due international obligations. The Chinese side believes that the new resolution will effectively limit the progress of the DPRK's nuclear and missile program. But negotiation remains the fundamental approach to resolve the Korean nuclear issue."

• **February 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The Chinese side focuses on pursuing denuclearization of the Peninsula, upholding the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, safeguarding peace and stability of Northeast Asia and resolving relevant issues through dialogues and negotiations when participating in discussions on the new Security Council resolution against the DPRK. In view of the evolving situation, we support the new resolution in effectively limiting the progress of the DPRK's nuclear and missile program. At the same time, the ordinary people's life in the DPRK must not be affected."

• **February 26, 2016 – A Changing China and Its Diplomacy: Speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi At Center for Strategic and International Studies** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "We're against the development of nuclear weapons by the DPRK. There should not be nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula. Should there be nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula, it would not serve the interests of any party, nor could the DPRK maintain its own security. Therefore, the Korean Peninsula must be denuclearized. This is China's firm goal. How to achieve denuclearization? Ultimately, it can only be resolved through negotiation. In response, we have to adopt a new UN resolution. So when the US and the ROK discuss the deployment of THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense), China's legitimate security concerns must be taken into consideration, and a credible and convincing explanation must be provided to China."



• **February 26, 2016 – Harsher Sanctions on NK are inevitable** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "We believe the sanctions will impose unprecedented pain on the country. We, as a Chinese media, think North Korea deserves the punishment. It shouldn't complain to China about siding with the US on this case, and it needs more introspection [...]"

We support that China should stick to its own stance on the sanctions, and cushion Washington's harsh sanctions to some extent [...]. China also opposes the goal advocated by Washington, Seoul and Tokyo to crush the North Korean economy, or even to collapse the regime. China insists the sanctions should focus on striking North Korea's ability to continue developing nuclear weapons."

• **February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Special Representative Wu Dawei of the Chinese government on the Korean Peninsula affairs traveled to the ROK for a consultation on February 28. [...] The two sides exchanged views on the Korean Peninsula situation and issues of common interest. The two sides agreed to support the UN Security Council in adopting a new resolution concerning the DPRK's nuclear test and satellite launch, jointly maintain peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula, and stay committed to developing China-ROK strategic cooperative partnership. Special Representative Wu Dawei expressed China's solemn position on and stressed China's opposition to the US' possible deployment of THAAD in the ROK. It is hoped that the ROK can take seriously China's concerns and properly deal with the relevant issue."

• **February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: You just said that China has the right to deploy missiles and radar systems in the South China Sea. Then why do you use another set of standards when it comes to the ROK's deployment of THAAD on its own territory?"

A: China's deployment of necessary and reasonable national defense facilities on its territory, which is to safeguard its sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests, does not affect the interests of other countries. Whereas the US' deployment of THAAD in the ROK far exceeds the normal defense needs and will severely jeopardize China's national security interests."



Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S. Seeks End to Syrian Civil War to Focus on ISIL, Incinuates Russian War Crimes in Syria; China Lends Support to Syrian Peace Talks, Calls Africa the Foundation of its Foreign Policy

United States	China
<p>• February 2, 2016 – Statement by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL (US State Department) Quote: “We will intensify and accelerate the campaign against ISIL/Da’esh in Iraq and Syria, act in concert to curb its global ambitions, and take every measure to ensure the protection of our citizens. We reaffirm our commitment to deliver a lasting defeat to this barbaric organization. We are determined to keep ISIL/Da’esh cut off from the international financial system; We recognize that a lasting investment in inclusive governance and a sound political process is necessary to lay the foundation for sustained success against ISIL/Da’esh. We call on countries involved in military action in Syria to focus their efforts against ISIL/Da’esh.”</p> <p>• February 2, 2016 – Remarks at the Ministerial Meeting of the Small Group of the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL (US State Department) Quote: “And one of the difficulties in this challenge is that if you’re a terrorist you only have to get it right once. If you’re a country trying to protect your people you have to get it right every day, all day, all year [...] Daesh is, in the sense of metastasizing – and I’m not going to call it like a cancer; it’s more like a weed, where you can cut off the top of the weed or you can pull part of it out but if you leave the tentacles there it can continue to grow. I have no doubt we are going to degrade and destroy Daesh [...] because everything that we stand for in terms of decency and civilization and culture and obeying the rules of law and order and rule of law itself is worth fighting for.”</p> <p>• February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities (State Department) Quote: “What we want to see for our part – the United States – I’m speaking now as – for the State Department – is we want to see the relationship with Afghanistan become more normalized [...] our relationship with Afghanistan has largely been on the security vector, understandably so, but it’s now time to migrate that relationship to a more normal footing and that is reflective of the progress that Afghanistan has made. Nobody says it’s not still a dangerous place. We know it is [...] But we believe that there is a potential for a peaceful, prosperous future here for Afghanistan.”</p>	<p>• February 1, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Thanks to the joint efforts of the international community for the political settlement of the Syrian issue, the two sides are able to come back to the negotiation table two years after the Geneva II Conference on Syria in January 2014. The Chinese side hereby expresses its welcome [...] In the meantime, conflicting parties in Syria should create conditions for the success of peace talks by adopting confidence building measures, such as to stop besieging civilian areas and open up humanitarian access. All relevant parties of the international community, especially major countries in the region, should help advance peace talks. The Chinese side will continue to promote peace talks and work with all parties for the political settlement of the Syrian issue.”</p> <p>• February 2, 2016 – Wang Yi: China Will Advance Connection in Two Fields, Explore Expansion in Two Sectors and Deepen Cooperation in Two Aspects with Mauritius (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China views Mauritius as a natural extension along the Maritime Silk Road and will explore effective ways with Mauritius for jointly building the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road based on an open attitude and the principle of voluntariness.”</p> <p>• February 2, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “As a friendly neighboring country of Afghanistan, China sincerely hopes that Afghan will realize peace, stability and development at an early date and that the Afghan reconciliation process will keep moving forward steadily. Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the US have decided through consultation that the third meeting of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group will be held on February 6 in Islamabad [...] China hopes that the Quadrilateral Coordination Group will continue its efforts based on previous discussions in order to reach a roadmap acceptable to all parties concerned at an early date and drive forward the reconciliation process. China is willing to play its role for that end.”</p>



• **February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We want Russia to use its influence on the Assad regime to the right end, which is to stop barrel bombing people, to stop killing opposition members, to stop the indiscriminate killing of civilians, and to allow for humanitarian access to get to the people in need. We want Iran to use its influence in Syria towards those same ends. And there – and we recognize that there are other states, members of the ISSG, which have influence over some of the opposition in Syria, and we want them to use that influence to keep the opposition willing. And we’re glad – we were encouraged by them coming to Geneva. We want to see other parties use their influence to continue to encourage positive opposition participation in this process.”

• **February 4, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “The United States has long been mindful of the strategy that ISIL has used to try to capitalize in other areas where there’s political chaos to establish a foothold, and so we’ve been mindful of this risk for more than a year and a half now. We saw that that’s what they were able to successfully do in Syria. And again, that’s why we continue to go back to the failed leadership of Bashar al-Assad as the root cause of this chaos and ISIL’s growth. And we saw they capitalized on some weakness and instability inside of Iraq to spread there. So we’ve been mindful of the fact that they might be looking to spread other places, like Libya and even like Afghanistan.”

• **February 4, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “Those who have enabled the Assad regime, including Russia, also bear some responsibility. And I think we’ve been pretty blunt about expressing that point of view. And if the Turks doubt that, I guess they should go ask the Russians, because I think the Russians have not always responded favorably to the notion that they have enabled this kind of violence. But, the fact is, they have. And that’s why we have run into a situation where there’s a fundamental contradiction in Russian strategy here.”

• **February 8, 2016 – Remarks by Assistant Secretary for Terrorist Financing Daniel Glaser at Chatham House** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “Let me close by saying the challenge of countering ISIL’s finances is not an impossible task. ISIL, like any terrorist organization, needs money to survive and as I’ve highlighted for you, diverse efforts are underway to deprive ISIL of its resources and deny it access to the international financial system.”

• **February 3, 2016 – President Filipe Nyusi of Mozambique Meets with Wang Yi** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Filipe Nyusi expressed that Mozambique-China friendship has a solid foundation. China will boost agricultural cooperation with Mozambique to help the country improve its food self-supply capacity and forge a food security system; deepen peace and security cooperation with Mozambique to improve its ability in safeguarding national security, social stability and sovereign independence [...] China will view Mozambique as a natural extension of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road and boost cooperation with Mozambique in marine economy and port-neighboring industrial parks [...] Leaders of African countries spoke highly of the ten cooperation plans oriented to Africa put forward by President Xi Jinping at the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).”

• **February 3, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Developing countries are the cornerstone of China’s foreign policy, while Africa is the chief cornerstone [...] The purpose of Foreign Minister Wang Yi’s visit is to consult with the African friends about the plan for development and translate the ten cooperation plans, related financing arrangements and other outcomes of the Summit into concrete results and specific programs. We are not paying lip service or making empty promises when talking about China-Africa cooperation [...] China will work together with the African friends to implement outcomes of the Summit, strive for early harvest and deliver benefits to people of both sides.”

• **February 3, 2016 – Op-ed: Africa still benefits from China’s development** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Some Westerners fail to acknowledge China’s contribution to Africa’s development. Instead, they disseminate ideas about “China threats”, “neo-colonialism” and “China plundering Africa’s resources”. A new fallacy emerged recently, claiming that the slowdown of China’s economic growth has affected the rising of Africa.”

• **February 4, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Two years after their previous round of peace talks, the Syrian government and opposition come back to the negotiation table [...] The start of peace talks is just a first step, and the process may not be plain sailing. But the Chinese side always believes that peace talks are the only way out for the Syrian issue, and maintains that all parties concerned should make joint efforts to sustain the momentum.”



• **February 8, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “We continue to believe that the kind of discussions that we have had would preserve Israel’s qualitative military edge in the Middle East. That’s been a national security priority that has been advanced by Presidents in both parties, and it’s certainly a QME that we’re interested in protecting.”

• **February 9, 2016 – South Sudan, Africa, and the Challenge of Peacemaking** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The success of South Sudan’s transition will require extraordinary efforts from the South Sudanese people – and the steadfast support of their friends. I remain convinced that the Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan, while by no means perfect, has opened the door to a transition that can benefit of the people of South Sudan – one that can begin to tackle desperately needed reforms to the security sector and economic governance while promoting accountability and reconciliation.”

• **February 9, 2016 – Remarks With Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We have called on Russia, and we call on Russia again to join in the effort to bring about an immediate ceasefire and to bring about full humanitarian access [...] We are all very, very aware of how critical this moment is, and Russia needs to contribute in significant ways to sustaining the ability of the opposition and others to come to the table and create an atmosphere within which you can actually have a negotiation. But they’ve made that very, very difficult over the course of the last days. So we will approach this meeting in Munich with great hopes that this will be a telling moment. And it is urgent – the crisis of humanitarian catastrophe unfolding before the eyes of the world; the pressures on the region of displaced people, of refugees; the dumb bombs, cluster bombs that are being used that are killing innocent women and children; the stacking up of people seeking an outlet who are starving, who need food. Russia needs to join with all of us in understanding that this cannot go on, and that they have a major responsibility as a co-convenor of the International Syria Support Group to create the framework within which that group can be successful and their word will be good.”

• **February 5, 2016 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “On January 19, 2016, President Xi Jinping paid a state visit to Saudi Arabia. Around this time, with the care and promotion in person of leaders of the two countries, China-GCC FTA negotiations have achieved significant progress through deep working-level consultations and hard work of the two sides. The two sides announced the end of negotiations on trade in goods substantively in principle, and made specific arrangements for future work.”

• **February 5, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Vessels have been sent by China to the Gulf of Aden and waters off the Somali coast for escort missions in recent years. In fulfilling escort missions, we encountered real difficulties in replenishing soldiers and resupplying fuel and food, and found it really necessary to have nearby and efficient logistical support. Governments of China and Djibouti consulted with each other and reached consensus on building logistical facilities in Djibouti, which will be used mainly to resupply Chinese troops when they perform escort duties or humanitarian rescue in the Gulf of Aden and waters off the Somali coast, in a bid to enable them to better fulfill international responsibilities and obligations and safeguard peace and stability of the region and beyond.”

• **February 5, 2016 – Spotlight: Major players pin high hopes on Syria political solution, skepticism remains** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “The resumption of peace talks is a key part of this political process in Syria, and the warring parties should give priority to the overall interests of their country and their people, and seize the opportunity of peace talks to show their goodwill and sincerity, Wang said. At the London meeting, China pledged to donate 10,000 tons of food to help ease the food shortages among Syrian refugees, on top of the 230-million-yuan (about 35 million dollars) humanitarian assistance for the Middle East promised by Chinese President Xi Jinping during a recent trip to the region.”

• **February 6, 2016 – Wang Yi Holds Telephone Talks with Foreign Minister Sergey Viktorovich Lavrov of Russia** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “As for the Syrian issue, both sides [Russia and China] held that the international community should earnestly implement Resolution 2254 and take the opportunity of the peace talk to eliminate obstacles, overcome difficulties and thus keep the momentum of the peace talk and adhere to the direction of political settlement.”



• **February 10, 2016 – LiveAtState: Outcomes from the 2016 African Union Summit** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “On Boko Haram, we have been working very, very closely with the countries of the region, particularly Nigeria but also Nigeria’s four neighbors, on helping them to address the terrorist threat that Boko Haram has posed against the people, particularly the civilian populations, in these countries. [...] It’s not just about dealing with the security issues, but it’s also dealing with root causes. So we have assisted all four governments on the security side [...] But we’re also working with all four governments on addressing the humanitarian challenges that have resulted from the Boko Haram attacks.”

• **February 10, 2016 – LiveAtState: Outcomes from the 2016 African Union Summit** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States Government, through a partnership called the Security Governance Initiative, works with both the governance portions of the Mali Government, to work with also the security sector elements, and to make sure that communities are involved in having a say over what their futures look like. We’ve noticed that in cases where we see communities actually take ownership of the security environments, that we’ve actually seen some improvements. And we’re really looking forward to the next phase of the Mali strategy that we just adopted for USAID this year.”

• **February 10, 2016 – LiveAtState: Outcomes from the 2016 African Union Summit** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We do not believe governments should change their constitutions to benefit the incumbent in power staying in power longer than the constitution allows [...] In fact, we have a very intense and proactive diplomatic effort in terms of encouraging governments not to change their constitution, but also working with our partners in the region as well as our international partners to press and impress upon these heads of state that for democracy to thrive, people need to have transition [...] We are certainly being pushed on this in the case of Burundi [...] We are working diligently to impress upon President Kabila that he honor the constitution. We have expressed our strong disappointment with the decision made in Rwanda to extend the terms of President Kagame, and we continue to encourage the people and the government of Republic of Congo to honor their constitution as well.”

• **February 6, 2016 – Wang Yi: Roll up Sleeves to Work Solidly for Africa's Self-Development** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China attaches great importance to the position and role of Africa, always considers the developing countries as the foundation of the Chinese diplomacy and takes Africa as the foundation of the foundation. [...] Leaders, citizens and media in the four countries all speak highly of the fruitful achievements achieved by the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) lately, highly appreciate the ten major China-Africa cooperation plans proposed by President Xi Jinping [...] President Geingob publicly denounced the so-called “new colonialism” of China at the FOCAC Johannesburg Summit. He affirmatively announced that Africa has gained independence and could choose independently its own ideal cooperation partner. The partner is China..”

• **February 6, 2016 – Wang Yi : Convert Ten Major China-Africa Cooperation Plans to Concrete Actions in China-Namibia Cooperation** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “In the new century, China-Africa relations have been constantly enhanced within the framework of the FOCAC, and the relations between China and the African countries have been deepened continuously. The Johannesburg Summit of the FOCAC will be a new start of China-Namibia relations and China-Africa relations.”

• **February 12, 2016 – Wang Yi expressed that after long discussions, the fourth ISSG foreign ministers' meeting finally made positive and meaningful progress at dawn of that day, and China is glad about it** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China believes that the progress made in this foreign ministers' meeting is hard-earned and also the outcome of subtly balancing the interests of all parties. The key to the next step is implementation [...] Second, all parties in Syria should put the people's interests first [...] Third, major countries in the region, especially those exerting a huge influence on Syria's situation, should stop blaming each other and play a constructive role.”

• **February 12, 2016 – Wang Yi Meets with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif of Iran** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Wang Yi expressed that President Xi Jinping's historic visit to Iran last month achieved a complete success, during which both sides issued a joint statement on establishing the comprehensive strategic partnership and agreed to jointly construct the “Belt and Road” and carry out production capacity cooperation, which enhanced bilateral strategic mutual trust and pushed bilateral relations to a new stage of rapid development. Both sides exchanged views on the Syrian issue. Wang Yi stressed that to politically resolve the Syrian issue, all parties must truly abandon military means.”



• **February 10, 2016 – LiveAtState: Outcomes from the 2016 African Union Summit** (State Department)

Quote: “And so we have been sending very strong messages to the leaders in South Sudan to say that we are right now at a breaking point, and that for the sake of their people they need to come up with some sort of political dispensation to allow humanitarian assistance to flow through. We’re also tracking very closely this new NGO bill that has reared its ugly head once again in South Sudan that calls into question, a lot of the work that a number of humanitarians are taking right now at risks to themselves to deliver assistance and might actually threaten our ability to deliver food and assistance to people in South Sudan [...] We’re hoping that the leadership actually takes this on board and really looks at their people and prioritizes putting them first.”

• **February 10, 2016 – LiveAtState: Outcomes from the 2016 African Union Summit** (State Department)

Quote: “Q: “African countries are increasingly partnering with China in trade and other economic activities. What is the reaction of the U.S. to this new development?”

A: It’s not a new development, first of all. And secondly, I would say that the opportunities on the continent of Africa economically, as far as resources are concerned, investments are concerned, those opportunities are immense, and there is space for us, other investors, as well as the Chinese. So it is important, in my view, for African countries to look at potential investors from China as well as from the United States and other places and determine what is in the interest of their country and what is in the interest of their people and strike the best deals that they can strike for their people moving forward. So again, it’s not a competition. It’s about African countries determining what their priorities are and what their vision for economic growth and prosperity in the future requires from investors that are coming from overseas.”

• **February 11, 2016 – Media Availability with Secretary Carter at NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium** (Department of Defense)

Quote: “NATO as a new member would bring unique capabilities that could be brought to bear against ISIL, including experience in building partner capacity, training ground forces and providing stabilization support. I look forward to discussing NATO’s appropriate role with fellow NATO allies in the days and weeks ahead, and as I indicated this morning, that was discussed this morning, and a path ahead was charted at this morning’s meeting.”

• **February 12, 2016 – Commentary: Counter-terrorism battleground is no wrestling ring for big power rivalry** (Xinhua)

Quote: “Washington has taken the lead over the past week in accusing Moscow of derailing the Syrian peace efforts, claiming that Russia’s air strikes are actually benefiting the Islamic State (IS) group. But the United States is far from irreproachable itself. Since the country has achieved little in fighting the IS, many countries and analysts accused Washington of only using the war on the IS to overthrow the Bashar al-Assad regime [...] Turbulence in the Middle East has made the region a hotbed for violence and extremism, but the most significant driving force behind the rapid rise of the IS comes from abroad: rivalry of big powers. For them, the war on terror is sometimes no other than a tool to achieve their own political goals, to eliminate their respective enemies, and to secure a better strategic position and maximum geo-political interests in the region. Due to its geographic significance and abundant oil reserves, the Middle East region has long been a “big-power battleground.”

• **February 13, 2016 – Wang Yi Gives Exclusive Interview to Reuters on Syrian Issue and Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue** (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Quote: “All parties agreed to create access to humanitarian relief within this week to deliver the relief supplies to Syrian refugees [...] I had a vivid impression on the spot yesterday that although different parties still have different positions, all the parties have come to realize that we should stop blaming each other, reduce unnecessary suspicion and define a common goal, which is to promote humanitarian relief as well as ceasefire and end of violence until achieving a comprehensive ceasefire [...] The composition of state institutions of Syria, including the election of Syrian leaders, of course should be decided by Syrian people independently [...] There is a tradition in China’s foreign policy. We do not join in state groups with a military nature, but it doesn’t mean that China will not play its role in fighting terrorism internationally [...] China also holds that we should adopt an approach to address the symptoms and root causes in regards with counter-terrorism.”

• **February 13, 2016 – Spotlight: Syria deal reached in Munich to be tested** (Xinhua)

Quote: “Representatives from 17 countries and international organizations, including Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, [...] agreed to accelerate and expand the delivery of humanitarian aid to besieged areas in Syria. Wang said the deal was a positive and meaningful progress. China is pleased to see this result.”



• **February 11, 2016 – Press Availability at the International Syria Support Group** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "All ISSG members agree that the Geneva talks should resume as soon as possible and they should resume in strict compliance with UN Security Council Resolution 2254 [...] The American position has always been that we need a legitimate political process and we need to make certain that there is a track that is dealing with the resolution of the government transition under the Geneva process, and we need, similarly, a concerted effort to destroy Daesh."

• **February 13, 2016 – Interview With Hayvi Bouzo of Orient TV Group** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "The United States of America and most of the allies and friends of the International Syria Support Group believe there will never be peace in Syria if Assad is there. We believe that Assad should help the transition by announcing that he isn't going to run for re-election; he's going to help rebuild his country [...] that's up to the Syrian opposition, and if they have their say, I can't imagine that that's possible, because they will say no. And the process is by mutual consent [...] the Assad regime is not fighting Daesh [...] And one of the reasons Daesh grew is because the Assad regime had a sweetheart deal with Daesh, buying oil from them, leaving them alone, not attacking them, and they grew. And so we are cleaning up Assad's mess with respect to Daesh, and we have no expectations of Assad himself being involved in helping in that regard."

• **February 13, 2016 – Interview With Hayvi Bouzo of Orient TV Group** ([US State Department](#))

Quote: "What about the Russian intervention in Syria? Legal experts have called it war crimes that Russia is committing by throwing blind bombs into civilian neighborhoods, killing already thousands of people. [...] Would you call it war crimes?"

A: "There are many allegations. We know that bombs have been dropped that have killed civilians, women, children, people in hospitals, mosques. Innocent people have been injured by these bombs. And some of these weapons are what we call – many of them are actually freefall, dumb bombs. They don't have a precision target, so they hit what they hit. And it has been indiscriminate and it is wrong, and that should stop."

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

Quote: "China welcomes the positive progress of the peace process in South Sudan and hopes that South Sudan can form a transitional government of national unity as soon as possible and advance reconstruction process. China will continue to work with relevant regional countries and organizations as well as the international community and play a constructive role in promoting peace, stability and development in South Sudan."

• **February 16, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: The Syrian government said it had sent letters to the UN Secretary General and the Security Council because of Turkey's shelling of the Syrian territory. Will China support the discussion on the Turkish action at the UN Security Council?"

A: "We hope that relevant parties can stick to Resolution 2254 of the UN Security Council and the consensus reached at the fourth foreign ministers' meeting of the ISSG and move forward the process of politically resolving the Syrian issue to achieve early outcomes."

• **February 17, 2016 – Commentary: Syrian situation threatens to spin out of control** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: "A political settlement is the only right way out of the Syrian crisis and is in the fundamental interests of the Syrian people. We will make unremitting efforts to achieve this goal," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said after meeting with his British counterpart Philip Hammond last month. The world does not lack the ability or resources for the use of force, but steadfast determination and action for a political solution, Wang said. "The path leading to a political settlement may be difficult, but it is an effective tool to fundamentally resolve the problem," he said."

• **February 19, 2016 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: "What China has done for economic and social development in Africa is there for all to see and can stand to be tested by history [...] Last December, President Xi Jinping announced the "Ten Cooperation Plans" and pledged USD 60 billion at the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, which fully demonstrates Chinese government's support to Africa and has been widely praised by African countries and the international community. A considerable portion of the USD 60 billion is used to set up funds for assistance and investment cooperation, with a view to improving Africa's capability for independent development instead of adding to its debt burden."



• **February 13, 2016 – Readout of the Meeting between Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Ambassador Power underscored our continued support for the Palestinian people, condemned recent violence, and urged leaders on both sides to take measures to reduce tension and restore calm. Ambassador Power underscored the importance of continuing to work to advance a two-state solution, while opposing all measures that would undermine that goal..”

• **February 15, 2016 – Remarks at the Israel Middle East Model United Nations Conference on “Building a More Model UN”; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Q: You were part of the negotiations surrounding the Iran nuclear deal. I would like to ask you: What do you think of the final deal? What are its main virtues or weaknesses? And do you think it is sufficient to provide Israel with the security in this matter?”

A: What this deal does, if implemented [...] is it cuts off the pathways to a nuclear weapon and it gives us much more visibility into Iran’s program than we had before at the time when we were very alarmed by some of the progress that Iran has made in the past on that program [...] We also [...] have the ability in the event of breach to snap back sanctions. So the multilateral sanctions regime that I mentioned in my remarks that had played such a huge role in bringing Iran to the negotiating table – we have the ability to put those back in place [...] We built into the deal an extremely unusual provision where even permanent members of the Security Council are not able to prevent snapbacks [...] We put those sanctions in place with a set of objectives related to Iran and its nuclear program, to the threat that Iran posed to Israel, to the region, to the world [...] Do I think that Iran is no longer a threat? Iran of course is still a threat. Iran is supporting terrorism. Iran is supporting parties to conflict [...] And that is why we need to find other means to thicken – further thicken – the security relationship between us. That’s one of the reasons we’re negotiating now a memorandum of understanding. But precisely because of the threat that Iran poses, that’s why we didn’t want them to have a nuclear weapon on top of the intentions and the threats that they have posed to Israel.”

• **February 23, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “A ceasefire and a cessation of violence is an important link in Syria's political process. If well managed, it will help maintain the hard-earned momentum of political settlement and move forward peace talks among all Syrian parties. Going forward, the ISSG task force on the cessation of hostilities should play its due role in encouraging all parties to follow specific arrangements and create favorable external conditions for an early resumption of Geneva peace talks.[...] the Chinese side opposes all forms of terrorism and strongly condemns the recent bombings in Syria which caused heavy casualties of innocent civilians. Political settlement is the only way out of the Syrian crisis. The Chinese side hopes that all parties concerned would act in strict accordance with Resolution 2254 of the UN Security Council, implement outcomes of the 4th ISSG foreign ministers' meeting, sustain the momentum of dialogues and negotiations and forge ahead with the ceasefire and cessation of violence, so that the Syrian people would embrace peace and stability at an early date.”

• **February 24, 2016 – Interview: Kenyan experts praise China's effort to bolster development in Africa** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “During the FOCAC Summit, President Xi Jinping announced Beijing would provide international assistance to African countries worth 60 billion U.S. dollars in the form of loans and grants for industrialisation efforts, and provide technical expertise to improve Africa's trade capacity.”



• **February 15, 2016 – Remarks at the Israel Middle East Model United Nations Conference on “Building a More Model UN”; U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Samantha Power** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Q: How would you address the claims that the U.S. is not an honest broker in the peace process because it gives greater latitude to Israel than the Palestinians?”

A: We as an administration have dedicated an enormous amount of time and energy to the pursuit of a two-state solution, to trying to help the parties here, in Israel, in the West Bank, in order to move forward and bring about the outcome that so many say they seek which is two sides living side-by-side in peace and security and dignity. And, so far, that hasn’t produced the results that we have sought and that above all, the people of this region have sought and deserve. We will continue to pursue that and again there is such bipartisan support in the United States for Israel’s security, such a recognition of the shared values that I would expect that pursuit to continue and right now, again, we are very hopeful, we hope that the parties will take steps that will move them closer, again, to being in a position to re-start negotiations which is not a position they’re in right now.”

• **February 16, 2016 – Readout of the Meetings of Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Government of Israel Officials** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Ambassador Power reaffirmed the unwavering U.S. commitment to Israel’s security, the enduring bond between the American and Israeli people, and U.S. efforts to support Israel’s full inclusion at the UN [...] condemned ongoing violence and incitement, and expressed condolences for victims of recent terror attacks. She urged Israel to take meaningful steps to preserve prospects for a two-state solution [...] she stressed U.S. opposition to Israeli settlement activity and demolitions [...] also discussed with Israel’s leaders regional developments, including Syria, and the global counter-ISIL campaign.”

• **February 16, 2016 – Readout of the Meeting between Ambassador Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, and Israeli Civil Society Leaders** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “Ambassador Power reiterated the United States’ support for Israel’s strong civil society, emphasizing that a free and vibrant civil society is essential to a healthy democracy. Ambassador Power expressed concern about potential restrictions that could undermine civil society groups, and stressed that governments must foster an atmosphere in which all voices can be heard.”



• **February 19, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “At the request of the United States, the Turkish government has taken important steps to close off large sections of their border. There continue to be some sections where we’d like to see them do more. But there’s no doubt that the steps that they have taken to secure their border have reduced the flow of foreign fighters to Syria. We know that ISIL relies on that flow of foreign fighters to replenish their ranks of fighters who were taken off the battlefield. [...] The other thing that has long been true is that Turkey is bearing a significant burden when it comes to providing for Syrian refugees who are fleeing violence in their own country.”

• **February 21, 2016 – Press Availability with Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh** ([US State Department](#))

Q: “But at the end of the day, we know at the end of the day nothing will do more to make the fight against Daesh effective than to put in place a political transition that finds a government responsive to the desperate needs of the Syrian people. And, my friends, that is a government that cannot possibly have Assad at its head. That is why we have said again and again that with Assad there this war cannot and will not end.”

• **February 22, 2016 – US and Russia discuss cease-fire agreement in Syria** ([The Situation Room](#))

Quote : “Russia currently is dropping about 100 bombs a day, claiming it's bombing ISIS. The U.S. says Moscow is bombing civilians and Bashar al Assad's opposition forces with help from Iran and the regime [...] Obama and Russian President Vladimir Putin spoke on the telephone about the [cease-fire] agreement scheduled to go into effect this weekend. ISIS and al Qaeda are not party to the agreement. U.S. airstrikes against ISIS will continue and nobody expects ISIS to stop its attacks.”

• **February 24, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama and His Majesty King Abdullah of Jordan After Bilateral Meeting** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “As I've said publicly, we have seen progress in pushing back against ISIL in territory both in Iraq and now in some portions of Syria. But a lot of work remains to be done. And so the coordination between our nations and other coalition partners is absolutely critical. And Jordan has made enormous contribution. Jordan is a country that punches above its weight when it comes to the fight against ISIL.”



• **February 25, 2016 – Submitted Statement -- House Appropriations Committee-Defense (FY 2017 Budget Request)** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Iran supports Assad in Syria, backs Hezbollah in Lebanon, and is contributing to disorder in Yemen, while still directing hostility and violence to our closest ally in the region, Israel. To continue to meet our commitments and enhance our cooperation with our friends and allies in the region, especially Israel, the budget makes critical investments – including \$146 million to support Israel in FY 2017. This reflects our unshakeable commitment to Israel and its security, with funding for Iron Dome, David’s Sling, Arrow, and other cooperative defense programs – not only ensuring that Israel can defend itself, but also preserving and enhancing Israel’s qualitative military edge, which is a cornerstone of our defense relationship.”

• **February 25, 2016 – Remarks by the President on Progress Against ISIL** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Potentially, it could also lead to negotiations on a political settlement to end the civil war so that everybody can focus their attention on destroying ISIL. And that’s why the United States will do everything we can to maximize the chances of success in this cessation of hostilities. At the same time, I want to make totally clear that there will be absolutely no cease-fire with respect to ISIL. We remain relentless in going after them.”

• **February 27, 2016 – WEEKLY ADDRESS: Degrading and Destroying ISIL** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Our 66-member coalition, including Arab partners, continues to grow stronger. More nations are making more contributions. Every day, our air campaign—more than 10,000 strikes so far—continues to destroy ISIL forces. And we continue to go after ISIL leaders and commanders—taking them out, day in, day out, one after another after another.”



Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Continues Calls Claimants to Settle Disputes Safely and Urges China Not to Militarize South China Sea; China Criticizes U.S.-ASEAN Summit, Claims Actions in South China Sea Are in Accordance with International Law

United States	China
<p>● February 4, 2016 – Foreign Policy Update: 2016 Priorities (State Department) Quote: “ Q: It was reported that the United States is open to the possibility of naval patrols with Philippines in the South China Sea. Would you like to confirm that report? If it comes true, are you concerned that this action may not be consistent with the U.S. stance that U.S. take no position on the sovereignty issue in the South China Sea?</p> <p>A : You’re right; we don’t take a position on the individual claims in the South China Sea. However, we do take a position on coercion, which is to say we don’t want to see nations coerced one way or the other into accepting some outcome of these disputes. We’d like to see these disputes settled bilaterally or – and through international norms, as appropriate [...] But we have an obligation to protect freedom of navigation and to foster freedom of navigation anywhere around the world. And as our Secretary of Defense has made clear, that the U.S. military will sail, fly, and operate in accordance with international law where they deem fit and where they must.”</p> <p>● February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit (State Department) Quote: “Q : How are you going to convince the Chinese that this is really not about China when you have United States and ASEAN countries talking about these South China Sea territory disputes while China is a major claimant to that and they are not part of the – on the table here?</p> <p>A : I think it’s safe to say that we have no secrets from China when it comes to our views about the South China Sea and the way forward [...] It’s built on the recognition that the long-term interests of the region argue for peaceful and collaborative ways to either resolve or to set aside sovereignty disputes and to clarify claims and to proceed in finding ways to share the maritime space that are both consistent with international law and acceptable to the other parties. [...] We have the advantage of not ourselves being claimants – of not having, so to speak, a dog in the fight of who gets what and who has a superior claim to a particular land feature. That said, unless all countries big and small base their claims, base their arguments, and conduct their pursuit of their interests in ways that are fully consistent with international law, the region will suffer; everyone will suffer.”</p>	<p>● February 1, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China has indisputable sovereignty over islands in the South China Sea and their adjacent waters. On January 30, the guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur violated the Chinese law and entered territorial waters of China’s Xisha Islands without authorization [...] the so-called “freedom of navigation plan” or “freedom of navigation operation” that the US has been advertising all these years does not conform to the well-recognized international law. It is conducted in disregard of sovereign security and maritime rights and interests of coastal states, causing severe damage to regional peace and stability. It is, in essence, the pursuit of maritime hegemony by the US under the cloak of “freedom of navigation” which has been met with firm opposition from members of the international community, developing countries in particular. It is highly dangerous and irresponsible for the US to do so. China always respects and supports the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea to which all countries are entitled under international law. But we are firmly opposed to any country’s attempt to undermine China’s sovereignty, security and maritime rights and interests citing the freedom of navigation as an excuse.”</p> <p>● February 1, 2016 – Commentary: Who is challenging international order? (Xinhua) Quote: “The U.S. intrusive move to send a navy vessel without China’s authorization into waters adjacent to Chinese-owned islands show that Washington is threatening the sovereignty of other countries and challenging the international order [...]the U.S. warship’s incursion into China’s territorial sea without authorization violated both Chinese and international law [...]The U.S. repeated moves have not only threatened China’s sovereignty and security interests, but also undermined regional peace and stability [...] Facts have proved that China, instead of doing any harm to the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, has provided public services to ensure the safety of all vessels sailing in the waters. At a time when the whole world is pursuing peace, development, cooperation and win-win results, China will firmly stick to its path of peaceful development, which serves its fundamental interests and meets the common aspiration of all countries and people in the region.”</p>



• **February 10, 2016 – Preview of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We don’t seek a right for the U.S. military that we don’t believe the Chinese military also should enjoy. But it means something when the president of a country makes a commitment, and it also means something when a country as large and powerful as China chooses to conduct a large-scale construction effort in a tense and disputed area that unsettles and unnerves its neighbors. We have no claim in the South China Sea to territory, but we, like all other nations, have a claim in every sea to the free operation of our ships and our planes in a manner that’s consistent with international law. And to secure those rights, we use diplomacy and we use our military. We welcome and encourage all countries to operate similarly in a responsible way.”

• **February 10, 2016 – Press Call on the U.S.-ASEAN Summit** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “I anticipate that the President will continue to call on claimants to halt land reclamation, construction of new facilities, and to carry out no militarization of outposts in the South China Sea. So I think those will be other messages that the President will promote. And could I make just one comment on China, as well. Just to emphasize again, this is the summit about the United States and our increasingly broad and deep relationship with ASEAN. Some of these relations will -- some of these issues that will be discussed will have some relation with China. But again, the focus is on our relationship with ASEAN.”

• **February 15, 2016 – Remarks by President Obama at Opening Session of the U.S.-ASEAN Summit** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Second, with regard to security, the United States and ASEAN are reaffirming our strong commitment to a regional order where international rules and norms -- and the rights of all nations, large and small -- are upheld. We discussed the need for tangible steps in the South China Sea to lower tensions, including a halt to further reclamation, new construction and militarization of disputed areas. Freedom of navigation must be upheld and lawful commerce should not be impeded. I reiterated that the United States will continue to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows, and we will support the right of all countries to do the same. We will continue to help our allies and partners strengthen their maritime capabilities. And we discussed how any disputes between claimants in the region must be resolved peacefully, through legal means, such as the upcoming arbitration ruling under the U.N. Convention of the Law of the Seas, which the parties are obligated to respect and abide by.”

• **February 2, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Satellite images recently released by the Chinese media showed that Vietnam attempted to construct two artificial islands in part of the South China Sea that is claimed by China. Does China have any response to that?”

A: We have reiterated on many occasions our position on the issue of the South China Sea. We have indisputable sovereignty over islands in the South China Sea and their adjacent waters. This position remains unchanged. We maintain that disputes with neighboring countries over the Nansha Islands should be resolved through bilateral and friendly consultations.”

• **February 2, 2016 – Mainland committed to peace, stability across Taiwan Strait** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “The mainland will increase exchanges with Taiwan parties and groups that uphold the one-China principle in an effort to safeguard the common political foundation shared by the two sides [...] Efforts will be made to promote economic integration across the Taiwan Strait, including industrial and financial cooperation, and try to benefit as many small businesses, farmers and fishermen as possible.”

• **February 3, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “With regard to the issue of island construction, the Foreign Ministry has stated on many occasions the position held by the Chinese government. China's construction on its stationed islands and reefs is mainly to improve their civilian functions, and build up China's capacity to fulfill its international responsibility and obligation, which means to enable China to provide more international public goods. The building of a limited amount of military facilities is for the defense purpose only. It does not threaten anyone. We urge the US to be objective and impartial, and stop making misleading remarks that are not conducive to regional stability.”



• **February 16, 2016 – Joint Statement of the U.S.-ASEAN Special Leaders' Summit: Sunnylands Declaration** ([White House, Statements](#))

Quote: "Shared commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law and the 1982 United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); Shared commitment to maintain peace, security and stability in the region, ensuring maritime security and safety, including the rights of freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the seas, and unimpeded lawful maritime commerce as described in the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) as well as non-militarization and self-restraint in the conduct of activities."

• **February, 17 2016 – Daily Press Briefing** ([US State Department](#))

Quote: "I am confirming that commercial imagery appears to indicate that China has deployed a surface-to-air missile system on a disputed outpost in the South China Sea. If this is true, we believe this will raise tensions further in the region. [...] President Obama and the other leaders of ASEAN countries confirmed that we do share a commitment to maintaining peace, security, and stability in the region, and that includes freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the seas [...] He (the Secretary of State) actually cited the example of President Xi, when he was here in the Rose Garden, said that China will not militarize the South China Sea. But there is increasing evidence that that's not the case [...] (On what counts as militarization) [...] ours is different [...] It counts as freedom of – it is basically freedom of navigation."

• **February, 17 2016 – Remarks With Polish Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski** ([US State Department](#))

Quote: Q: "Mr. Secretary, what's your take on China deploying missile – missile system in the Spratlys?"

A: "When President Xi was here in Washington, he stood in the Rose Garden with President Obama and said China will not militarize in the South China Sea. But there is every evidence every day that there has been an increase of militarization of one kind or another. It's of serious concern [...] And my hope is that China will realize that it is important to try to resolve the jurisdictional issues of the South China Sea not through unilateral action, not through force, not through militarization, but through diplomacy and by working with the other countries and claimants in trying to resolve these differences."

• **February 15, 2016 – News Analysis: ASEAN countries not to take sides between U.S., China in upcoming U.S.-ASEAN Summit** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: "It's believed that the U.S. government will take the gathering as an opportunity to exert its clout in Southeast Asia against a backdrop of growing Chinese influence in the region, when Obama may wish to reach consensus among all ASEAN member states to issue a statement on the South China Sea disputes that will touch on China. However, experts said that as the Southeast Asia traditionally have taken a neutral stance in the tussling between powers, and there are huge mutual interests and deep cooperation between the region and its most important neighbor China, ASEAN is not expected to take sides between the United States and China in the summit, and the China-ASEAN ties will not be affected. Although a U.S. State Department official has claimed that the imminent summit is "not anti-China," China will inevitably be an important topic in the discussion."

• **February 15, 2016 – Commentary: U.S. self-serving Asia policy is root cause of regional tension** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: "China, a beneficiary of free navigation in the South China Sea, is always ready to promote the code of conduct and engage in the construction of civilian infrastructure in the waters to secure free navigation. It is China's unswerving stance that the disputes over the South China Sea should be settled through direct one-on-one negotiations and consultations between China and the countries concerned."

• **February 16, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The Philippines' unilateral initiation of international arbitration, which does not comply with international law and runs counter to the consensus reached between China and the Philippines as well as relevant provisions of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, will never be accepted by China [...] Deploying necessary national defense facilities on its own territory is China's exercise of self-preservation and defense, a right granted by international law to sovereign states. It does not impede freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea that all countries are entitled to under international law [...] We have been saying that China's construction on relevant islands and reefs is mainly to enable China to better fulfill its international duties and obligations in maritime search and rescue, disaster prevention and reduction, marine scientific research, eco-environment protection and navigation safety, and to provide maritime public service to coastal countries and the region."



• **February 18, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing (US State Department)**

Quote : ‘A ship – a Navy ship operating in international waters is completely within international law. We have – our Navy has a fundamental obligation to represent our interests around the world and to support freedom of navigation, and will continue – as the Secretary has said and I believe Secretary Carter has said, we’re going to continue to fly, sail, and operate in international airspace and international maritime space as needed to do what we need to do to protect our national interests [...] And we have significant obligations – obligations that, because they’re security treaties, must be backed up with a robust and healthy military presence.’

• **February 18, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefing)**

Quote: “I think that, frankly, the announcement yesterday in the form of the Sunnylands declaration that was signed by the leaders of the ASEAN countries who met with the President earlier this week is significant. [...] It goes on to say that that includes “unimpeded lawful maritime commerce” as described by the U.N. Convention of the Law of the Sea, as well as non-militarization and self-restraint in the conduct of activities. [...] And it’s why we continue to urge all claimants -- the United States is not one of them -- but we continue to urge all claimants to clarify their territorial and maritime claims in accordance with international law, and to commit to peacefully manage and resolve these disputes.”

• **February 22, 2016 – Daily Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefing)**

Quote: “And I recognize that the Chinese government may have a disagreement about the claims that are made by other countries. That’s all the more reason that we believe that all of the parties should resolve their differences of opinion about this matter in a way that doesn’t provoke a military confrontation. That is why we have urged all parties who are claimants to these features -- the United States is not among them, but we’ve encouraged all of the countries that do have claims to resolve them in a peaceful, legal manner, and to avoid confrontation and to seek to avoid escalating the tensions in that area of the world. The stakes for the United States are not insignificant. Again, we don’t make claims on the features, but we certainly do want to ensure that the freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce in the South China Sea is protected.”

• **February 16, 2016 – Sunnylands wrong place to discuss South China Sea row (People’s Daily)**

Quote: “Washington has reiterated that the summit is not targeted at China. It is perhaps not because it does not want to, but because it dares not, for it knows if it does so, many Southeast Asian leaders would not attend at all [...] These countries may know that if they pick a side from either of China and the US, they would be controlled by it and used as leverage against the other [...] ASEAN will not be taken in by the US if the US tries to turn the South China Sea disputes into a row between China and ASEAN.”

• **February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Q: The US and ASEAN countries held an informal leaders’ meeting in California. The meeting issued a joint statement which included contents like peacefully resolving disputes and maintaining regional and maritime peace and security. What is China’s comment?”

A: We have noted that some countries tried to use this meeting to hype up the South China Sea issue. But the majority of ASEAN countries disagreed, believing that it would only undermine mutual trust between regional countries, disrupt or even sabotage the efforts made by regional countries to safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea. The Chinese side is willing to make joint efforts with ASEAN countries and continue to play a constructive role in upholding region peace and stability and advancing the peaceful resolution of relevant disputes.”

• **February 17, 2016 – Commentary: Imbalance of U.S. rebalancing toward Asia-Pacific (Xinhua)**

Quote: “Washington recklessly sent multiple warships and bombers near Chinese reefs in the South China Sea, in blatant provocation that disregarded China’s sovereignty and security [...] Bullying actions as such will not only undermine strategic mutual trust between Beijing and Washington and infuriate the Chinese people, but also serve no good to U.S. national interest. Only through real commitment of cultivating a constructive and mutually beneficial relationship with sound strategic trust between each other, can the United States and China, and the Asia-Pacific region at large, enjoy long-term peace and prosperity.”



• **February 23, 2016 – Remarks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** ([US State Department](#))

Quote : “We also talked today about the importance of reducing tensions and maintaining the space necessary for diplomatic solutions to the competing claims in the South China Sea. We think everybody benefits by true demilitarization, non-militarization. We also urge people to clarify the territorial and maritime claims in accordance with international law and to commit to peacefully resolve and manage disputes, including through the use of such international mechanisms as authentic bilateral or multilateral negotiations or arbitration. I also reiterated the commitment of the United States of America to freedom of navigation and over-flight, something which China says it does not stand in the way of.”

• **February 25, 2016 – Telephonic Media Briefing With U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN Nina Hachigian** ([US State Department](#))

Quote: Q : “Mr. Wang has stated that China’s rejection of arbitration is precisely in accordance with law because China, under the rights entitled in Article 298 of the Convention made a public statement of optional exception in 2006, that it rejects the arbitration on the matters concerning territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests.

A : It provides that in the event of a dispute as to whether a court or tribunal has jurisdiction, the matter shall be settled by the decision of that court or tribunal. It also says that the absence of a party or failure of a party to send its case shall not constitute a bar to proceedings. So it’s pretty clear here that the court has jurisdiction and its decision will be binding under international law. “

• **February 17, 2016 – Wang Yi: Demilitarization in the South China Sea Requires Joint Efforts from Countries both Inside and Outside the Region** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Wang Yi expressed that China’s deploying limited and necessary national defense facilities on the Nansha islands and reefs is in line with the self-preservation and self-defense rights every sovereign country is entitled to under the international law, which is blameless and has nothing to do with militarization. Wang Yi stressed that demilitarization is in accordance with the interests of all parties, but it should not be implemented by only one country or practiced under double or multiple standards. Demilitarization in the South China Sea requires joint efforts from countries both inside and outside the region.”

• **February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: US President Barack Obama told the press after the US-ASEAN informal leaders’ meeting that all parties should peacefully resolve the South China Sea dispute through arbitration. He called for a halt to further reclamation, new construction and militarization of disputed areas in the South China Sea, and said the US would continue to sail, fly and operate in areas wherever international law allows. What is China’s comment?

A: In fact, this is not the first time that the US leader made such remarks on the South China Sea issue. The US is not a party concerned in the issue. It should speak and act prudently and create favorable conditions for parties directly concerned to peacefully resolve relevant disputes through consultations and negotiations, instead of exploiting the occasion to hype up the South China Sea issue, sensationalizing tensions, and driving a wedge among regional countries.”

• **February 17, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side welcomes this joint commitment by the US and ASEAN to non-militarization and hopes that relevant countries can live up to that. Country outside the region shall not show off its military force in the South China Sea nor use force or coercive means to advance its unilateral assertion. Meanwhile, it shall not rope in regional countries to conduct joint military drills or patrols targeting the third party in the South China Sea. China and ASEAN countries have the capability, confidence and wisdom to jointly maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.”



• **February 18, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: US Secretary of State John Kerry said on February 17 that concerning China's deployment of missiles on Yongxing Dao, the US will seek a serious conversation with China. What is your response?"

A: I want to stress that the Xisha Islands are China's inherent territory. China has been deploying various kinds of national defense facilities on the Xisha Islands for several decades. It is nothing new and has nothing to do with the so-called militarization of the South China Sea. It is hoped that the relevant country would stop pointless sensationalization which has ulterior motives and do more to uphold regional peace and stability."

• **February 18, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "I want to stress that our stance of not accepting the Philippines' unilateral initiation of the South China Sea arbitration is fully backed by the international law. As a signatory to UNCLOS, China made the declaration on optional exceptions in 2006 under Article 298 of UNCLOS, stating its non-acceptance of compulsory arbitration on issues concerning territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests [...] The Philippines's unilateral initiation of the arbitration has no other aim but to negate China's sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea. Its attempt will not succeed. We also hope that people in the US and the EU can know and understand relevant laws and handle matters in accordance with them."

• **February 18, 2016 – Washington's destabilizing role in South China Sea** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "For starters, China has indisputable sovereignty over the Xisha Islands and deploying limited and necessary national defense facilities on China's own territory has nothing to do with militarization in the South China Sea. China has repeatedly made it clear that it has no intention to militarize the region. Its activities are mainly for maintenance purposes, improving the living conditions for the stationed personnel there and providing more public goods in the region. "



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

Quote: "China's sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and the adjacent waters is backed by solid historical and jurisprudential evidence. China is earnest and serious in saying that it has no intention of militarizing the Nansha Islands. But, just as Foreign Minister Wang Yi pointed out the other day, non-militarization should not target a single country, and should not be applied with double or multiple standards. It needs the joint efforts by relevant countries inside and outside the region. However, the current situation is that the US keeps increasing its military presence in the South China Sea [...] It is those actions, which heightened tensions in the South China Sea, that are militarizing the South China Sea. Yongxing Dao is China's inherent territory [...] For several decades, China has been carrying out construction and setting up necessary defense facilities there. The relevant country and person should know well enough about the historical records and basic facts of the South China Sea before making statements."

• **February 19, 2016 – Commentary: U.S. should bear healthy mindset when developing ties with ASEAN** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Most ASEAN states are alert enough to acts that could harm its credibility and reputation, or undermine the leading role of cooperation in ASEAN and East Asia at large. They are also unwilling to see a community "led" by one single state. As a matter of fact, the active involvement of certain outside countries in the South China Sea is driven by ulterior motives. In the statement after the meeting, so-called "demilitarization" was hyped up again. But it is known to all that as an outside country, the U.S. has been flexing military muscle by frequently sending warships and aircraft into the South China Sea and plotting to conduct so-called joint patrols with other countries."

• **February 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: " We hope that the US side would live up to its commitment of not taking sides on relevant disputes concerning territorial sovereignty, stop sensationalizing the South China Sea issue, stop hyping up tensions and work constructively for regional peace and stability, rather than the opposite [...] The Chinese side is entitled to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests. China conducts construction on relevant islands and reefs mainly for civilian purposes of providing better public services and goods for the international community. China's deployment of limited defense facilities on its own territory is its exercise of self-defense right to which a sovereign state is entitled under international law. It has nothing to do with militarization."



• **February 22, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The Taiwan question is the most important and sensitive question in China-US relations. The US should honor its commitment to the one-China policy, the three China-US joint communiqués and opposing "Taiwan independence". It must not send any wrong message to "Taiwan independence" forces. Rather, it should support the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations through concrete actions."

• **February 23, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "I suggest that instead of focusing only on whether or not China has deployed military facilities on islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands, the media should broaden their horizon and pay more attention to the light houses built by China on its stationed islands and reefs, as well as the facilities for meteorological observation and forecast, emergency shelter and rescue being built by China. All these are public services and goods offered by China to the international community as the largest coastal state in the South China Sea. We hope that the international community would not doubt China's aspiration for and sincerity in peaceful development as well as peace and stability of the South China Sea. The Chinese side is ready to safeguard peace and stability of the South China Sea together with all parties."

• **February 23, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "As the largest trading nation in the world and the biggest coastal state in the South China Sea, China cares more about navigation freedom than anyone else. A large amount of facts have proven that the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea has never been a problem. China is the last one to blame for impacting the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea. Some people in the US keep making an issue of navigation freedom. They are either entertaining groundless fears or sowing discord with ulterior motives. It must be pointed out that the freedom of navigation under international law is by no means the freedom for US vessels and planes to make a show of force. Verbally, what the US talks about is navigation freedom. Virtually, what it thinks about is perhaps absolute hegemony on the sea. We hope that the US would stop driving wedges, stop creating tensions and stop making remarks unhelpful for peace and stability in the South China Sea."



• **February 23, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "As for the commentary by the US media about China's expansion of claims in the South China Sea with the "Great Wall of sand", I want to reiterate that China's sovereignty and relevant rights and interests over the South China Sea have been formed over the long course of history and upheld by successive Chinese governments. They are backed by sufficient historical and jurisprudential evidence. We will neither expand our claims nor see them shrink. If the media do want to draw an analogy between the "Great Wall" and something else, I suggest that it be the Chinese people's will to defend territorial sovereignty and legitimate rights and interests."

• **February 24, 2016 – FM: other countries have deployed radar for decades** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "China's top diplomat Wang Yi urged the media not to just fixate on what China has deployed in the South China Sea, and he called upon them to check various military facilities deployed by other countries who have illegally occupied part of the Nansha Islands. The Foreign Minister made the comments when meeting the press along with his US counterpart, Secretary of State John Kerry, following their talks in Washington on Tuesday. The Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies on Monday released images and claimed that they showed the development of high-frequency radar towers on reefs, such as Huayang Reef on China's Nansha Islands. [...] "place more emphasis on those missile-guided destroyers and strategic bombers intruding the South China Sea from time to time". Wang also reminded reporters to have a better understanding of the fact that countries have, for decades, illegally occupied China's islands and reefs there and that such countries deployed radar of various types as well as other military facilities there for decades. Beijing "expects less provocation posed by close-in reconnaissance as well as flaunting of advanced weapons", Wang said."

• **February 24, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "I want to stress that the Xisha Islands are part of China's territory with no dispute at all. Construction and deployment on China's own territory is totally within China's sovereignty and perfectly justified. In order to present a comprehensive, objective and accurate picture of the whole thing to the public, I suggest that the media should neither selectively exaggerate what they want to report nor neglect what they do not want to report."



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

Quote: "The DOC is an important document on the issue of the South China Sea signed by China and 10 ASEAN countries on an equal footing. It states in explicit terms how to address disputes and enhance practical cooperation, and plays an effective role in boosting mutual trust and upholding peace and stability in the South China Sea. The Xisha Islands are part of China's inherent territory with no dispute at all. Hence the DOC has nothing to do with the Xisha Islands."

• **February 26, 2016 – A Changing China and Its Diplomacy: Speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi At Center for Strategic and International Studies** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "You may also be following the situation in the South China Sea. Let me say to you that the general situation there is stable. No commercial vessel has complained that its freedom of navigation had been threatened or jeopardized. It's true that there are disputes over some of the islands and reefs in the Nansha, where 42 of China's islands and reefs there have been illegally taken by others. China wants to have a peaceful resolution of the issue through dialogue and negotiation, in accordance with international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)."

• **February 26, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "China's reasonable deployment of limited defense facilities in the South China Sea is not "militarization". As for whether China will declare an ADIZ, it depends on whether China's air safety is threatened. The current situation in the South China Sea is generally stable. We hope that the US military would stop playing up the issue of the South China Sea, stop hyping up tensions and stop showing off military might in the South China Sea."

• **February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "As Foreign Minister Wang Yi pointed out, non-militarization should not only target one country. It calls for concerted efforts of all relevant countries in and outside the region. China's non-acceptance and non-participation position concerning the South China Sea arbitration initiated by the Philippines is fully backed by international law. [...] China and the Philippines have already reached consensus through bilateral channels and in the DOC on resolving relevant dispute by engaging in negotiations and consultations."



• **February 29, 2016 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The South China Sea issue is an issue between China and some ASEAN countries, rather than an issue between China and ASEAN. Thanks to the joint efforts of China and ASEAN countries, the situation in the South China Sea is stable in general. All parties are working to deepen practical cooperation on the sea while comprehensively and effectively implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). Positive progress has been made on steadily moving forward the consultation on a code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC). China is committed to resolving relevant disputes in the South China Sea with parties directly concerned through negotiations and consultations and making joint efforts with ASEAN countries to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea. [...] It is hoped that relevant countries can work with China towards the same direction, stick to negotiations and consultations to resolve relevant disputes, and work in unison to uphold peace and stability in the South China Sea so that China-ASEAN relations can grow in a sustained, sound and rapid way."



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