

Blossoming Divisions?

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ASI Research Center

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The EAI is pleased to announce the expansion of the UCR Series since February 2015 with its renamed flagship publication called the UCR Briefing. The UCR Briefing combines the monthly publication of the UCR Factsheet with a probing investigative summary designed to raise potential points of discussion and analysis. Also, the previous format included a total of 10 categories that have now been streamlined to 9. These changes will allow for a greater scope of coverage and the inclusion of a wider range of sources that the EAI believes will offer a better experience and easier navigation of the vast amount of information available to users of the UCR Series

Blossoming Divisions?

Investigative Summary

The U.S.-China relationship continues to be defined by differences despite a number of notable compromises and agreements including the recent accord on emissions reductions. However, recently the differences between the two giants on opposite sides of the Pacific have forced allies, neighbors, and bystanders alike to, at times, reluctantly choose a side. This insistence on choosing teams is, depending on the issue, leaving either the U.S. or China isolated and perhaps feeling threatened. This could be a dangerous proposition and these dividing issues may cause the relationship to heat up as summer approaches. The following represents five key issues highlighted by the U.S. and China over the previous month as tracked by the UCR Briefing.

'Defections' to the AIIB

The U.S. has found itself complaining to an increasingly disinterested audience recently, that the AIIB is a poor substitute for the World Bank as a financier for developing nations' infrastructure projects. This they argue is due to a lack of checks ensuring good governance in countries provided with loans. However, this month saw the U.S.'s closest ally, the United Kingdom, officially apply for membership to the AIIB, and one of the U.S.'s closest Asian allies, South Korea, also followed suit.¹ There is a good chance these are not the last close American allies to ignore Washington's warnings and join the AIIB. Rumors swirled in March that Japan and Australia, two other strong American partners in Asia, were seriously considering joining the AIIB as well² (a rumor that turned out to have some meaty substance in the end). Since the U.S. continues to keep its head in the sand and is continually espousing the need to uphold "standards for governance and environmental and social safeguards," one cannot help but speculate as to what will happen if the U.S. is one of the few developed nations forced to view the AIIB from the outer.³

China, on the other hand, seems to be revelling in the AIIB's success, issuing numerous statements welcoming all to apply for membership and denouncing American obstructionism.⁴ With statements such as, "We will stay open and inclusive and welcome the participation of interested countries in establishing and operating the AIIB," Beijing seems to be growing in confidence as it gathers momentum. It can even be reasonably claimed that it is almost daring the U.S. to join.⁵ Clearly a line in the sand is beginning to form, the question is: will the U.S. choose to dissolve it?

¹ UCR March Issue 2015- Economic Relations, [Issue 2](#) pg. 14, 18

² [Ibid](#), pg. 15, 16

³ [Ibid](#), pg. 14

⁴ [Ibid](#), pg. 15

⁵ [Ibid](#), pg. 17



A Shield around Asia?

While there are numerous hot spots around the globe that are garnering more immediate attention, the security situation in East Asia and on the Korean peninsula is reaching a new critical juncture, as the U.S. pushes its allies to import the Terminal High Altitude Aerial Defense (THAAD) system. The issue is most poignant in South Korea where its often derided 'evil twin,' North Korea, poses a serious threat since it is now widely accepted that its nuclear weapon development program has matured and is now developing superior missile technology capable of delivering a nuclear warhead to Seoul.

This has led to a constant back in forth between the U.S. and China, where the U.S. noted in March, the ongoing discussions concerning THAAD within South Korean government circles and assumed that its close military partner would seek to "determine its own needs."⁶ The U.S. also highlighted its plans to expand the missile defense program both within its own territory in Alaska and along the Pacific Coast as well as continuing cooperation in this field with the Japanese, Australian, Romanian, and Polish governments.⁷ China on the other hand continues to insist its neighbors, namely South Korea, consider regional security and the security concerns of others when exploring the possibility of importing U.S. missile defense systems.⁸ In stark contrast to the AIIB, it appears that China is the one left out in the cold on this issue. As other states in East Asia hoist the American missile shield over their respective territories, will China spend more political capital to keep South Korea from importing THAAD? Or will it pull back in an attempt to win over Seoul through other means at their disposal?

⁶ UCR March Issue 2015- Military and Security Relations, *Issue 3* pg. 22

⁷ *Ibid*, pg. 22, 23

⁸ *Ibid*, pg. 21

Not So Peaceful Seas

The South China Sea continues to be a stumbling block and draws major attention from all nations in the region. As China begins 'construction' activities on islands that it believes are part of its sovereign territory, protests have been lodged from many different circles, which sent Beijing immediately into defense mode, aggressively rejecting what it calls "outside meddling from the United States and like-minded countries." A type of meddling that it says is most definitely unwelcome.⁹ The U.S. however is not shying away from its criticisms of China on this issue, claiming that it has consistently and frequently raised with China concerns over its large-scale land reclamation, which the U.S. believes undermines peace and stability in the South China Sea, and more broadly in the Asia Pacific region.¹⁰

Beijing continues to remain defiant however, sticking to its now well-rehearsed line that China is the first country to discover the Diaoyu Dao and has exercised long-term effective administration over them, therefore justifying its activities in the area.¹¹ Moreover, it continues to emphasize that it holds a clear and consistent position on the South China Sea issue. China claims it is committed to resolving disputes through bilateral negotiations.¹² The U.S. on the other hand finds itself also very concerned with the situation in Ukraine still, and the U.S. loudly laments the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty by Russia,¹³ something that China makes no mention of. However, another point of interest is the decision by Taiwan to apply for membership to the AIIB, as well as the question of whether China would allow Taiwan to join, in-turn China's spokesperson delivers a carefully worded response to the potentially loaded question.

⁹ UCR March Issue 2015, Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes, *Issue 9*, pg. 50

¹⁰ *Ibid*, pg. 50

¹¹ *Ibid*, pg. 51

¹² *Ibid*, pg. 51

¹³ *Ibid*, pg. 52



The Powder Keg Continues to Go Off

The deterioration of the situation in Yemen represented the latest spark to go off in a region beset with the unfortunate realities of political instability. The situations in Iraq, Iran and Syria, as well as the fight against ISIL continues to appear prominently on the radar. However, as of late, China has tended to focus its official statements on developing cooperation with its African partners, whilst the U.S. often finds itself alone in scrambling to put out political and literal fires all over the Middle East and Africa. This seemingly was not the case in March 2015, both the U.S. and China were embroiled in a wide range of issues requiring more overt positioning, with the Chinese side unusually vocal on security matters in the region. Having to defend itself of accusations that it was being friendly toward the Taliban, China vehemently denied that there was any truth in that accusation, choosing to re-emphasize itself as a friend of Afghanistan and the Middle East region as a whole.¹⁴ China was also very clear that it was monitoring closely events in Yemen and evaluating its potential response to disruptions there.¹⁵

The U.S. found itself in a delicate position of having to balance a nuclear deal with Iran, against the loud protestations of an aggressive Benjamin Netanyahu, where the U.S. was forced to defend its commitment to Israel's security in a very public and unequivocal manner.¹⁶ China was clear in its support of a nuclear deal with Iran, this was also tempered with its own congratulatory message to Netanyahu's administration on their latest victory in securing a mandate for governing Israel for another term.¹⁷ A sign that China, for one reason or another, is being drawn out to play a more active role in the region beyond its mere development focused goals perhaps?

¹⁴ UCR March Issue 2015, Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8, pg. 40

¹⁵ Ibid, pg. 40, 41, 42

¹⁶ Ibid, pg. 40, 41

¹⁷ Ibid, pg. 40

Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better

Aid has become somewhat political lately and in many cases aid also comes with ignoble motives. Often, disbursement of aid is part of a wider political push for keeping up appearances. Indeed, the competition between the U.S. and China in this area is clearly pronounced, as both nations touted their generous donations to victims of crises or persecution around the globe; China boasting of its donations to the ravaged nation of Vanuatu following a large devastating cyclone, and the U.S. highlighting the State Department-led Global Equality Fund which is focused on advancing the rights of LGBT persons around the world.¹⁸

Both countries also made much of their efforts to help those suffering due to the Syrian civil war with the U.S. claiming to have donated the largest sum of aid to the effort and China noting it has 'done its best' to help those in need in Syria or displaced by the war.¹⁹ While obviously the aid provided from both governments is positive and contributes to helping those in need, one cannot help but ponder what the political outcomes of such 'philanthropic' efforts will be.

¹⁸ UCR March Issue 2015- Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, Issue 4 pg. 26

¹⁹ Ibid, pg. 26, 28



[FACTSHEET]

TIME PERIOD: March 1 ~ March 31MAIN ISSUES:

1. **U.S. – China Bilateral Relations:** U.S. Acknowledges Ongoing Cooperation in Law Enforcement; China Confirms Xi Jinping’s Upcoming Visit to the U.S. and Continues the Pursuit of “Win-Win Cooperation”

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 25, Press Briefing by Spokesperson of U.S Department of State Jen Psaki 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 8, Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press ● March 8, Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press ● March 13, <i>Xinhua</i>: Commentary: U.S. Childish Paranoia Only Weakens Ties with China ● March 19, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference ● March 25, Toward a New Type of International Relations of Win-Win Cooperation: Speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi at Luncheon of the China Development Forum

2. **Economic Relations:** U.S. Again Highlights Doubts on AIIB, Presses Forward on TPP and TTIP; China Boasts about New Members to the AIIB

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 3, The President’s Trade Agenda for 2015 ● March 6, Jane Harman: Trade Promotion Authority and the Prospects for Free Trade Agreements in 2015 ● March 9, Remarks by Under Secretary Sheets at the National Association for Business Economics ● March 13, Press Briefing by Spokesperson of the U.S Department of State Jen Psaki ● March 18, Readout of the President’s Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany ● March 20, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest ● March 23, Press Briefing by Deputy Spokesperson of the U.S Department of State Marie Harf ● March 26, Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to the National Council of Textile Organizations ● March 30, Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of U.S Department of State Marie Harf ● March 30, Remarks by Richard E. Hoagland: Central Asia: What’s Next? ● March 31, Remarks by Antony J. Blinken: An Enduring Vision for Central Asia ● March 31, Remarks by Antony J. Blinken: An Enduring Vision for Central Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference ● March 16, Premier Li Keqiang Meets the Press ● March 17, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference ● March 17, Remarks by director of the Department of Eurasian Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce Ling Ji at Joint Press Conference on First Meeting of Joint Work Group of 6th Russia International Industry Fair INNOPROM in 2015, First Meeting of Organizing Committee of 2nd China-Russia Expo ● March 18, <i>China Daily</i>: AIIB Banks on Real Growth, Not Rivalry ● March 18, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference ● March 19, Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang’s Regular Press Conference ● March 19, Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang’s Regular Press Conference ● March 19, Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang’s Regular Press Conference ● March 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference ● March 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference ● March 25, <i>China Daily</i>: Interest in AIIB Shows China Winning Friends ● March 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 25, Speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi at Luncheon of the China Development Forum ● March 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference
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3. **Military and Security Relations:** U.S. Pushes for Iranian Nuclear Deal, Stability in Ukraine and Iraq, and Missile Defense in Asia; China Downplays Growing Defense Budget and Arms Exports, Insists Neighbors Consider Regional Stability before Accepting U.S. Missile Defense Program

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 4, Special Briefing: Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Meetings on the Iran Nuclear Negotiations ● March 5, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: Statement on the 45th Anniversary of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty ● March 12, Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice's Meeting with Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier of Germany ● March 16, Remarks by John Allen: Stabilizing Iraqi Territories ● March 17, Remarks by Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work at the McAleese/Credit Suisse Defense Programs Conference ● March 18, Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at the House Armed Services Committee (Budget Request) ● March 20, Remarks by Anita E. Friedt: Disarmament Verification and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Ahead ● March 23, Press Availability of Secretary Kerry: Joint Press Availability with Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, and Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah ● March 24, Remarks by Admiral Cecil Haney Commander of the U.S. Strategic Command at Pentagon Briefing Room ● March 30, Remarks by Frank A. Rose: International Security and Missile Defense ● March 30, Remarks by Frank A. Rose: International Security and Missile Defense ● March 30, Remarks by Frank A. Rose: International Security and Missile Defense ● March 30, Remarks by Frank A. Rose: International Security and Missile Defense ● March 31, Remarks by Antony J. Blinken: An Enduring Vision for Central Asia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 3, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 4, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 16, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 17, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 18, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 18, <i>Xinhua</i>: Spotlight: No Need to Make A Fuss About China's Arms Exports ● March 18, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 19, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 19, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 26, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference



4. **Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues:** U.S. Continues to Set and Reinforce Global Human Rights Norms, Derides China for Human Rights Abuses; China Dismisses UN Accusations while Highlighting Its Own Humanitarian Aid Contributions in the South Pacific and Syria

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, Remarks at the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council ● March 6, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: ISIL's Destruction of Historical Heritage and Archeological Treasures ● March 8, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: International Women's Day ● March 9, Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: The State Department Welcomes Hilton Worldwide to the Global Equality Fund ● March 9, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Video Remarks for Global Climate-Smart Agriculture Summit ● March 18, Statement by the Press Secretary on the Attack at Tunisia's National Bardo Museum ● March 20, Remarks by U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power ● March 25, Remarks by Ambassador David Pressman, Alternate Representative to the UN for Special Political Affairs, at a UN Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict ● March 27, Press Briefing by Acting Deputy Spokesperson Jeff Rathke ● March 27, Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Open Debate on the Victims of Attacks and Abuses on Ethnic or Religious Grounds in the Middle East ● March 30, Remarks by Sarah Sewall: Preventing Mass Atrocities: Progress in Addressing an Enduring Challenge ● March 30, Remarks by Richard E. Hoagland: Central Asia: What's Next? ● March 30, Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session) ● March 31, Remarks by Samantha Power: Remarks at the Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, Kuwait City, Kuwait 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 16, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 18, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 23, Remarks by Spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce Sun Jiwen: Spokesman of Commerce Ministry Comments on China's Assistance to Vanuatu ● March 24, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference



5. **Climate Change and Environmental Issues:** U.S. Touts Its Progress on Emissions Reductions and Cooperation with Beijing; China Insists Progress Is Being Made But Will Come at a Pace Set by Itself

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Under Secretary Novelli to Host World Wildlife Day Google+ Hangout with NGO Leaders on March 3 ● March 12, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Atlantic Council as Part of the Road to Paris Climate Series ● March 12, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Atlantic Council as Part of the Road to Paris Climate Series ● March 12, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Atlantic Council as Part of the Road to Paris Climate Series ● March 12, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Atlantic Council as Part of the Road to Paris Climate Series ● March 19, Remarks by the President on Energy and Climate Change ● March 31, FACT SHEET: U.S. Reports its 2025 Emissions Target to the UNFCCC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 1, Chen Jining Holds a Symposium to Consult the News Media on Environmental Protection Matters ● March 12, <i>People's Daily</i>: China is Well Advanced in Eco-civilization ● March 12, <i>People's Daily</i>: China is Well Advanced in Eco-civilization ● March 30, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference

6. **Asia Pacific Issues:** U.S. Keeps Watch on Russian Planes in the Region; China Expanding Relations with Sri Lanka and Indonesia, Keeps Close Eye on Events in Myanmar, Maintains Its Criticism of Japan

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 13, Press Briefing by Spokesperson of U.S Department of State Jen Psaki ● March 17, Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice's Meeting with Shotaro Yachi, Secretary General of Japan's National Security Secretariat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 2, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 4, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 9, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 10, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 16, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 19, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 27, Joint Statement on Strengthening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Indonesia ● March 31, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference



7. **Korean Peninsula:** U.S. Urges North Korea to Scale Back Its Rhetoric; China Calls for Calm from All Sides, Mentions Its Bilateral Relationship with South Korea

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 23, Press Briefing by Deputy Spokesperson of U.S Department of State Marie Harf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 17, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference

8. **Middle East and Africa Issues:** U.S. Continues Its Focus on Syria, Afghanistan, the Fight against ISIL, Renews Its Commitment to Israel's Security, Mentions Zimbabwe; China Supports the New Iran Deal, Congratulates Netanyahu on Election Win in Israel, Both Raise Concerns over Deteriorating Situation in Yemen

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 1, Interview with Secretary of State John Kerry: Interview with Martha Raddatz of ABC This Week ● March 1, Interview with Secretary of State John Kerry: Interview with Martha Raddatz of ABC This Week ● March 2, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at a Press Availability ● March 2, Remarks by U.S Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power at the AIPAC Policy Conference ● March 3, Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Zimbabwe ● March 3, Remarks by the President before Meeting with Secretary of Defense Carter ● March 3, Special Briefing with Senior State Department Officials: Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Travel to Saudi Arabia ● March 3, Special Briefing with Senior State Department Officials: Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Travel to Saudi Arabia ● March 3, Special Briefing with Senior State Department Officials: Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Travel to Saudi Arabia ● March 6, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: ISIL's Destruction of Historical Heritage and Archeological Treasures ● March 9, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest ● March 9, Remarks by David Pressman, Ambassador of Alternate Representative to the UN for Special Political Affairs at a UN Security Council Meeting on Cooperation with the Regional Organizations ● March 11, Department of Defense Joint Press Conference by Secretary of Defense Carter and Secretary of Defence Fallon in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room ● March 12, Readout of the President's Video Conference with President Ashraf Ghani of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 4, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 9, <i>Xinhua</i>: Sharing the China Dream in the Area of Human Rights ● March 10, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 10, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 19, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 23, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 30, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference



<p>Afghanistan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 12, Press Gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz en route to Los Angeles ● March 18, Readout of President's Call with Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel ● March 18, Submitted by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at House Armed Services Committee (Budget Request) ● March 21, Readout of Vice President Biden's Call with Iraqi Kurdistan Regional President Masoud Barnzani ● March 22, Statement by Samantha Power: Statement following UN Security Council Consultations on the Situation in Yemen ● March 24, Remarks by President Obama and President Ghani of Afghanistan in Joint Press Conference ● March 25, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest ● March 26, Press Gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz en route to Birmingham , AL ● March 30, Gaggle en route to Boston, MA by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz ● March 30, Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session) ● March 30, Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session) ● March 30, Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session) ● March 30, Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session) ● March 31, Readout of the Vice President's Meeting with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven 	
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9. **Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes:** U.S. Asks Russia to Respect Ukrainian Sovereignty, Mentions Chinese Actions in the South China Sea; China Stoic in Its Defense against Criticisms on a Wide Range of Issues Including Its Plan to Continue Island Building, Cautious about Taiwan's Application to Join the AIIB

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at a Press Availability ● March 2, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at a Press Availability ● March 3, Message- Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Ukraine ● March 14, Readout of the Vice President's Call with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko ● March 20, Press Briefing by Director of the Press Office of the U.S Department of State Jeff Rathke ● March 30, Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 3, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 9, <i>Xinhua</i>: News Analysis: Commentary: China's Island, Reef Construction in South China Sea Lawful, Justified ● March 11, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 14, <i>Xinhua</i>: U.S. Meddling on South China Sea Betrays Pirate-style sense of Insecurity ● March 17, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 18, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 18, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 19, Chinese Defense Ministry urges U.S. stop making irresponsible remarks ● March 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference ● March 26, Defense Ministry's Regular Press Conference ● March 30, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ● March 31, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference



Issue 1 –U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. Acknowledges Ongoing Cooperation in Law Enforcement; China Confirms Xi Jinping’s Upcoming Visit to the U.S. and Continues Pursuit of “Win-Win Cooperation”

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 25, 2015 – Press Briefing by Spokesperson of U.S Department of State Jen Psaki (State Department) <p>Quote: “Q: There’s a report in Chinese state media that China has sent a list of I think over a hundred high-profile targets for charges on corruption that they want sent back to China. I was wondering if there’s anything you can tell us about this, where the list was sent, whether it was received, what kind of consideration you’re giving it.</p> <p>A: [...] we continue to encourage China to provide strong evidence and intelligence to ensure that our law enforcement agencies can properly investigate and prosecute cases related to the alleged corruption. So they have provided lists in the past, and certainly that’s something that is ongoing. Obviously, there are certain requirements, and we have a discussion through our – through often legal channels, but also state channels on what information is needed and what steps can be taken [...] if that’s okay. In considering whether to commence negotiations for an extradition treaty, which is what this would require, the United States takes a number of factors into consideration. We must be satisfied that an individual extradited from the United States to another country would receive a fair trial and not be subject to torture or other forms of mistreatment in that country. We also would not consider an extradition treaty unless the other country commits to extradite its own nationals. ”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 8, 2015 – Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “You may remember the reciprocal visa arrangement which China and the United States announced last year. It means that if a Chinese or American person has a visa, then for up to five or even 10 years, he or she can travel easily between the two shores of the Pacific Ocean with just a passport and an air ticket.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 8, 2015 – Foreign Minister Wang Yi Meets the Press (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “President Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to the United States this fall at the invitation of his U.S. counterpart. We expect that following their Yingtai meeting last year, the two presidents will have another productive discussion and inject new momentum into our efforts to build a new model of major-country relations between China and the United States. [...] As long as the two sides show sincerity, buttress the bottom line of “no conflict and no confrontation”, cement the foundation of ‘mutual respect’, then we can explore the immense possibility of “win-win cooperation” ”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 13, 2015 – Xinhua: Commentary: U.S. Childish Paranoia Only Weakens Ties with China (People’s Daily) <p>Quote: “Britain on Thursday announced the hope to become the first major Western country to join the Beijing-headquartered AIIB.[...] The response of the U.S. government exhibited nothing but a childish paranoia towards China, which, however, is not quite surprising, as Washington has indulged itself in that distrusting mind-set for years. [...] And such deep suspicion, or paranoia, could only prevent the two countries from narrowing down their differences and expanding cooperation in various fields, and eventually jeopardize efforts in building a new type of major-country relations. It’s imperative for Washington to change its mind-set and get rid of the China paranoia. After all, what the two countries really need is a new model of mutually beneficial relationship featured by cooperation and win-win results, which could bring tangible benefits to the peoples of both nations.”</p>



- **March 19, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: The U.S. has arrested the ex-wife of Qiao Jianjun, a fugitive Chinese official, but Qiao remains at large. Has China officially asked the U.S. to deport relevant people back to China for trial?"

A: As we all can see, China and the U.S. are stepping up cooperation on combating corruption, tracking down fugitives and recovering their criminal assets. This fully shows that there is no safe haven for the corrupt, and those who have run away will eventually be brought to justice."

- **March 25, 2015 – Toward a New Type of International Relations of Win-Win Cooperation: Speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi at Luncheon of the China Development Forum** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "China and the United States have worked to build a new model of major-country relations. The two countries focusing more on strategic communication and practical cooperation and better managing differences and disputes serves not only the interests of the two peoples, but also peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and beyond. We look forward to new and fruitful results to be achieved by President Xi Jinping's state visit to the United States this fall. China and the United States are two large countries. It's impossible for there not to be any disagreements between us, and these disagreements will not disappear the moment we commit to build a new model of major-country relations. But we shouldn't magnify the problems through a microscope. Rather, we should use the telescope to look ahead to the future and make sure we will move forward in the right direction."



Issue 2 –Economic Relations: U.S. Again Highlights Doubts on AIIB, Presses Forward on TPP and TTIP; China Boasts about New Members to the AIIB

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 3, 2015 – The President's Trade Agenda for 2015 (State Department) Quote: “The TPP is the one that is closest to being concluded. We made a great deal of progress there. It is obviously with countries that border the Pacific. It comprises 40 percent of the world’s GDP. And we are very much making progress towards a very high quality, market-opening, transparent, comprehensive agreement. And so we’re looking forward to locking in those kind of rules, rules that give a level playing field to everyone, including to U.S. companies and to every other company who’s in that TPP process. In addition, we have the TTIP, which is our agreement that we’re negotiating between the United States and the EU. And there we have a \$1 trillion relationship that is an ongoing and very deep relationship, a very old relationship, with a lot of cross-investment. And we feel that we have a real chance there to get rid of barriers that are impeding efficient cross-border trade, investment, et cetera, as well to set a new bar on things like regulation, where we can make sure that we are achieving the twin objectives of protecting our health and safety, both for ourselves and for the citizens of Europe, but also doing that in a way that is most efficient and best for our citizens.” ● Mach 6, 2015 – Jane Harman: Trade Promotion Authority and the Prospects for Free Trade Agreements in 2015 (State Department) Quote: “I think further that Obama’s willingness – and it’s in his 2016 budget – to increase trade adjustment assistance by 50 percent – goes up from like \$6.50 to \$9.50 million in the 2016 budget – is a tool that as yet has not been effectively used or effectively enough used.” [...] “I think TPA is the crucial element to enabling us to get to the extent we have the – major influence to getting us to conclude these deals. And I think not doing these deals is very bad for the U.S. – our ability to project influence in the world. And it’s not just bad for our economic relationship; it’s bad for our security relationship, because they are totally intertwined.” [...] “I think TPA is crucial for U.S. influence in the world. It’s an economic issue and it’s a security issue. And I think that TAA, as an added tool, helps on its own merits, but also is a way to help get TPA passed by Congress. And I have no idea how many Democrats or Republicans are definite on this vote, but I think at the moment we’re not there.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “On March 12, the UK submitted to China the confirmation letter of joining the AIIB as a prospective member and officially applied to participate in the AIIB. China welcomes UK’s decision. The AIIB will design its governance structure and operation policy following the principles of openness, inclusiveness, transparency, responsibility and fairness. It will learn from the good practices of the existing multilateral development banks, and meanwhile avoid the alike problems they have encountered to reduce the cost and operate more effectively. The AIIB will cooperate with and complement the existing multilateral development banks, better serve its member states and support the infrastructure building and economic development in Asia. This will also help relevant countries to benefit more from Asia, a region brimming with development vitality and potentials. Everyone is welcome to join us in this undertaking which is beneficial to all.” ● March 16, 2015 – Premier Li Keqiang Meets the Press (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Admittedly, there are differences between China and the United States, but what’s more important is that the two countries share extensive common interests. When differences are properly handled, the two sides can channel more energy into expanding the convergence of their interests. One highlight in the China-U.S. relationship is that the two sides are advancing negotiations of a bilateral investment treaty (BIT), and the BIT is built around the pre-establishment national treatment and a negative list. This is to break the ceiling on China-U.S. business cooperation and will open up new dimensions for the growth of China-U.S. ties. Naturally the negotiation will take time, but it has already sent a very clear message to both countries and the wider international community that China-U.S. business ties will get even closer and put the overall China-U.S. relationship on a more solid footing.”



- **March 9, 2015 – Remarks by Under Secretary Sheets at the National Association for Business Economics** ([U.S. Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “China faces difficult challenges, amid moderating growth, as it shifts its economy away from an unusually high investment share of GDP toward greater reliance on consumption. Chinese policymakers have recognized the need to transition to a more market-oriented economy, and they have tools to manage this transition. Also critical to China’s success is accelerating its move to a market-determined exchange rate; progress has been made in recent years, but such efforts must be broadened and become more entrenched.”

- **March 13, 2015 – Press Briefing by Spokesperson of the U.S. Department of State Jen Psaki** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Do you have any comment about the Brits deciding to join it, please?”

A: Well, this is a sovereign decision made by the United Kingdom. [...] Our position on the AIIB remains clear and consistent. The United States and many major global economies all agree there is a pressing need to enhance infrastructure investment around the world. We believe any new multilateral institution should incorporate the high standards of the World Bank and the regional development banks. Based on many discussions, we have concerns about whether the AIIB will meet these high standards, particularly related to governance and environmental and social safeguards. So it’s important to note that any country that becomes a prospective member of the AIIB will be responsible for the standards adopted, and certainly, we hope that those standards will be pushed as well.

- **March 18, 2015 – Readout of the President’s Call with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The President spoke today with Chancellor Merkel of Germany regarding developments in Ukraine. The two leaders agreed on the need for full and prompt implementation of the three Minsk agreements in order to reach a lasting and peaceful resolution to the conflict. They reiterated their agreement that there will be no easing of sanctions imposed on Russia until it has fulfilled all of its Minsk commitments. The President and the Chancellor also agreed on the continued importance of providing economic support for Ukraine as it implements necessary reforms. They also reviewed recent developments in Greece and efforts to reach a pragmatic agreement that builds upon recent reforms to return the country to growth within the euro area.”

- **March 17, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The AIIB is a multilateral development institution that is open and inclusive. Interested countries are welcome to make their decision of joining the AIIB as perspective members as soon as possible. The wide participation of countries in and out of this region exemplifies the representativeness of the AIIB. China is willing to work with all parties to build the AIIB into a professional and efficient infrastructure investment and financing platform where all parties can gain benefits, and make contributions to regional infrastructure building and economic development.”

- **March 17, 2015 – Remarks by Director of the Department of Eurasian Affairs of the Ministry of Commerce Ling Ji at Joint Press Conference on First Meeting of Joint Work Group of 6th Russia International Industry Fair INNOPROM in 2015, First Meeting of Organizing Committee of 2nd China-Russia Expo** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: On the goal of U.S.\$100 billion trade value. Our goal is not a data but U.S.\$ 100 billion with high quality and sustainable development. Therefore, we aim to solve structural problems in China-Russia trade, break the limits of growth modes through the present fluctuation and difficulties, and turn a bad thing into a good one. [...] Both China and Russia are strongly complementary in economy and have strong requirements and willingness to cooperate with each other with sufficient cooperative development abilities. Therefore, I think that U.S.\$100 billion is not a problem. I have just mentioned that there is no big difference between U.S.\$95 billion and U.S.\$100 billion and we have already reached this level. [...] Therefore, I think that China and Russia can find a lot of common points of cooperation not only under the past strategic cooperative framework but also under the new current framework of the Belt and Road Initiatives. Besides, the common points are constantly strengthened and many new fields are continually developed. I think that the cooperation in the Belt and Road Initiatives between China and Russia will play an important guiding role in the regional Belt and Road Initiatives. [...] By this Fair, we hope that we can enable our high end manufacturing products and high-tech products to enter the Russian market more and have more cooperative opportunities. Through this kind of cooperation, it is hoped that the structure of China-Russia trade and the mode of trade and cooperation and its growing mode can be gradually changed and become more stable with less fluctuation.”



- **March 20, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “Q: On AIIB, after all G7 European countries join AIIB, Japan today also indicates, [...] that they could be part of AIIB. If Japan did, would the U.S. consider to join?”

A: What we have indicated, [...] is that international multilateral organizations like this, financial organizations like this, need to live up to very high standards. And we've certainly seen the World Bank do that, and we believe that that would be necessary for the success of an organization like this one. But other than that, no policy decisions have been made on the part of the U.S. government.”

- **March 23, 2015 – Press Briefing by Deputy Spokesperson of U.S. Department of State Marie Harf** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Since the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank was formally announced in October, the U.S. Government has encouraged China and the prospective members to work within the existing multilateral development banks and incorporate their high standards – work with them, excuse me. Obviously, this is not a change in policy. We've been very clear that if they can take certain steps to maintain high standards that the international community has collectively built over the last 70 years, these new institutions could add global value. So we believe that they should adopt these high standards, including strong board oversight and environmental and social safeguards.”

- **March 26, 2015- Remarks by Ambassador Michael Froman to the National Council of Textile Organizations** ([Office of the United States Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “We've filed nearly 20 complaints through the World Trade Organization since 2009, and we've won every case that has been decided so far. Over the last year alone, the United States has won four major victories affecting billions of dollars of U.S. exports, including cases against China, India, and Argentina. We've consistently stood up for America's textile industry, most recently by initiating a new WTO dispute against China. Through close monitoring, we discovered that China appears to be using its 'Demonstration Bases' and 'Common Service Platforms' to provide domestic producers with free or discounted services contingent on exporting. These unfair practices are against WTO rules, and they threaten American textile exports and the good jobs those exports support. [...] That system has brought jobs to our shores, allies and partners to our defense, and peace and prosperity to those around the world who have embraced openness and fairness.”

- **March 18, 2015 – China Daily: AIIB Banks on Real Growth, Not Rivalry** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “That Britain has chosen to join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank is a 'surprise decision'. [...] Such is the way an otherwise purely economic topic is being framed in the light of China-U.S. rivalry. The AIIB itself is portrayed as a China-led challenge to the U.S.' economic and political dominance. Such misrepresentation is harmful, to both the existing and potential members and beneficiaries of the AIIB, to international development cooperation, and to the prospect of a more reasonable and harmonious world order. That the AIIB was proposed by and is headquartered in China does not mean it is Chinese, or an instrument of Chinese soft power. The Chinese initiative has received an enthusiastic response from countries near and far, because the new, international financial institution is an obvious all-win formula. [...] Washington has been urging Beijing to act like a 'responsible' power. The AIIB is Beijing's latest answer to that call.”

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

Quote: “As for the AIIB, I have three points to make. First, the AIIB will be built to benefit the Asian people. A majority of Asian countries are developing countries that lack development fund. [...] Second, the AIIB will be built following high standards. Being an innovative institution, the AIIB helps improve global financial governance which is quite meaningful. [...] Third, all founding members of the AIIB will cooperate with each other. Up to the day before yesterday, the AIIB has already have 27 prospective founding members.”

- **March 19, 2015 – Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “According to the statistics, in January-February, a total of 3,831 newly-established foreign-funded enterprises were approved, up 38.6% year on year. The contract value of foreign capital totaled 314.32 billion (equivalent to U.S.\$51.26 billion), up 102.4% year on year. The actually utilized FDI registered 138.19 billion yuan (equivalent to U.S.\$22.48 billion), up 17% year on year. In February, a total of 1,565 foreign-funded enterprises were approved, up 49.7% year on year. The contract value of foreign capital registered 110.73 billion yuan (equivalent to U.S.\$18.05 billion), up 69.4% year on year. The actually utilized FDI reached 52.66 billion yuan (equivalent to U.S.\$8.56 billion), up 0.9% year on year (excluding data of banking, securities and insurance).”



- **March 30, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Spokesperson of U.S. Department of State Marie Harf** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I think our views on the AIIB going forward are going to be informed by its commitments on the standards for governance and environmental and social safeguards that it will adopt and implement. So right now, we’re focusing on meeting our commitments to the existing multilateral development bank. But I think, like the rest of the world probably, the U.S. has a stake in seeing the AIIB complement and work effectively alongside the existing multilateral financial institutions. So this is something, obviously, we’ll be watching. We welcome new multilateral institutions that strengthen the international financial architecture when they have high standards – the high standards, I think, that the whole world has really built together. So we’ll be watching here and we’ll see. I don’t have anything else to predict, though, for you.”

- **March 30, 2015 - Remarks by Richard E. Hoagland: Central Asia: What's Next?** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States is doing its part to help build those markets and links, especially with our New Silk Road initiative, which focuses on improving north-south energy markets, trade and transport infrastructure, customs and borders procedures, and business networks.”

- **March 31, 2015 - Remarks by Antony J. Blinken: An Enduring Vision for Central Asia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “By deepening these security partnerships, we are also investing in a stable foundation for Central Asia to unlock its great economic potential. [...] Today, Central Asia is not only bursting with resources, but brimming with youthful, entrepreneurial potential. [...] We want to help Central Asia build a solid basis for prosperity by integrating it into a global, rules-based system. That’s why we’ve been supporting Kazakhstan’s efforts to join Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as members of the World Trade Organization, and we expect this long-sought goal to be realized this year. Our own nation’s businesses, their talent, and technological leadership can play an essential role in helping the region develop its own culture of innovation and entrepreneurship.”

- **March 19, 2015 – Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “[...] regrettably the U.S. imposed successively antidumping and anti-subsidy measures against China’s solar products, thus seriously disrupting the development of the global PV industry chain. Chinese businesses are very unhappy about this. Now they have on the one hand asked the Chinese government to take the U.S. to the WTO Dispute Settlement Body, and on the other hand are considering taking legal actions in the domestic courts of the U.S..”

- **March 19, 2015 – Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “Import and export with ASEAN, the U.S. and the Europe Union enjoyed a rapid growth. In the first two months, China’s import and export with ASEAN, the U.S. and the EU was up 11.5%, 8.2% and 3.8% respectively, among which the export increased 38.4%, 21.2% and 13% respectively, accounting for 65.3% of the total export growth. Import and export to the BRICS was down 18.4%, among which import decreased 41.3%, 21.4 percentage points more than the overall decreasing. Among other major trade partners, import and export with Taiwan was up 2.2%, and that with Japan, Hong Kong and the ROK was down 9%, 6% and 4.1% respectively.”

- **March 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “As I have put it, the AIIB is built to provide service for Asia’s infrastructure building and economic development. Its primary purpose is to enable Asia to develop further and Asian people to live a better life. The AIIB is built in the spirit of openness and inclusiveness, and we welcome all countries that intend to join it. At the same time we also emphasize that the AIIB will follow high standards, widely draw upon the good practices from existing international development banks and avoid alike problems they have encountered, so as to make sure that the AIIB can operate efficiently and become an effective platform for financing and investment and a multilateral development bank.”



- **March 31, 2015 – Remarks by Antony J. Blinken: An Enduring Vision for Central Asia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “As part of the New Silk Road initiative, the United States is helping develop the region’s connectivity – improving trade and transport infrastructure, standardizing customs and border procedures, strengthening the links between energy producers and consumers. And it’s why we’re helping to build a regional energy market to connect Central Asia’s tremendous supplies of natural gas and hydropower to 1.6 billion energy-hungry consumers in South Asia. Our support for the CASA-1000 electricity line will help bring surplus hydro-electricity from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to Afghanistan and Pakistan – where over 80 million people lack access to electricity.”

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

Quote: “Many countries have voiced their willingness to join the AIIB as prospective founding members, showcasing the wide recognition of AIIB’s goal of promoting infrastructure building and serving the economic development in Asia. [...] so as to make it an important investment and financing platform for infrastructure building and a multilateral development bank that complements the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other multilateral development banks. We will stay open and inclusive and welcome the participation of interested countries in establishing and operating the AIIB.”

- **March 25, 2015 – China Daily: Interest in AIIB Shows China Winning Friends** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The AIIB is not meant to be a political instrument competing with existing world financial institutions. Instead, the AIIB will contribute to global economic development, and blow a breath of fresh air into global financial governance and complement the current international economic order. Unlike existing global lending bodies such as the World Bank, in which the United States has a dominant role and also the power to veto, all AIIB members will participate in the decision-making process so as to achieve win-win results. The U.S., which had emerged as an opponent to the novel design, now seems to be giving it a second thought by signaling that it is adopting a cooperative attitude toward the AIIB. A U-turn by the U.S., though overdue, would be welcome; it is to be hoped this is not merely a change of tactic. China proposed the AIIB in order to meet the huge funding demand for infrastructure in Asia. Having achieved three decades of economic success, it is now ready to make greater contributions to global development. There is no reason to question China’s sincerity and effort in shouldering more international responsibilities.”

- **March 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The AIIB initiative is made to promote mutual benefits and complement the current international economic order. [...] Members of the AIIB will be categorized into those in the region and outside the region. With the gradual increase of its members, the ratio of shares held by each and every member will decrease as a result. The notion of China seeking for or giving up the veto power in the AIIB does not make sense.”



- **March 25, 2015 – Ministry Speech by Foreign Minister Wang Yi at Luncheon of the China Development Forum** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The reform and opening up program that started over 30 years ago has enabled us to marry China’s advantage in market and labour resources with the capital and technology of developed countries in the pursuit for win-win cooperation. This has made the pie of common interests between China and other countries larger and larger. China has grown into the largest trading partner of over 120 countries in just a couple of decades, and made indispensable contribution to stability and growth of the world economy.”

- **March 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The ROK officially announced its application for the prospective founding membership of the AIIB and filed a confirmation letter to China on March 27. The Chinese side welcomes the decision by the ROK. As the chairman of the chief negotiators’ meeting on the establishment of the AIIB, China is soliciting opinions from the prospective members in accordance with multilateral procedures. If everything goes well, the ROK will become an official prospective founding member of the AIIB on April 11.”



Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: U.S. Pushes for Iranian Nuclear Deal, Stability in Ukraine and Iraq, and Missile Defense in Asia; China Downplays Growing Defense Budget and Arms Exports, Insists Neighbors Consider Regional Stability before Accepting U.S. Missile Defense Program

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 4, 2015 – Special Briefing: Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Meetings on the Iran Nuclear Negotiations (State Department) Quote: “The President of the United States said yesterday, one of our primary foreign policy goals remains preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, and that is what we are trying to get done here. We do not do this alone. We do it in the context of the P5+1 [...]. We do this with full transparency with our partners, and indeed, tomorrow, as I think you all know, there is an E3-plus – EU+3 or P5+1 meeting, or E3+3 meeting, whichever you choose to use, here [...].” ● March 5, 2015 – Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: Statement on the 45th Anniversary of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (State Department) Quote: “There are many reasons for the success of the NPT, which entered into force on March 5, 1970. The international consensus against the spread of nuclear weapons, embodied in the spirit and text of the Treaty, is strong and continues to be upheld. Overwhelming numbers of states have refrained from pursuing nuclear weapons and accept International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards as the standard for verification and peaceful nuclear trade. Several states that abandoned nuclear weapons efforts might have come to a different conclusion in the absence of a robust and widely supported NPT. Today, as we mark this anniversary, we especially celebrate that more states are party to the NPT than to any other arms control or nonproliferation agreement. But there is more work to do, and we must recommit ourselves to this task.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Samaraweera purportedly said that Chinese submarines will not be allowed to dock in its ports. What is China's comment on this? A: The Chinese vessel docked in Colombo, Sri Lanka for resupply when it sailed to the Gulf of Aden and the Somalian waters for escort mission. This activity is normal and transparent and approved by the Sri Lankan side in line with international common practice. Based on my understanding, the Sri Lankan government holds a policy of supporting international anti-piracy campaign and welcoming the docking of vessels from any friendly country in its ports.” ● March 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: When taking an interview, U.S. President Obama said that he was concerned about information security mentioned in China's draft counter-terrorism law, and asked China to adjust relevant contents. What is China's response? A: As an important step to govern the country according to law, China formulates the anti-terrorism law in order to prevent and combat terrorism as is required by the Chinese government. [...]The legislation is China's domestic affair, and we hope the U.S. side can take a right, sober and objective view towards it. [...] Back to September 2011, China submitted a draft proposal of the International Code of Conduct for Information Security to the UN General Assembly together with relevant countries. In a bid to maintain peace and stability of the cyber space, China submitted an updated version this January with more emphasis on the fair governance of the Internet and the building of confidence measures in the cyber space based on the principles of respecting the sovereignty of other countries, not interfering in other's domestic affairs and peacefully resolving the disputes. We hope that the U.S. side can contribute constructively to relevant discussions, forge an international consensus as soon as possible and set up a cyber space that is peaceful, secure, open and cooperative.”



- **March 12, 2015 - Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice's Meeting with Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier of Germany** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: "National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice met today with Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier of Germany. Germany is playing an increasing and valuable role in global affairs, and this is a development that the United States, as a long-time friend and ally, warmly welcomes. Ambassador Rice expressed appreciation for Foreign Minister Steinmeier's efforts to address the ongoing conflict in eastern Ukraine. Ambassador Rice and Foreign Minister Steinmeier agreed on the need for all parties to fully implement the Minsk agreements, including ceasing all military action, cooperating with the OSCE so that its monitors can verify a full pull back of heavy weapons, and releasing all prisoners. They stressed that there will be significant increased costs for Russia if additional violations of the Minsk agreements occur or if Russian-backed separatists seek to gain new territory. They also agreed on the need to support Ukraine as it takes steps needed to stabilize its economy and lay the groundwork for future growth. As fellow members of the P5+1, Ambassador Rice and Foreign Minister Steinmeier also discussed Iran and our shared efforts to ensure that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively peaceful."

- **March 16, 2015- Remarks by John Allen: Stabilizing Iraqi Territories** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "It is difficult to overstate the importance of these critical activities. The stabilization effort will be the most important signal of the intentions of this government towards any and all Iraqis who have been victims of Daesh and those who have been driven from their homes. Iraq's future as a unified nation depends upon how the liberating force treats those living under Daesh rule. Stabilization operations can be expensive and require dedicated resources. We applaud the inclusion in the budget of \$2 billion for recovery funding and support of displaced Iraqis. It will be essential to move resources quickly to the liberated areas most in need. As you continue to clarify stabilization and recovery needs, we will work with the United Nations to further develop the concept of a trust fund and find appropriate support. The Coalition does not have the resources to resource all of Iraq's needs. We will work together to assist and support Iraq as we are able."

- **March 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: A Chinese vessel carrying military supplies to Cuba has been detained in Colombian waters. Does China have any comment on this? Have you been in any contact with the Colombian side?"

A: As far as I know, the ship carries normal military supplies exported from China to Cuba, and no sensitive substances are involved. Relevant cooperation does not violate Chinese laws and regulations, nor contravene the international obligations China undertakes. This is normal cooperation in military trade. China is in communication with the Colombian side on this matter. We will provide necessary assistance to Chinese citizens involved in this and safeguard their rights and interests in accordance with the law."

- **March 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: U.S. State Department Spokesperson Marie Harf once again expressed concerns over China's formulation of the anti-terrorism law, saying that China should consult with the U.S. government and industry in drafting the anti-terrorism law. What is China's comment on this?"

A: The Chinese side has expounded on its principled position on multiple occasions. Yesterday, spokesperson Fu Ying of the Third Session of the Twelfth National People's Congress made an explicit reply to the considerations and principles about the anti-terrorism law legislation, underscoring the restrictive conditions on which relevant measures can be put into practice. First, relevant measures will only be used to prevent and investigate terrorist activities. Second, only public security and national security organs are entitled to exercise these measures. Third, adopting relevant measures must go through a strict approval process. These are in line with the principles of the administrative law and common practices of the world, and will by no means undermine the legitimate interests of Internet operators. I'd like to emphasize that China's formulation of anti-terrorism law is purely China's domestic affairs. We are under no obligation to consult with other countries, and other countries have no right to ask China to do so. We hope that the U.S. side can view China's normal legislation in a right way."



- **March 17, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Secretary of Defense Bob Work at the McAleese/Credit Suisse Defense Programs Conference (U.S. Department of Defense)**

Quote: “Now, all three of these contingencies come on the top of an unrelenting pace – a demand for our forces is just unbelievable. We have our ongoing mission in Afghanistan. We have ongoing negotiations on Iran, on its nuclear program. We’re facing China’s provocative activities in the Eastern South China Sea. We’re dealing with global cyber-attacks of a stunning nature in terms of their number and their severity that culminated in the hack of the Sony networks. And what’s readily apparent to us from all this activity is that the global demand for U.S. forces is not going down. So, people who would say, “Well, let’s just cut the defense budget” – what they’re saying is, they are willing to take less activity in the world. And we just don’t see that activity stopping. [...] We will maintain a strong commitment to the security and stability in Europe and the Middle East. We will continue to do that. We will sustain a global counterterrorism campaign primarily through our partners. We will continue to do that. We will continue to strengthen key alliances and partnerships. And, five, we want to prioritize key modernization efforts.”

- **March 18, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at the House Armed Services Committee (Budget Request) (U.S. Department of Defense)**

Quote: “Our defense budget’s priorities line up with our strategic priorities: sustaining America’s global leadership by: rebalancing to the Asia-Pacific region; maintaining a strong commitment to security and stability in Europe and the Middle East; sustaining a global counterterrorism campaign; strengthening key alliances and partnerships; and, prioritizing key modernization efforts. [...] To be sure, even under sequestration, America will remain the world’s strongest military power. But under sequestration, our military – and our national security – would have to take on irresponsible and unnecessary risk – risk that previous Administrations and Congressional leaders have wisely chosen to avoid.”

- **March 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “On arms export, China takes a prudent and responsible attitude and conducts strict management in accordance with domestic laws and regulations while complying with the UN Security Council resolutions and other international obligations. China follows the principle of contributing to the recipient country’s capability of justified self-defense, not undermining international and regional peace and stability, and not interfering in the domestic affairs of the recipient country.”

- **March 17, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Q: The ROK Defense Ministry today said that China was attempting to influence America’s deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in the ROK, and neighboring countries should not interfere in ROK’s security policy. What is China’s response to this?”

A: China holds a consistent and clear stance on the anti-missile issue. When pursuing its own security interests, one country should take into account other’s security concerns as well as regional peace and stability. We hope certain countries can be prudent when handling relevant issues.”

- **March 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Q: Prime ministers of Australia and Vietnam held talks today and agreed to step up security cooperation. Does China support such cooperation? Do you think this is directed against China?”

A: We hope that security cooperation between relevant countries can contribute to regional peace and stability.”



- **March 20, 2015 - Remarks of Anita E. Friedt: Disarmament Verification and the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Ahead** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “For its part, the United States is actively working to expand that toolkit and we are very excited at our new venture: the International Partnership for Nuclear Disarmament, or IPNDV. This new partnership has been launched in conjunction with over 25 countries. The Partnership draws upon the expertise of talented individuals to reach a common understanding of the challenges and constraints of future monitoring and verification activities. The Partnership is unique in that it features both participation from nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states alike.”

- **March 23, 2015 – Press Availability of Secretary of State John Kerry: Joint Press Availability with Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, and Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The Afghan Government [...] now has the full responsibility for the security of the country. And we have drawn down our presence to roughly 10,000 troops. Now, while our combat mission has ended, we maintain our strategic partnership with the Government of Afghanistan. We continue our support for its efforts to pursue the reforms and continue to train its armed forces in order to end the conflict.”

- **March 24, 2015 – Remarks by Admiral Cecil Haney Commander of the U.S Strategic Command at the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([U.S. Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “As a nation, we cannot simply afford to underfund our strategic capabilities. Any cuts to the president's budget, including those imposed by sequestration, will hamper our ability to sustain and modernize our joint military forces and put us at real risk of making our nation less secure and able to address future threats [...] It's important to us for deterrence. It's important to us for assurance going forward. Because we do not want other nations building more and more nuclear capability [...] Oh, a THAAD system. I know that there is some discussions that are going on with THAAD today. I'm not going to get in front of those discussions. I think South Korea has to determine what it needs. They're a great partner that we have worked with in multiple dimensions, and we'll continue to do so.”

- **March 18, 2015 - Xinhua: Spotlight: No need to make a fuss about China's arms exports** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “Following the United States and Russia, the world's two largest arms exporter, with a big margin, China has been ranked third by a Stockholm-based research institute. [...] Still, the calculation method adopted by the SIPRI is still worth discussing, as it has more or less exaggerated the figures of China and Russia while deflating that of the United States, according to experts. [...] Some experts say that the purpose of the SIPRI's pushing up of China's ranking is to serve the West's "China threat theory", impose pressure on China and impede normal military cooperation between China and other countries. But some westerners have chose to turn a blind eye to the fact that the United States exports much more arms than any other countries, and should be held accountable more than anyone for imposing threat to international security. [...] With the growth of the economic strength and the advancement in technology development, it is reasonable and natural that China's arms exports have been growing.”

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

Quote: “Q: The U.S. military published A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower, saying that China engages in counter-piracy operations, humanitarian assistance and multinational naval exercises. America hopes to maintain constructive interactions with the Chinese navy, but at the same time accuses China of employing "force or intimidation" to assert territorial claims which creates tension and instability. How does China respond to this?

A: China is firmly committed to the path of peaceful development and a national defense policy that is defensive in its nature. China develops its maritime strength at sea in light of the need to safeguard territorial sovereignty, security and development interests and to maintain international and regional peace and stability. It does not target nor threaten any country. [...] We hope that the U.S. side can take an objective and unbiased view and stop making irresponsible remarks.



- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Frank A. Rose: International Security and Missile Defense** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The Administration is requesting over \$8B for the Missile Defense Agency in FY-16. Despite pressure on the DOD budget, funding for EPAA and missile defense programs remains a priority. With regard to U.S. homeland defense the funding request increases the number of long-range missile defense interceptors deployed in Alaska and California from 30 to 44 by 2017.”

- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Frank A. Rose: International Security and Missile Defense** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States and NATO remain committed to establishing ever more capable missile defenses to address the ballistic missile threat to Europe. The transatlantic bond is unbreakable and that is reflected in cooperation at all levels in the NATO alliance. The U.S. commitment to NATO missile defense and the sites in Romania and Poland remains ironclad.”

- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Frank A. Rose: International Security and Missile Defense** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “In the Asia-Pacific, we are continuing to cooperate through our bilateral alliances and key partnerships. For example, the United States and Japan already are working closely together to develop the SM-3 Block IIA and deployment of a second AN/TPY-2 radar to Japan, while continuing to work on enhancing interoperability between U.S. and Japanese forces. As a result of U.S.-Australia Foreign and Defense ministerial consultations this year, the United States and Australia are establishing a bilateral BMD Working Group to examine options for potential Australian contributions to the BMD architecture in the Asia-Pacific region. Additionally, we are also continuing to consult closely with the Republic of Korea (ROK) as it develops the Korean Air and Missile Defense system, which is designed to defend the ROK against air and missile threats from North Korea.”

- **March 19, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China's Internet is developing rapidly with a total of nearly 700 million netizens. China's Internet is open, and so is the Internet market. While developing itself, the Internet also needs regulation. Lots of countries have their own laws and regulations on the security and management of the Internet, China is no exception, and hence domestic laws and regulations should be followed in the development of the Internet. We are willing to carry out international dialogues on the openness, security and cooperation of the Internet.”

- **March 19, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The China-Japan security dialogue and the regular diplomatic consultation mechanism are important channels of communication between diplomatic and national defense agencies of the two countries. Through this dialogue and consultation, we hope to exchange views with the Japanese side on bilateral relations, respective national defense and security policies as well as regional and international issues of common interest. Since the security dialogue just concluded, we haven't got further details about the dialogue at this moment and we will release them in due course.”

- **March 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side has made clear its principled position on the issue of cyber security on many occasions. Instead of making accusations without solid evidence, all relevant parties should take a more constructive attitude, explore ways to set up international rules through dialogue based on equality and mutual respect and jointly uphold peace, security, openness and cooperation of the cyber space.”



- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Frank A. Rose: International Security and Missile Defense** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We have made clear to the Russians that EPAA is not directed toward Russia. We have also made it clear that we cannot and will not accept legally-binding or other constraints that limit our ability to defend ourselves, our allies, and our partners. The security of the United States, its allies and partners is a foremost responsibility. As such, the United States will continue to insist on having the flexibility to respond to evolving ballistic missile threats, free from obligations that limit our BMD capabilities.”

- **March 31, 2015 – Remarks by Antony J. Blinken: An Enduring Vision for Central Asia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “First, with regard to strengthening our security partnerships, while each Central Asian country has its own distinctive history and will forge its own future, we know that they share a common concern for stability and regional security. [...] Kazakhstan has been and continues to be a leader in nonproliferation and global security. [...] In Tajikistan, we are focusing on improving border security, strengthening the capacity of law enforcement, and countering terrorism along the nation’s long and porous border with Afghanistan. Uzbekistan’s contributions to our Afghanistan effort, including participation in the Northern Distribution Network, remain important, as does our work together to combat narco-trafficking and defend against transnational threats. And we also remain grateful for the vital support Kyrgyzstan provided for the effort in Afghanistan. We respect the decision of our sovereign and independent partner to close the transit center. Our relationship has moved forward as we continue to work together to address shared security challenges. And in Turkmenistan, we’ve helped the government establish modern border control checkpoints with state-of-the-art technology to combat smuggling and to fight human trafficking.”

- **March 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China sticks to the path of peaceful development and the defense policy that is defensive in nature. China’s strategic intention is open and transparent, so it is with the process of examination and approval of China’s defense budget as well as the total volume and composition of China’s defense expenditure. It is justifiable for China to pursue national defense modernization commensurate with its level of economic development. Due to historical reasons, moves taken by Japan in the fields of military and security are always something on the mind of its Asian neighbors and the international community. Japan’s population is only about 1/10 that of China, and its size about 1/26 that of China. However, the per capita defense spending in Japan is around five times that of China. Given this situation, we cannot help but wonder why Japan is making an issue of China’s normal defense efforts, and whether there is some other agenda. We hope that the Japanese side would draw lessons from history, adhere to the path of peaceful development, stop playing up the so-called “China threat” and make contributions to regional peace and stability.”

- **March 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: China is opposed to the deployment of the THAAD system in the Asia-Pacific region. However, the United States and South Korea still decide to carry out consultations on the deployment of the THAAD system in April. So do you have any comment?”

A: Our stance on the deployment of the missile defense system in the Asia-Pacific region is clear and consistent. And we think that to deploy the missile defense system by some countries in the Asia-Pacific region is neither conducive to the strategic stability and mutual trust, nor to regional peace and stability. And we hope relevant countries can be prudent in taking actions.”



Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Continues to Set and Reinforce Global Human Rights Norms, Derides China for Human Rights Abuses; China Dismisses UN Accusations while Highlighting Its Own Humanitarian Aid Contributions in the South Pacific and Syria

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, 2015 – Remarks at the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council (State Department) Quote: “President Obama believes deeply in the mission of the Human Rights Council, and he recognizes the importance of engagement – U.S. engagement; other engagement – and leadership within the organization. He made the decision to re-engage shortly after he became President because he knew it is vital for the United States and for allies to have a seat at the table as the HRC sets its priorities and implements its agenda [...] And HRC is an organization that, can help all of our nations live up to the ideals that we share.” ● March 6, 2015 – Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: ISIL's Destruction of Historical Heritage and Archeological Treasures (State Department) Quote: “We urge all parties in Iraq and Syria and the international community to respect and protect archaeological, historic, religious, and cultural sites, including museums and archives, and to reaffirm that all those who destroy important cultural property must be held accountable. The United States is committed to defeating ISIL and to opposing such senseless acts.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: Heiner Bielefeldt, special rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief of the UN said that he is disconcerted by the Chinese government's crackdown over the Uighurs in Xinjiang, and there has been no progress on his request to visit China. What is China's response to that? A: The Chinese government protects its citizens' freedom of religion or belief as well as normal religious activities in accordance with the law and fully respects the customs of ethnic minorities. The so-called crackdown on the Uighurs is absolutely baseless. As for the visit to China, I believe you are referring to the visits by the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council. China attaches importance to cooperating with the UN human rights mechanisms. The Human Rights Council has as many as 53 Special Procedures, many of which have requested to visit China. China has been taking full consideration of all the requests, and has sent out invitations in a methodical and orderly way. [...] We are now in communication with the above-mentioned Special Procedures for the arrangements of their visits.” ● March 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Red Cross Society of China has offered emergency humanitarian assistance amounting to 100,000 dollars to Vanuatu. The Chinese government will extend disaster relief assistance to the government of Vanuatu. We will closely monitor the situation there and try our best to support the government and people of Vanuatu in combating the disaster and rebuilding their homelands.”



- **March 8, 2015 - Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: International Women's Day** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "On International Women's Day we celebrate the courage and contributions of women and girls around the world. The fundamental truth is that no society can reach its full potential if it leaves 50 percent of its people behind. [...] So while we honor these women's courage, we reaffirm our commitment to achieving gender equality. It's a commitment we will, and we must, keep as the global community shapes the Sustainable Development Goals for the next 15 years. [...] We must prevent and respond to gender-based violence. [...] We must open the doors for women to fully participate in society [...] And we must invest in the next generation of women by making sure girls can go to school in a safe environment. They should be able to graduate – empowered to be part of their community, diploma in hand. [...] Today of all days, the United States reaffirms our commitment to ensuring that this vital progress continues – that women and girls everywhere enjoy the same freedoms and rights as anyone else."

- **March 9, 2015 – Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: The State Department Welcomes Hilton Worldwide to the Global Equality Fund** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "Launched in December 2011, the Global Equality Fund supports civil society's efforts to advance and protect the human rights of LGBT persons around the world. The Fund brings together the resources and expertise of governments, corporations, foundations, and civil society organizations with the shared objective of creating an environment in which LGBT persons can live freely and without discrimination. It is managed by the U.S. Department of State with the participation from the U.S. Agency for International Development."

- **March 9, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Video Remarks for Global Climate-Smart Agriculture Summit** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "Today, there is no greater challenge than feeding the world's growing population. [...] If we want to ensure that this crisis doesn't grow worse, we need to find a way to produce far more food – and waste much less. So we need all of you – the world's leading experts on agriculture – to muster every ounce of courage and innovative energy you have. We need you to increase productivity; help farmers adapt; and, where possible, mitigate the damage caused by a changing climate. Because none of our accomplishments will be enough if we don't concern ourselves with what we put in the air; we can't guarantee food security unless we curb the harmful."

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

Quote: "In order to help the government and people of Vanuatu tide over difficulties, the Chinese government decides to provide the Vanuatu government with emergency assistance with a total amount of 30 million RMB, including food, drinking water, tents and generators that are badly needed by disaster-affected people. The Chinese side will deliver these materials by chartered planes as soon as possible. The Red Cross Society of China has already offered humanitarian assistance to the Red Cross Society of Vanuatu. We will go all out to support the government and people of Vanuatu in surmounting difficulties and rebuilding their homeland at an early date."

- **March 23, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesman of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce Sun Jiwen: Spokesman of Commerce Ministry Comments on China's Assistance to Vanuatu** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: "Sun said that the Ministry of Commerce has attached great importance to the humanitarian materials provided to Vanuatu, launched the emergency mechanism at the first time, and implemented rapidly material purchasing and shipment overcoming the difficulties like tight schedule, tough tasks and difficult shipment. The materials shipped this time, all together 185 tons, include tents, canvas, electric generators and food urgently needed by the disaster area. The Ministry of Commerce will, cooperating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and coordinating with China's embassy in Vanuatu, assist the recipient government to receive and distribute the materials and put them into use, to give play their maximum utility."

- **March 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria will be held on March 31 in Kuwait. Ambassador Gong Xiaosheng, China's Special Envoy on the Middle East Issue will attend the conference. The conflict in Syria has plunged the Syrian people into plight. The humanitarian situation there is disturbing. The international community should act in the principle of neutrality and equity, uphold relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, follow the UN guiding principles on humanitarian aid and step up humanitarian assistance to Syria. [...] The Chinese side has been playing a constructive role in pushing for the political settlement of the Syrian issue. We have done our best to deliver, through various channels, multiple batches of humanitarian supplies and assistance to the Syrian people and overseas Syrian refugees. The Chinese side will continue to do so."



- **March 18, 2015 – Statement by the Press Secretary on the Attack at Tunisia’s National Bardo Museum** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “We extend our deepest sympathies to the victims of today’s heinous violence in Tunisia and condemn in the strongest terms this terrorist attack, which took the lives of innocent Tunisians as well as visiting tourists. American officials are in touch with Tunisian authorities, and the United States is prepared to offer assistance to their investigation. While we do not yet know the identities of the attackers or their motives, what we do know is that their cowardly acts will not intimidate the Tunisian people, whose storied heritage is showcased at the site of this attack, the National Bardo Museum. The United States is proud of our robust cooperation with Tunisia on counterterrorism and broader security issues, and we will continue to stand with our Tunisian partners against terrorist violence.”

- **March 20, 2015 – Remarks by U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “If China is committed to advancing the rights of women, then it should be working to address the issues raised by these women’s rights activists—not silencing them. The United States calls upon China to release immediately the Beijing+20 Five and partner with them to help ensure that men and women everywhere are able to live free from harassment and violence.”

- **March 25, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador David Pressman, Alternate Representative to the UN for Special Political Affairs, at a UN Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “UN member states must be held to the highest standards and [...] we must ensure that national armed forces do not unlawfully recruit and use children. To this end, we applaud the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the “Children, Not Soldiers” Campaign, but recognize that this is a collective responsibility and is a challenge that can only be addressed through difficult choices being made in capitals to take a stand against abusers. The United States is doing its part [...] We must ensure that all children, in all societies, are shielded from conflict and have the opportunity to become leaders who can build strong, stable communities and wage the important work of making peace.”



- **March 27, 2015 – Press Briefing by Acting Deputy Spokesperson Jeff Rathke** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We are concerned about reports that Chinese authorities have raided the offices of the Beijing Yirenping Center. The Yirenping Center is a human rights NGO that fights discrimination against people with HIV, hepatitis, and physical disabilities. They are an important civil society organization in China that gives a voice to marginalized groups, and we remain concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in China, including the numerous arrests, detentions, enforced disappearances of human rights activists and others who peacefully question official policies and actions. “

- **March 27, 2015 – Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Open Debate on the Victims of Attacks and Abuses on Ethnic or Religious Grounds in the Middle East** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States continues to seek every opportunity to assist those suffering under the threat of extremist groups, including ISIL. The U.S. remains the single largest donor to the humanitarian response for Syria, contributing over \$3.1 billion dollars since the civil war began. This assistance is being provided to all individuals on the basis of need, regardless of religious identity or political affiliation, and to meet the needs of all Syrians, including religious minorities. The U.S. government also continues to be a primary donor to displaced Iraqis, contributing over \$219 million dollars since 2014. “

- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Sarah Sewall: Preventing Mass Atrocities: Progress in Addressing an Enduring Challenge** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The U.S. Government has refined and expanded tools to prevent atrocities. In addition to traditional levers of influence, such as diplomacy and economic assistance, we impose targeted sanctions, such as visa restrictions and asset freezes, against perpetrators of human rights violations in certain cases. “

- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Richard E. Hoagland: Central Asia: What's Next?** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We are consistently engaged with the countries of Central Asia to improve their track records on human rights, with the clear recognition that effecting change in this area will be difficult and will definitely require long-term engagement. “



- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session) ([State Department](#))**

Quote: “Promoting religious freedom is a priority for the United States, and it remains a core value that influences U.S. diplomatic engagement worldwide. In recent days and months, the brutal persecution of religious minorities has shocked us all. Together we condemn the targeting of civilians of any religious affiliation for any kind of violence, and likewise condemn the destruction of religious sites and property. “

- **March 31, 2015 – Remarks by Samantha Power: Remarks at the Third International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria, Kuwait City, Kuwait ([State Department](#))**

Quote: “Beyond Syria’s borders, there are nearly four million Syrian refugees – more than the entire population of the country of Kuwait. One in four people in Lebanon is a Syrian refugee. In Jordan, nearly a hundred schools now devote half their day to teaching Jordanian children, and the other half to teaching Syrian refugee children. Turkey is sheltering a staggering 1.7 million refugees.

The needs are growing by virtually every measure; the UN’s humanitarian appeal for Syria this year is \$8.4 billion, the largest in history, and \$3.4 billion more than last year’s appeal. Yet too many countries are giving the same amount, or even less than they have in the past. And as more people need help, we are reaching a smaller share of them. “



Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S. Touts Its Progress on Emissions Reductions and Cooperation with Beijing; China Insists Progress Is Being Made But Will Come at a Pace Set by Itself

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, 2015 – Media Note by Office of the Spokesperson: Under Secretary Novelli to Host World Wildlife Day Google+ Hangout with NGO Leaders on March 3 (State Department) Quote: “To celebrate the second annual World Wildlife Day, Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Catherine Novelli will host a Google+ Hangout March 3 on the subject of combating wildlife trafficking. The Under Secretary will be joined by prominent African and Asian leaders from several non-governmental environmental organizations [...] Wildlife trafficking is a multi-billion dollar criminal enterprise that poses not only a critical conservation concern, but also represents a serious threat to the security and economic stability of the countries involved. World Wildlife Day presents an opportunity to raise public awareness about the impacts of wildlife trafficking on the natural environment and the people who share it, and the key role that the U.S. is playing to combat this illegal activity.” ● March 12, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Atlantic Council as Part of the Road to Paris Climate Series (State Department) Quote: “The United States and China, the world’s two largest emitters of carbon pollution – two countries, by the way, long regarded as the leaders of opposing camps in the climate negotiations – have now found common ground on this issue. And I joined President Obama as he stood next to President Xi, and Todd was there when we unveiled our respective ambitious post-2020 mitigation commitments. That is an enormous achievement.” “Now we need more and more nations to follow suit and announce their ambitious mitigation targets as well. And because this has to be a truly all-hands-on-deck effort, I invite all of our partners – businesses and industry groups, mayors, governors throughout the country and around the world to announce their own targets, their commitments leading up to Paris, so we can set an example and create a grassroots movement towards success. This will help us come forward with plans that will help every country be able to reach their goals.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 1, 2015 – Chen Jining Holds a Symposium to Consult the News Media on Environmental Protection Matters(Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China) Quote: “MEP Minister Chen Jining held a symposium to listen to the opinions and suggestions of the news media on the current environmental situations. He said, ‘I reckon that we should do well in the following matters in the near term. First, we should make all-out effort to enforce the new Environment Protection Law. Second, we should make every effort to formulate the ‘Thirteen Five-Year Plan for National Environmental Protection’. Third, we will further deepen environmental reforms. Fourth, we will make more efforts in information sharing. Fifth, we will keep improving our work styles.” ● March 12, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: China is Well Advanced in Eco-civilization (People's Daily) Quote: “To achieve sustainable development, it is necessary to narrow the gap between nature and capital. The world can no longer satisfy itself simply by converting consumables and resources to currency. A virtuous circle should be set up to ensure the regeneration of natural resources and to maintain economic growth at the same time. Eco-civilization has two basic attributes. First, man should not become the enemy of nature. Second, eco-civilization means setting up an ecological circle without waste and pollution. The emissions of one product must be the raw material of another. Building an Eco-civilization helps to eliminate poverty, relocate resources fairly, and promote social justice. China is committed to building an eco-civilization and promoting international cooperation in the area. But little is said in Western countries about China’s efforts to construct an eco-civilization. Many are still obsessed with China’s emissions of greenhouses gases and high-emission economic growth mode. In fact, China has pledged to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 40%-45% in 2020 compared with 2005, and enter a ‘new normal’ phase with a healthy economic development. “



- **March 12, 2015 –Remarks of Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Atlantic Council as Part of the Road to Paris Climate Series** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Today, thanks to President Obama’s Climate Action Plan, the United States is well on its way to meeting our international commitments to seriously cut greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. And that’s because we’re going straight to the largest sources of pollution. We’re targeting emissions from transportation and power sources, which account for about 60 percent of the dangerous greenhouse gases that we release. And we’re also tackling smaller opportunities in every sector of the economy in order to be able to address every greenhouse gas.”

- **March 12, 2015 – Remarks of Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Atlantic Council as Part of the Road to Paris Climate Series** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We were able to recently announce the goal of reducing emissions by 26 to 28 percent, from 2005 levels, and accomplish that by year 2025. And that will put us squarely on the road to a more sustainable and prosperous economy. Now, this upper end target would also enable us to be able to cut our emissions by 83 percent by mid-century, which is what scientists say we need to do in order to prevent warming from exceeding the threshold level of 2 degrees centigrade, Celsius.”

- **March 12, 2015 – Remarks of Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at the Atlantic Council as Part of the Road to Paris Climate Series** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “White House announcement that they made last month, the Clean Energy Investment Initiative. Its starting goal is to attract \$2 billion in private sector investment to be put toward clean energy climate change solutions.”

- **March 12, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: China is Well Advanced in Eco-civilization** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “These are measures contributing to the construction of eco-civilization: First, introduce market mechanisms. The evaluation of all goods and services based on their impact on the environment can serve as an important guideline for investment, production and consumption. Good business should be eco-friendly and sustainable. Levying high taxes on high energy-consuming or high-polluting products can be an effective approach. Second, build a large-scale clean power grid. A large-scale clean power grid will provide reliable, low-priced and clean power. Clean power is a big market of which leading companies can take advantage. Third, make good use of international investment to build a sustainable power grid. It is essential to build a global ecosystem assessment, so that any high energy-consuming enterprise will pay high costs in any country. We need to take measures to ward off ecocatastrophe by building an eco-friendly system.”

- **March 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: According to media reports, tomorrow is the deadline for countries to submit their post-2020 pledges on carbon emission reduction to the UN. So far the EU and Switzerland have already done so. Is China planning to submit the pledge by tomorrow?”

A: [...] Countries that are fully prepared can submit their "contributions" in the first quarter of 2015, and some developed countries have already done so. We have noted this and welcome this. It is our belief that "contributions" of all countries should be comprehensive and balanced, covering all elements including mitigation, adaptation, funding, technology and capacity building. China is actively studying this and strives to submit China's "contributions" in the first half of this year with the least delay.”



- **March 19, 2015 – 2014 Remarks by the President on Energy and Climate Change** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “This has been a team effort to make sure that we are doing everything we can to boost the energy efficiency of the American economy. And since we’ve said it’s important, we thought it was important for us to lead by example here at the federal government. [...] Thanks in part to the investments that we’ve made over the past six years, the United States is rapidly becoming a leader in solar energy. [...] in fact, the solar industry is adding jobs 10 times faster than the economy as a whole. So we’re proving that it is possible to grow our economy robustly while at the same time doing the right thing for our environment and tackling climate change in a serious way. Over the past six years, we’ve done more than ever to combat climate change. Last year, the federal government used less energy than at any time in the past four decades. And in a historic joint announcement that many of you saw, China committed to limiting their emissions for the first time. So today, America once again is going to be leading by example. This morning, I signed an executive order that will do two things. First, we’re going to cut the federal government’s greenhouse gas emissions 40 percent from the 2008 levels within the next 10 years. Second, we’re going to increase the share of electricity that the federal government uses from renewable sources to 30 percent within the next 10 years. what this is doing is allowing us across the economy to not only hit some key targets that are going to be required in order for us to reduce climate change, but they’re also saving money, helping their bottom line, and they’re giving a boost to the industry as a whole [...] obviously that can help drive down the overall price, make it that much for efficient, and we start getting a virtuous cycle that is good for the economy and creates jobs here in America.”

- **March 31, 2015 – FACT SHEET: U.S. Reports its 2025 Emissions Target to the UNFCCC** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “Last November, President Obama and President Xi – leaders of the largest economies and largest polluters – made the historic announcement of the respective post-2020 climate targets for the United States and China. For the first time, China committed to limit its greenhouse gas emissions, with a commitment to peak emissions around 2030 and to make best efforts to peak early, and to increase its share of non-fossil energy consumption to around 20 percent by 2030.”



Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Keeps Watch on Russian Planes in the Region; China Expanding Relations with Sri Lanka and Indonesia, Keeps Close Eye on Events in Myanmar, Maintains Its Criticism of Japan

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 13, 2015 – Press Briefing by Spokesperson of U.S Department of State Jen Psaki (State Department) Quote: “Q: [...] did you get any more about this request to the Vietnamese on Cam Ranh Bay and not allowing the Russians to – and not wanting them to allow – you not wanting them to refuel Russian planes there? A: [...] our concern is about activities they might conduct in the region, and the question is: Why are they in the region? [...] it is about concerns about what activities they would be in the region for. ● March 17, 2015 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Bernadette Meehan on National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice’s Meeting with Shotaro Yachi, Secretary General of Japan’s National Security Secretariat (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice met today with Shotaro Yachi, Secretary General of Japan’s National Security Secretariat. Ambassador Rice noted that the President looks forward to hosting Prime Minister Abe for an official visit next month, the first of its kind since 2006. The two discussed U.S.-Japan cooperation in addressing a range of bilateral, regional and global security issues, including North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs and maritime security in East Asia. They took note of the progress that has been made in revising the Guidelines for U.S.-Japan Defense Cooperation, and agreed that a successful outcome will ensure that the Alliance continues to be fully capable of responding to 21st century security challenges. Ambassador Rice underscored the importance of strong relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea, and the need to maintain G-7 unity in responding to Russian aggression in Ukraine.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera of Sri Lanka was in China from February 27 to 28 for a visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister Wang Yi. [...] Both sides agreed to further deepen practical cooperation and seek stronger development of China-Sri Lanka strategic partnership for cooperation while fully implementing the outcomes achieved by President Xi Jinping during his visit to Sri Lanka last year and preparing for President Sirisena’s visit to China. As for some media reports about China’s loans to Sri Lanka, China’s loans were provided at the request of the Sri Lankan side following the principle of mutual benefit and win-win results. The loan arrangements, which are made upon consensus and oriented towards the entire nation and its people, have played a positive role in Sri Lanka’s economic and social development.” ● March 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “ I have noticed that at the 70th anniversary of the founding of the UN and the end of the World Anti-Fascist War, the attitude taken by the Japanese leaders on the past history of militarist aggression and the message sent out have been much talked about by the international community and within Japan for quite a time. For example, Japanese former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said that Japan’s colonial rule and aggression over China and the ROK is undeniable. [...] This echoes the important consensus forged and explicit message sent out in the UN Security Council open debate on maintaining international peace and security chaired by Foreign Minister Wang Yi in New York.” ● March 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China always regards Indonesia as an important partner of strategic cooperation, and stays committed to advancing friendly and pragmatic cooperation with the Indonesian side in various fields. The two sides have agreed to maintain the momentum of high-level exchanges.”



- **March 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Since the local conflicts ravaged northern Myanmar, the Chinese side has been in close communication with the Myanmar side through various channels. [...]’d like to reiterate that China always respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Myanmar. We hope that parties concerned in Myanmar can take measures to cool down the situation, and restore peace and stability to the border area as soon as possible. China is willing to move forward the peace process in northern Myanmar, and play a constructive role in restoring peace and stability to the border area as soon as possible in accordance with the will of the Myanmar side.”

- **March 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “I think you are referring to the media reports that China has tightened control in the China-Myanmar border area. Some parts along the China-Myanmar boundary are still exposed to security risks given the influence of conflicts in northern Myanmar. [...] We have said many times that following the fightings in northern Myanmar, China has provided necessary assistance and proper settlement to Myanmar citizens who fled to China on the basis of humanitarianism. We hope that fightings in northern Myanmar can come to an end, the security and order can be restored to the border area, and those Myanmar citizens who temporarily came to China out of security concerns can return to their homeland as soon as possible.”

- **March 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at yesterday's press conference that the history issue has been haunting the China-Japan relationship. An elder Chinese diplomat once said that the more the victimizer is conscious of his guilt, the easier the victimized can recover from the suffering. After China claimed the victory of the Chinese people's war of resistance against Japanese aggression, it showed generosity to Japan, and has never blurred the distinction between a minority of militarists and the general public in Japan. The key is for Japan to show sincerity on the history issue and never turn a blind eye to history. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of the world anti-Fascist war and the Chinese people's war of resistance against Japanese aggression. In this special year, we hope that Japanese leaders can make the right choice on the history issue.”



- **March 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "It is to our knowledge that amid conflicts between Myanmar's government forces and local ethnic militias on March 8, stray bombs hit the Chinese side and damaged a civilian residence. Luckily, no one was injured or killed. The Chinese side has expressed grave concerns to the Myanmar side, asking them to get to the bottom of this incident as soon as possible and take effective measures to ensure that such incident will never happen again. Conflicts in the Kokang region in northern Myanmar have been raging on for more than a month, disturbing the stability and normal order of China-Myanmar border areas. China once again urges relevant parties to exercise restraint, calm things down on the ground at an early date, and restore peace and stability in northern Myanmar."

- **March 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "China consistently supports Asian and African countries in strengthening unity and cooperation, maintaining peace and stability and realizing common prosperity of Asia and Africa. The Chinese side hopes that the commemorations celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Bandung Conference can be held successfully, and more contributions will be made to carry forward the Bandung Spirit in the new era, deepen practical cooperation, facilitate the common development of Asia and Africa and move forward the building of a new model of international relations featuring win-win cooperation."

- **March 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: "The 10th Trilateral Senior Foreign Affairs Officials Consultation among China, Japan and the ROK was held in Seoul on March 11. [...] The focus of this consultation is to make preparations for the upcoming 7th foreign ministers' meeting to be held in late March. Senior officials from the three countries held in-depth discussion on the arrangements of the foreign ministers' meeting and reached initial consensus, agreeing on keeping close communication and coordination and ensuring a successful foreign ministers' meeting. [...] The Chinese side sets great store by this foreign ministers' meeting, and hopes that the three countries can hold this meeting in the spirit of actively pushing forward cooperation and not shying away from problems so as to move forward the sound and stable development of trilateral cooperation on the right track. As for the leaders' meeting you mentioned, I have nothing to offer to you at this moment."



- **March 16, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Conflicts in the Kokang area of northern Myanmar have been raging on over a month, causing adverse effects to peace and stability of the border area. China once again urges conflicting parties to take China's concerns seriously, exercise restraint, cool down the situation and restore normal order to the border area as soon as possible.”

- **March 19, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “It is understood that the Sri Lankan government decides to approve the restart of the construction of the Colombo port city breakwater. We believe that the Sri Lankan side, while safeguarding the fundamental interests of its own development and keeping Chinese companies interested in cooperating with Sri Lanka, can properly deal with relevant issue, protect the rights and interests of Chinese companies and create favorable conditions to advance the mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Sri Lanka.”

- **March 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “We have repeatedly elaborated on our position regarding Japan's military and security policy adjustment in recent period. We hope that Japan can earnestly respond to its Asian neighbors' concerns on this issue, commit itself to peaceful development and make constructive contributions to regional peace and stability.”

- **March 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “The Chinese side is engaged in cooperation with Sri Lanka on an equal footing for mutually beneficial and win-win outcomes. All the cooperation agreements were signed based on consensus through consultation. [...] As for the Colombo Port City project you mentioned, the Chinese government supports relevant companies and sectors in carrying out mutually beneficial cooperation. We believe that the government of Sri Lanka will act in its long-term interests, advance the practical cooperation with China, properly handle relevant issues, keep Chinese companies interested in investing in Sri Lanka and protect their lawful rights and interests.”



- **March 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “As agreed by China and ASEAN countries, the 13th Joint Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the DOC will be held in Rangoon, Myanmar from March 30 to 31. The Chinese side attaches great importance to this year’s first working group meeting. The Chinese side will exchange views with all relevant parties to fully and effectively implement the DOC, enhance maritime practical cooperation and speed up consultation on the code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC). Officials of competent authorities and experts from all participating countries will also meet to discuss navigation security, joint maritime search and rescue and other fields of practical cooperation.”

- **March 27, 2015 – Joint Statement on Strengthening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of Indonesia** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The two Presidents held the view that China and Indonesia share extensive interests in regional and multilateral arenas. As important partners in maintaining regional peace and stability, promoting world prosperity and development, advancing South-South cooperation, and addressing global issues, the two countries should strengthen strategic communication and coordination.”

- **March 31, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China holds a consistent and clear position on the relevant issue. Due to historical reasons, Japan's policy changes in military and security fields have always been followed closely by its Asian neighbors and the international community. The U.S.-Japan alliance is a special arrangement formed in the Cold War. It should not extend beyond bilateral relations, nor should it undermine the security and interests of regional countries. We hope that parties concerned can make more positive and constructive contributions to regional peace, stability and development.”



Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: U.S. Urges North Korea to Scale Back Its Rhetoric; China Calls for Calm from All Sides, Mentions Its Bilateral Relationship with South Korea

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 23, 2015 – Press Briefing by Deputy Spokesperson of U.S Department of State Marie Harf (State Department) <p>Quote: “Q: North Korean ambassador to United Kingdom Hyun Hak Bong has mentioned yesterday interview with British TV, and he said North Korea ready to fire nuclear weapon anytime. And also he said if U.S. use conventional weapons, they will do so; and if U.S. use nuclear weapons, also they will do so. How –</p> <p>A: Well, I saw those reports. There is obviously an overwhelming international consensus against North Korea’s nuclear and ballistic missile programs. We have called on North Korea to abandon both programs in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner. This is required by multiple UN Security Council resolutions. And we remain fully prepared to deter, defend against, and respond to the threat posed by North Korea, obviously are steadfast in our commitment to the defense of not only the United States but our allies and our interests in the region.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “Q: The ROK and the U.S. started the joint military drill today, and the DPRK launched 2 short-range missiles into the east waters of the Peninsula in response. The DPRK Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying that the joint military exercise of the ROK and the U.S. is highly provocative and the DPRK side will respond with toughest measures. How does China comment on this?</p> <p>A: We maintain that upholding peace and stability of the Korean Peninsular and north-east Asia is in the interests of parties concerned, and is also a common responsibility shared by all. We hope parties concerned can do more things that are conducive to defusing the tension of the Peninsular and maintaining regional peace and stability, rather than the contrary.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “Q: The DPRK launched seven surface-to-air missiles to the eastern waters of the Peninsular yesterday. How does China comment on this?</p> <p>A: It is in the interests of all parties concerned to maintain peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula. Given the current situation, we hope that relevant parties can do more things that contribute to easing the tension and safeguarding regional peace and stability.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 17, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) <p>Quote: “The China-ROK Consular Accord is the 49th bilateral consular treaty signed by China. Serving as a fundamental legal document of bilateral people-to-people exchanges, the Accord will better guarantee China-ROK personnel exchanges on legal grounds, provide more legal basis for the two countries to safeguard their citizens' legitimate rights and interests in each other's country, and solidify China-ROK consular cooperation.”</p>



Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S. Continues Its Focus on Syria, Afghanistan, the Fight against ISIL, Renews Its Commitment to Israel's Security, Mentions Zimbabwe; China Supports the New Iran Deal, Congratulates Netanyahu on Election Win in Israel, Both Raise Concerns over Deteriorating Situation in Yemen

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 1, 2015 – Interview with Secretary of State John Kerry: Interview with Martha Raddatz of ABC This Week (State Department) Quote: “We have proven that we have slowed Iran’s, even set back its nuclear program. [...] Our hope is diplomacy can work. [...] It is better to do this by diplomacy than to have to do a strategy militarily, which you would have to repeat over and over again and which I think everybody believes ought to be after you have exhausted all the diplomatic remedies.” ● March 1, 2015 – Interview with Secretary of State John Kerry: Interview with Martha Raddatz of ABC This Week (State Department) Quote: “Syria is a bigger challenge. We will need people on the ground. It will not be American forces, but we are working on that. There’s training and equipping of the opposition that begins this month. Arab countries in the region are stepping up their efforts. I have meetings this week with all of the GCC. I’ll be meeting with King Salman of Saudi Arabia. There’s a great deal of energy and effort being put into this, and I am confident that over time we will beat, we will indeed degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL.” ● March 2, 2015 – Remarks of Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at a Press Availability (State Department) Quote: “I made it clear that the United States will oppose any effort by any group or any participant to abuse the UN system in order to delegitimize or isolate Israel.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: some countries have withdrawn their embassies from Yemen. Does China have the plan to do so? A: The Chinese side keeps close tabs on the development of the Yemeni situation. We hope that parties concerned in Yemen can fully implement relevant resolution adopted by the UN Security Council, proposals of the Gulf Cooperation Council and outcome documents of the National Dialogue Conference, continue to bridge differences peacefully through dialogue and consultation, press ahead with the political transitional process and restore national stability and normal order to Yemen at an early date. The Chinese Embassy in Yemen is still in normal operation.” ● March 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China maintains that it is of great significance to safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and peace and stability of the Middle East and also in the interests of all relevant parties to properly resolve the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation. The negotiations on a comprehensive agreement of the Iranian nuclear issue have now come to a critical point, and the P5+1 and Iran all display strong political will to reach a deal at an early date. The Chinese side hopes that parties concerned can seize the historic opportunity, make political judgment, and seek a comprehensive agreement that is fair, balanced, mutually beneficial and win-win to all. The Chinese side will continue to work constructively to this goal.”



- **March 2, 2015 – Remarks by U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Samantha Power at the AIPAC Policy Conference ([Mission to the United Nations](#))**

Quote: “We believe – firmly – that Israel’s security and the U.S.-Israel partnership transcend politics, and it always will [...] Our commitments to our partnership with Israel are bedrock commitments – rooted in shared, fundamental values, cemented through decades of bipartisan reinforcement. This partnership should never be politicized, and it cannot and will not be tarnished or broken. Now, debating the most effective policy, both within our respective democracies and among partners, is more than useful, it is a necessary part of arriving at informed decisions; politicizing that process is not [...] On policy, the negotiations that we and our partners have entered into with Iran – negotiations aimed centrally at denying Iran a nuclear weapon – have generated reasonable debate [...] The United States of America will not allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon. Period [...] We believe diplomacy is the preferred route to secure our shared aim; but if diplomacy should fail, we know the stakes of a nuclear-armed Iran as well as everyone here. We will not let it happen. There will never be a sunset on America’s commitment to Israel’s security..”

- **March 3, 2015 – Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Zimbabwe ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))**

Quote: “On March 6, 2003, by Executive Order 13288, the President declared a national emergency and blocked the property of certain persons, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706), to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States constituted by the actions and policies of certain members of the Government of Zimbabwe and other persons to undermine Zimbabwe’s democratic processes or institutions. These actions and policies had contributed to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Zimbabwe, to politically motivated violence and intimidation in that country, and to political and economic instability in the southern African region. On November 22, 2005, the President issued Executive Order 13391 to take additional steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288 by ordering the blocking of the property of certain persons who undermine democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe. On July 25, 2008, the President issued Executive Order 13469, which expanded the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13288.”

- **March 9, 2015 - *Xinhua*: Sharing the China Dream in the Area of Human Rights ([People’s Daily](#))**

Quote: “The Western worldview in some ways is so alien to Africans that it has to be pushed by tying strict conditions to aid. There are no such political strings attached to Chinese assistance, as President Xi Jinping again made very clear in his Tanzania speech. This is because the Sino-African cooperation is based on equality. China and Africa perceive their cooperation in their own common philosophical terms, and they therefore do not necessarily resort to the Western vocabulary of human rights. [...] As President Xi made clear during this Tanzania speech, China supports the efforts made by African countries to solve their own problems using their own home-grown remedies, while respecting their autonomy and their dignity. This angle allows Africa to remain in charge of its own fate.”

- **March 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

Quote: “At present, the peace process in South Sudan has reached the final and most critical stage. China sincerely hopes that the conflicting parties in South Sudan can place the interests of the state and the people first, make the right political decision, and reach reconciliation at an early date. All the progress that has been built up in the past shall not be wasted for the lack of a final push, and this valuable opportunity for peace shall not be missed once again. The international community should continue to stand firmly behind IGAD’s mediation efforts. China will continue to remain in close communication and cooperation with IGAD and other mediating parties to jointly push for an early and proper settlement of the South Sudan issue.”

- **March 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

Quote: “Q: Can you confirm that last month a Taliban delegation which was visiting Pakistan had a meeting with the Chinese ambassador to Pakistan?”

A: What you said is inconsistent with the facts. As a friendly neighbor of Afghanistan, China highly values developing China-Afghanistan relations and hopes that Afghanistan will achieve enduring peace, stability and development at an early date. We support the “Afghan-led and Afghan-owned” peace and reconciliation process and stand ready to play a constructive role to this end.”



- **March 3, 2015 – Remarks by the President before Meeting with Secretary of Defense Carter** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “The Prime Minister appropriately pointed out that the bond between the United States of America is unbreakable, and on that point I thoroughly agree. [...] But on the core issue, which is how do we prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, [...] Prime Minister Netanyahu didn’t offer any viable alternatives. [...] We constructed an extraordinarily effective sanctions regime that pressured Iran to come to the table to negotiate in a serious fashion. [...] And the alternative that the Prime Minister offers is no deal, in which case Iran will immediately begin once again pursuing its nuclear program, accelerate its nuclear program, without us having any insight into what they’re doing, and without constraint. And his essential argument is that if we just double down on sanctions, Iran won’t want to do that.”

- **March 3, 2015 – Special Briefing with Senior State Department Officials: Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Travel to Saudi Arabia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We’ve been very clear throughout all of these engagements in saying that the negotiations that we’re conducting as part of the P5+1 with Iran is specifically focused on the nuclear file. It does not touch on any issues outside of that. And regardless of the outcome of those negotiations, it does not change the concerns that we have and that we share with our partners in the Gulf over other Iranian activities in terms of their regional activities in Syria, in Yemen, in Iraq. Nor does it touch on issues related to Iranian engagement in terrorism or anything else, and nor does it affect any of the sanctions that are related to any of those issues.”

- **March 3, 2015 – Special Briefing with Senior State Department Officials: Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Travel to Saudi Arabia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The Saudis have also been strong partners with us in our efforts to build the capabilities of the moderate Syrian opposition [...] Now one of the issues, of course, vis-a-vis Iran, is again this issue of a regime change in Damascus. And here again we and the Saudis and the other GCC states recognize that securing peace and stability inside of Syria and unifying Syrians in the fight against ISIL and al-Nusra Front and other violent extremist organizations inside of Syria is dependent on achieving a change in the leadership in Syria.”

- **March 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: There have been reports that after more than a decade of warfare, the Afghan peace talks could begin involving official negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban. China says that it supports the "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" peace and reconciliation process. Why is China so concerned about peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, and what Chinese interests are at stake? Are you optimistic about the talks?”

A: Peace and stability of Afghanistan meets the common interests of the international community. As a friendly neighbor of Afghanistan, China highly values developing relations with Afghanistan, and hopes for enduring peace, stability and development in Afghanistan at an early date. We support the "Afghan-led and Afghan-owned" peace and reconciliation process, and are poised to make constructive efforts to this end.”

- **March 19, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side congratulates Israel on its parliamentary election which has gone smoothly. The Chinese side is ready to work with the new Israeli government to advance the bilateral relationship. To realize the independent statehood of Palestine and peaceful co-existence of Palestine and Israel through peace talks is the only way leading to the settlement of the Palestine-Israel issue. The Chinese side urges Israel and Palestine to keep peace in mind, work toward the shared goal, show good will to each other, restart as soon as possible and push forward the peace talks and seek a fair, reasonable and enduring solution to the Palestinian issue.”

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

Quote: “The P5+1, Iran and the EU met in Lausanne, Switzerland for a new round of negotiation on a comprehensive agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue. [...] The Chinese side holds an objective and unbiased position and plays a constructive role in advancing the negotiation on the Iranian nuclear issue. The Chinese side put forward a host of "China solution" and "China thinking" on relevant focal and thorny problems during the negotiations to bridge differences among all parties and contribute "China wisdom" to the negotiations. We will continue to make relentless efforts together with other parties.”



- **March 3, 2015 – Special Briefing with Senior State Department Officials: Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Travel to Saudi Arabia** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We want to very clear in saying that U.S. policy supports a unified Yemen, the preservation of Yemen’s territorial integrity. And we didn’t want to do anything that might signal to other observers that perhaps we were thinking about the division of Yemen, the reestablishment of a south Yemen.”

- **March 6, 2015 – Press Statement with Secretary Kerry: ISIL's Destruction of Historical Heritage and Archeological Treasures**([State Department](#))

Quote: “No terrorist can rewrite history. [...] We urge all parties in Iraq and Syria and the international community to respect and protect archaeological, historic, religious, and cultural sites, including museums and archives, and to reaffirm that all those who destroy important cultural property must be held accountable. The United States is committed to defeating ISIL and to opposing such senseless acts.”

- **March 9, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “The fact is the effort that is currently underway by the United States alongside our international partners seeks significant commitments from the Iranian government to curtail their nuclear program and make clear to the international community that their nuclear program exists exclusively for peaceful means. And the international community, and certainly the President, is not prepared to take Iran’s word for it. We’re going to insist that the Iranians agree to intrusive inspection measures that will resolve the broader international community’s concerns. And as the National Security Advisor put it, the approach of the international community is to distrust and verify that Iran’s is prepared to live up to the agreement. [...] it is in the best interests of the United States, for two reasons. The first is the best way for us to resolve the international community’s concerns with Iran’s nuclear program is to get Iran’s own commitment to not develop a nuclear weapon and to verify that for the broader international community. And the rush to war, or at least the rush to the military option that many Republicans are advocating is not at all in the best interests of the United States.”

- **March 26, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese side has noticed that and is deeply worried about the situation in Yemen that is getting worse. We hope that all parties will act in accordance with relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, initiatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council, outcome documents of the national dialogue conference as well as the Peace and National Partnership Agreement, bridge differences and resolve the current crisis through political dialogues, and restore national stability and order at an early date. It is learned that the Chinese-funded institutions and people there are safe. The Chinese Foreign Ministry and Embassy in Yemen suggest that Chinese citizens call off their visits to Yemen for the time being. We will continue to monitor the situation in Yemen.”

- **March 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The security situation in Yemen has been worsening since March 26. The Chinese government gives top priority to the security of Chinese citizens and institutions in Yemen, and has taken prompt actions to orderly evacuate Chinese citizens there. Under the unified deployment, the Chinese naval fleet on escort mission in the Gulf of Aden and Somali waters has sailed to Yemen to evacuate Chinese citizens there. [...]”



- **March 9, 2015 – Remarks by David Pressman, Ambassador of Alternate Representative to the UN for Special Political Affairs at a UN Security Council Meeting on Cooperation with the Regional Organizations ([Mission to United Nations](#))**

Quote: "Boko Haram and ISIL have demonstrated more than a zeal for cruelty; they have a professed disgust with modernity [...] If we are to advance the cause of international peace and security; [...] we must remain strong in our condemnation and united in our resolve to confront those who facilitate, conspire, or participate in the murderous work of ISIL and Boko Haram [...] Countering violent extremism, therefore, must be an active process of engagement at the local level, providing services to those who need it; resources to those without them; building resilience in communities targeted for recruitment; and highlighting paths to peace for those being drawn down the roads of terror."

- **March 11, 2015 – Department of Defense Joint Press Conference by Secretary of Defense Carter and Secretary of Defence Fallon in the Pentagon Press Briefing Room ([U.S Department of Defense](#))**

Quote: "The forces that we train in Syria, we will have some obligation to support them after their – they're trained. We all understand that. And we're working through what kinds of support and under what conditions we would do so, to include the possibility that, even though they're trained and equipped to combat ISIL, they could come into contact with forces of the Assad regime [...] So far as Syria is concerned, yes, we stand ready to help train moderate Syrian elements, to do so outside Syria itself."

- **March 12, 2015 – Readout of the President's Video Conference with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))**

Quote: "The President encouraged accelerated Afghan progress towards forming an inclusive national unity government and expressed his expectation that their visit to Washington later this month will demonstrate our mutual commitment to a strengthened U.S.-Afghan strategic partnership. The leaders discussed the ongoing efforts of the Afghan National Security Forces to improve security in Afghanistan and the importance of countering extremist threats from groups like al-Qa`ida."



- **March 12, 2015 – Press Gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz en route to Los Angeles** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “The President encouraged to accelerate Afghan progress towards forming an inclusive national unity government, and expressed his expectation that their visit to Washington later this month will demonstrate our mutual commitment to a strengthened U.S.-Afghan strategic partnership. [...] The President commended President Ghani and Dr. Abdullah on their leadership in promoting an Afghan peace process to end the conflict in Afghanistan and their initiative to improve Afghanistan-Pakistan relations.”

- **March 18, 2015 – Readout of the President’s Call with Prime Minister Netanyahu of Israel** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “President Obama spoke today by telephone with Prime Minister Netanyahu to congratulate the Prime Minister on his party’s success in winning a plurality of Knesset seats. The President emphasized the importance the United States places on our close military, intelligence, and security cooperation with Israel, which reflects the deep and abiding partnership between both countries. The President and the Prime Minister agreed to continue consultations on a range of regional issues, including the difficult path forward to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The President reaffirmed the United States’ long-standing commitment to a two-state solution that results in a secure Israel alongside a sovereign and viable Palestine. On Iran, the President reiterated that the United States is focused on reaching a comprehensive deal with Iran that prevents Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon and verifiably assures the international community of the exclusively peaceful nature of its nuclear program.”

- **March 18, 2015 – Submitted by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter at House Armed Services Committee (Budget Request)** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “The conclusion of major combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq has resulted in a 73 percent drop in DoD’s OCO(Overseas Contingency Operations) costs from their \$187-billion peak in Fiscal Year 2008. We are continuing to use OCO as appropriate to finance our military’s response to unforeseen crises, but we must also account for those enduring priorities that we do not envision going away – such as supporting our Afghan partners, countering terrorism, maintaining a strong forward presence in the Middle East, and ensuring our military is ready to respond to a wide range of potential crises.”



- **March 21, 2015 – Readout of Vice President Biden’s Call with Iraqi Kurdistan Regional President Masoud Barzani** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “This afternoon, Vice President Joe Biden spoke with Iraqi Kurdistan Regional President Masoud Barzani. The Vice President called to express condolences for the Kurdish Peshmerga executed by ISIL. The Vice President and President agreed that such unconscionable acts of brutality reflect ISIL’s true nature and reinforce our collective resolve to defeat ISIL. Vice President Biden praised the courage of the forces fighting ISIL, and President Barzani thanked the United States military and the international coalition for their vital support on the battlefield. The Vice President also offered warm wishes to President Barzani, his family and the people of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region as they observe Nowruz.”

- **March 22, 2015 – Statement by Samantha Power: Statement following UN Security Council Consultations on the Situation in Yemen** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States remains firmly committed to supporting all of Yemen’s diverse communities in this endeavor. Since the Yemeni people took to the streets to demand change in 2011, Yemen’s transition has succeeded when its communities have come together to support a transition by consensus, as opposed to by unilateral decree. We remain firmly convinced that the peaceful future Yemenis deserve will only come through a return to an inclusive transition led by President Hadi with the full support of all Yemenis.”

- **March 24, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and Presiden Ghani of Afghanistan in Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “First, we agreed to continue to keep in place our close security cooperation. Afghanistan remains a very dangerous place, and insurgents still launch attacks, including cowardly suicide bombings against civilians. [...] the United States will continue to train, advise and assist Afghan security forces. [...] I announced a timeline for drawing down our forces further, and I’ve made it clear that we’re determined to preserve the gains our troops have won. President Ghani has requested some flexibility on our drawdown timelines. I’ve consulted with General Campbell in Afghanistan and my national security team, and I’ve decided that we will maintain our current posture of 9,800 troops through the end of this year. [...] The specific trajectory of the 2016 drawdown will be established later this year to enable our final consolidation to a Kabul-based embassy presence by the end of 2016.”



- **March 25, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “United States continues to strongly condemn the recent offensive military actions undertaken in Yemen that have targeted President Hadi. The actions of the Houthis and former President Saleh have caused widespread instability and chaos that threatens the wellbeing of all Yemenis. The international community has spoken clearly through U.N. Council resolutions and in other fora that the violent takeover of Yemen by an armed faction is unacceptable, and that the only legitimate transition can be accomplished through political negotiations and a consensus agreement among all of the parties, based on the GCC Initiative and National Dialogue outcomes. So we believe that there is a path here that can be pursued to try to resolve the differences among the parties.”

- **March 26, 2015 – Press Gaggle by Principal Deputy Secretary Eric Schultz en route to Birmingham, AL** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “[...] in response to the deteriorating security situation, Saudi Arabia, Gulf Cooperation Council members and others will undertake military action to defend Saudi Arabia’s border and to protect Yemen’s legitimate government. As announced by these GCC members yesterday, they’re taking this action as the request of President Hadi. While the U.S. are not taking direct military action in Yemen in support of this effort, we are establishing a joint planning cell with Saudi Arabia to coordinate U.S. military and intelligence support. More specifically to your question I think, we are fully aware and supportive of the GCC members’ decision to respond to President Hadi’s request and take this action to defend Saudi Arabia’s border and to protect Yemen’s legitimate government.”

- **March 30, 2015 – Gaggle en route to Boston, MA by Principal Deputy Secretary Eric Schultz** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The idea that there had been an agreement that Iran backed away from in the last 24 hours is not true. In terms of what’s going to happen with that stockpile that is something that our negotiators are working through. [...] Nothing is agreed to until everything is agreed to. [...] I don’t want to get ahead of what our negotiators are working on in the room [...]. The President has made clear that he’s not going to take a bad deal, that the best way to eliminate Iran from getting a nuclear weapon is to both shut off its path to a nuclear weapon and impose the most intrusive, stringent inspections ever. And so the President is not prepared to take a bad deal.”



- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session)** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “It is essential that the next phase of Libya’s transition – the formation of a national unity government – takes hold before the entire country is lost to violent extremists. [...] Libyan parties must fully invest in these talks and we maintain our complete support for Special Representative Leon and his efforts. The United States will continue to engage with our Council colleagues in looking at how the existing sanctions regime can best address concerns over the illicit flow of weapons in and out of country.”

- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session)** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “On Syria, just a few days ago, we heard from Under-Secretary-General Valerie Amos. Her briefing drove home the grave decline in humanitarian, economic, and social conditions for Syrians inside of Syria and in neighboring countries, as well as the Assad regime’s significant failure to implement this Council’s resolutions. Humanitarian actors, including the UN and international NGOs, must be able to deliver all necessary humanitarian aid – not just food – to Syrians in need. We remain particularly concerned about the regime’s consistent removal of medical and surgical supplies from UN convoys prior to reaching their intended destinations despite explicit authorization to deliver medical and surgical supplies through UN Security Council Resolutions 2165 and 2191.”

- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session)** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “This was, of course, also an especially challenging month with respect to Yemen. Houthi actions undermined the efforts to achieve a political resolution by continuing to take unilateral actions that are not constructive to a political solution. The United States, alongside the broader international community, hopes that the insurgents will stop these unilateral actions, and participate in the UN-led effort to try to resolve the differences of all the parties there.”



- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Michele J. Sison : Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session)** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We saw attacks this month in Tunisia, where gunmen killed 19 people and wounded more than 20 others, and the attack this month in Mali where five civilians, including UNMAS, MINUSMA and EU personnel, were killed in Bamako. The U.S. condemns in the strongest possible terms this violence.”

- **March 31, 2015 – Readout of the Vice President’s Meeting with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The two leaders discussed the coalition against ISIL as well as developments in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, and pledged to continue coordinating actions to fight extremism and provide humanitarian assistance to the region. With regards to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, the two leaders agreed that Ukraine was making progress with its reforms but that Russia and the separatists were still preventing full implementation of the Minsk agreements, especially provisions calling for a full ceasefire, the withdrawal of heavy weapons, unfettered access for Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) monitors, and the exchange of prisoners.”



Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Asks Russia to Respect Ukrainian Sovereignty Mentions Chinese Actions in the South China Sea; China Stoic in Its Defense against Criticisms on a Wide Range of Issues Including Its Plan to Continue Island Building, Cautious about Taiwan's Application to Join the AIB

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 2, 2015 – Remarks of Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at a Press Availability (State Department) Quote: “I reiterated the urgency of Russia’s leaders and the separatists that they back implementing the full measure of the commitments under the Minsk agreements and to implement them everywhere, including in Debaltseve, outside Mariupol, and in other key strategic areas. And I underscored this morning that if that does not happen, if there continue to be these broad swaths of noncompliance, or there continues to be a cherry-picking as to where heavy equipment will be moved back from without knowing where it’s been moved to, or if the OSCE is not able to adequately be able to gain the access necessary, then there would be inevitably further consequences that will place added strain on Russia’s already troubled economy.” ● March 2, 2015 – Remarks of Secretary of State John Kerry: Remarks at a Press Availability (State Department) Quote: “So sanctions have obviously had a significant impact on Russia, [...] but not sufficient that President Putin has decided that he isn’t going to pursue his particular strategy. [...] And we’ve tried to make it clear to him and particularly to the Russian people we’re not doing this to hurt the people of Russia, we’re not doing this to make life difficult for all Russians. We’re doing this to try to affect the choices that their leaders are making in order to uphold the norms of international law. We’re here in a UN facility, and the United Nations is critical to the upholding of international standards of behavior. And the world has worked hard since World War II to try to adhere to a set of global norms of behavior, particularly with respect to respect for territorial integrity. One of the cries that came out of the World War II experience was we can’t allow nations to make land grabs running over the territorial integrity of external borders, as we saw in the period leading up to and then during World War II. So we’ve really ingrained in international behavior this notion of the value of international borders and of upholding the sovereignty and integrity of nation states. That sovereignty and integrity has been violated over the course of the last months, and that’s the purpose of the sanctions that we put in place.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Q: The Vietnamese side has protested against China's construction activities in the Nansha Islands. What is China's response to this? A: China holds a clear and consistent stance on the South China Sea issue. China's normal construction activities on our own islands and in our own waters are lawful, reasonable and justifiable. We hope that relevant party can take a calm view on this.” ● March 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Diaoyu Dao and its affiliated islands are China’s inherent territory based on full historical and legal evidences. You mentioned that the Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary can not accept China’s claims, I’d like to say that facts are facts, and the objective fact will not change whether the Japanese side is or is not willing to accept it. Relevant authority of China opens up this website to help people grasp a better understanding of the historical background and China’s consistent position about the Diaoyu Dao issue. China does not accept the unreasonable request of Japan, and once again urges Japan to look squarely at the history, respect facts and make constructive efforts to properly settle relevant issue.”



- **March 3, 2015 – Message- Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Ukraine** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The actions and policies of persons that undermine democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine; threaten its peace, security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and contribute to the misappropriation of its assets, as well as the actions and policies of the Government of the Russian Federation, including its purported annexation of Crimea and its use of force in Ukraine, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13660 with respect to Ukraine.”

- **March 14, 2015 – Readout of the Vice President’s Call with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “Both leaders expressed their support for the agreements and called on Russia and Russia-backed separatists to fully implement the provisions of the agreements calling for a ceasefire and verified withdrawal of heavy weapons, unfettered access for OSCE monitors, and exchange of all prisoners. President Poroshenko also noted that Ukraine had taken additional steps in keeping with the Minsk agreements to delineate the provisions of the law on special status passed by the Rada in September 2014. Finally, both leaders welcomed the disbursement of the first tranche of the new IMF program for Ukraine.”

- **March 20, 2015 – Press Briefing by Director of the Press Office of the U.S Department of State Jeff Rathke** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States has a national interest in freedom of navigation, freedom of overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, respect for international law, and the maintenance of peace and stability in the South China Sea. Now we have consistently and frequently raised with China our concerns over its large-scale land reclamation, which undermines peace and stability in the South China Sea, and more broadly in the Asia Pacific region. Now the United States continues to take additional concrete steps to support peace and stability in the South China Sea, and we are frank in expressing our concerns about problematic behavior. And we are undertaking supportive actions, including diplomacy, increased maritime security cooperation and assistance with Southeast Asian claimants, our support for crisis management tools and strengthening our roles as an Asian Pacific power in our relationships with allies and partners in the region.”

- **March 9, 2015 – Xinhua: News Analysis: Commentary: China's Island, Reef Construction in South China Sea Lawful, Justified** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China’s construction on its own islands and reefs in the South China Sea is lawful and justified, as it is merely building facilities in its own yard. The islands and reefs which China has constructed are its inherent territory, over which China owns undisputable sovereignty. It is legitimate and justified to build major infrastructure projects on its own territory. Besides, China’s construction activities currently underway on its own islands and reefs does not violate any international law. Unlike certain countries, China did not undertake any illegal construction activities in another country’s territory, and China will not accept any criticism of its construction operations when it is merely building facilities in its own yard. ‘We have every right to do things that are lawful and justified’ Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Sunday at a press conference on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People’s Congress.”

- **March 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China’s sovereignty and its claims to the relevant rights over the South China Sea are backed with abundant historical and jurisprudential evidence. Our position on the South China Sea issue is clear and consistent. We support the building of the ASEAN community, but ASEAN is not a party concerned to relevant disputes over the South China Sea. [...] ASEAN is not owned by one particular country. It belongs to the whole ASEAN family. One piece of advice for Mr. Le Luong Minh is that he should do his job as the Secretary-General and strictly abide by the neutral stance that ASEAN takes on the South China Sea issue. Instead of using public office for personal interests, he should play a more positive role in the sound development of China-ASEAN relations.”

- **March 14, 2015 – Xinhua: U.S. Meddling on South China Sea Betrays Pirate-Style Sense of Insecurity** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Outside meddling on the South China Sea issue from the United States and other like-minded countries is not welcome, as it will serve nothing but to sow discord, stoke tension and thus hinder the search for a peaceful solution. China has exercised considerable restraint, and its actions, including carrying out some island construction and rejecting international arbitration, are lawful, justified and well explained.”



- **March 30, 2015 – Remarks by Michele J. Sison: Remarks at a UN Security Council Meeting on the Implementation of Note S/2010/507 (Wrap-Up Session)** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "March marked the one-year anniversary of Russia's forcible seizure and occupation of Crimea and staging an illegal "referendum." Over the last year, the human rights situation in Crimea has deteriorated. Members of Crimea's ethnic minorities, human rights activists and those who oppose the annexation have suffered systematic human rights abuses. Local residents have been detained, interrogated and disappeared, and NGOs and independent media have been driven out. We continue to call for an immediate end to the Russian occupation of Crimea. This comes against a backdrop of continuing Russian interference in eastern Ukraine. We continue to believe that compliance with the September Minsk Agreements and the February Implementation Package provides a roadmap to peace in Ukraine."

- **March 17, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "I want to tell you that the Diaoyu Dao and its affiliated islands are China's inherent territory, and this is an indisputable fact backed by sufficient historical and jurisprudential evidence. No one can ever deny this historical fact by wasting their contrivances on one or two maps. If you need, I can find you one hundred, even one thousand maps that clearly mark the Diaoyu Dao as Chinese territory."

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

Quote: "This 1969 map tells us two things: first, the Diaoyu Dao is an integral part of China, or a part of Taiwan to be specific; second, it is a historical fact that Japan invaded and occupied Taiwan and stole the Diaoyu Dao. [...] Dozens of Chinese maps drawn in the Ming and Qing dynasties explicitly marked the Diaoyu Dao as Chinese territory. [...] After the Second World War, the Diaoyu Dao was given back to China following relevant international legal instrument. Be it Japan's colonial rule or its repercussions on map-drawing, nothing can change the fact that the Diaoyu Dao belongs to China."

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

Quote: "China holds a clear and consistent position on the South China Sea issue. We are committed to resolving disputes concerning the sovereignty of some islands in the South China Sea and maritime rights and interests with countries concerned through bilateral negotiation on the basis of respecting historical facts and international law. Meanwhile we devote ourselves to maintaining peace and stability of the South China Sea together with ASEAN countries. We hope that relevant countries can meet us halfway. Countries outside this region should uphold an unbiased and fair position on relevant issue, and take a neutral stance on sovereignty issue."



- **March 19, 2015 – Chinese Defense Ministry Urges U.S. Stop Making Irresponsible Remarks** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: "In response to the irresponsible accusation in the U.S. military report, the Information Affairs Office of China's Ministry of National Defense maintained that China adheres to the road of peaceful development and pursues the national defense policy that is defensive in nature. [...] It is hoped that the U.S. can take an objective and fair stance and stop making irresponsible remarks, making pragmatic efforts to strengthen mutual trust between the militaries of China and the U.S. and promote the healthy development of new China-U.S. military relations, the office said."

- **March 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "China holds a consistent and clear position on the South China Sea issue. Disputes over the South China Sea should be resolved through negotiation and consultation by parties directly concerned, and peace and stability of the South China Sea should be jointly maintained by China and ASEAN countries. This is the "dual track" approach advocated by China and ASEAN countries in handling the South China Sea issue. What the U.S. side has said does no good to peace and stability of the South China Sea, nor does it contribute to properly resolving relevant disputes. We hope that the U.S. side can honor its commitment of not taking sides on issues concerning territorial sovereignty, stop making irresponsible remarks and do more things to enhance mutual trust and regional peace and stability."

- **March 20, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Q: It is reported that U.S. congressmen expressed dissatisfaction over China's construction in the South China Sea, and called on the U.S. government to take corresponding measures against this. How do you respond to this?"

A: [...] China is not like some countries, who engage in illegal construction in another person's house. And we do not accept criticism from others when we are merely building facilities in our own yard. We have every right to work in the South China Sea which is sensible, justified and lawful."



- **March 26, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “The second question, Robert Thomas, commander of the 7th Fleet of U.S. Navy suggested that ASEAN countries should set up a joint maritime task force to patrol the South China Sea. He also promised that the 7th fleet will support such an effort. What is your comment? [...] On the second question, China’s position on the South China Sea issue has been consistent and clear. Such remarks by the U.S. side are adding fuel to the fire, which are not conducive to peace and stability in the South China Sea at all. The U.S. side should stop making irresponsible remarks, respect the efforts made by regional countries in maintaining peace and stability, and do not drive edges among other countries or create tensions in the region.”

- **March 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: First, media reports say that the Philippines is to downgrade the dispute with Malaysia concerning Sabah in exchange for the support of Malaysia on the South China Sea arbitration it filed. Do you have any comment on this?

A: [...] China holds a clear position on the South China Sea issue, as well as the arbitration unilaterally initiated by the Philippines. We are willing to work together with relevant countries to properly resolve the disputes through dialogue and negotiation and safeguard peace and stability of the South China Sea.”

- **March 31, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: Taiwan has applied to join the AIIB. On what conditions will China allow Taiwan to join?

A: [...] The AIIB is an open and inclusive multilateral development institution, and all parties are welcome to join. Concerning Taiwan's application, problems like "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan" should be prevented from emerging.”



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