

EAI U.S.-China Relations Statement Factsheet

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Issue 1. North Korea: The Leap Day Deal and North Korea's Announcement to Launch Satellite

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 1, 2012 State Department Daily Press Briefing (State Department Daily Press Briefing) Quote: “the spoke about measures that would be taken immediately and would be verified by the IAEA as pre-steps to being able to get back to Six-Party Talks. So that’s what our statement was focused on. The North Korean statement goes on to talk about what they hope will happen in the Six-Party Talks which, as we made clear when we backgrounded yesterday, we can’t consider going back to until we verify this first set of steps. So our statement was focused on step one, which is what we’ve agreed to and monitoring and verifying that.” “Now, we’ve always – the statements, both of them, the U.S. statement and the DPRK’s statement both reaffirm our commitment to the September 2005 joint statement. In that joint statement, the parties agreed to discuss the provision of a light water reactor at an appropriate time. So we’ve consistently made clear to the North Koreans that they first have to fulfill all their denuclearization commitments under the joint statement and its obligations and then we can consider other things. So what you see is our statement doing step one.” ● March 2, 2012 State Department Daily Press Briefing (State Department Daily Press Briefing) Quote: “[...] The degree to which we facilitate it, then, is simply that we continue to say to the DPRK and make clear to them that from our perspective, a condition of being able to go back to the Six-Party Talks includes continuing to improve their relationship with the ROK.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 1, 2012 Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference on March 1 2012) Quote: “China appreciates the DPRK and the US’s reiteration of their commitment to the September 19 Joint Statement and their readiness to take positive actions to this end. We welcome the improvement of DPRK-US relations to contribute to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. China would work with all relevant parties to press ahead with the Six-Party Talks and play a constructive role in striving for enduring peace and security on the Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.” “The Six-Party Talks is an important mechanism for the realization of denuclearization and the maintenance of peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. China will keep in close communication with all relevant parties to push for an early resumption of the Six-Party Talks as well as the comprehensive and balanced implementation of the targets stipulated in the September 19 Joint Statement.” ● March 1, 2012 Global Times Editorial (US NK fix small part of larger problem) Quote: “The world should look at North Korea with understanding and maintain normal contact with it. North Korea is not strong enough to threaten the US, Japan and South Korea. Its fear of the outside world is much stronger than the reverse. The aforementioned three countries should seriously help to quell North Korean fears rather than increasingly intimidate it. The world should help North Korea build confidence in peace and reduce its feeling of being threatened. The US, Japan and South Korea should not be hostile toward the current government in North Korea. This is the one important link in easing tension on the Korean peninsula.”



- **March 16, 2012 State Department Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department Daily Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “[...] in the context of the Six-Party Talks consultations that we had in the wee hours here in Washington, the agreement is for everyone to use their influence with the DPRK to encourage them not to make this launch and not to violate their international obligations and to recommit to the Leap Day agreement. We’ll see if that is the way this goes.” “[...] we have already spoken to the Chinese and we will continue to work with them. They are, as you know, the chair of the Six-Party talks. So they have – and they have a particular relationship as – with the DPRK and quite a bit of influence.”

- **March 19, 2012 State Department Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department Daily Press Briefing](#))

Quote: “[...] what we’re seeing is that both Russia and China have made clear that North Korea should not violate its international obligations.” “We haven’t seen any divergence in the international understanding that a satellite launched with ballistic missile technology is a violation of UN sanctions, particularly the UN resolution [...]”

- **March 20, 2012 Remarks by National Safety Council Senior Director for Asia Russel** ([Press Briefing by Senior Administration Officials on the President’s Upcoming Trip to the Republic of Korea – Via Conference Call](#))

Quote: “[...] our approach to the Chinese under the Obama administration has been consistent, which is to say that China has, like the U.S., an interest as well as a responsibility in helping to persuade the North Koreans to honor their own commitments, commitments entered into in the six-party process which China historically has played a central role in, and to honor their international obligations, including and particularly under the relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions 1718 and 1874, which the Chinese helped negotiate and the Chinese voted in favor of. Now, for historical, geographic and other reasons, China has a long, unique and special relationship with North Korea. We certainly hope and recommend that China bring all the instruments of power to bear to influence the decision-making in North Korea along the lines that President Obama has advocated, namely to take a path that will bring to North Korea the dignity and the security that they say that they desire. These are decisions, however, ultimately, that the North Korean leadership itself will have to make.”

- **March 2, 2012 People’s Daily Online Editorial** ([Trust key to stability on Korean Peninsula](#))

Quote: “Pyongyang and Washington announced Wednesday that North Korea would halt nuclear tests, long-range missile launches and uranium enrichment in return for US food aid. China welcomes the breakthrough. The stability of the Korean Peninsula is key to Chinese strategic interests since China has worked devotedly for this goal. But China’s influence is somewhat limited. [...] Admittedly, China has a larger influence on North Korea than other major powers. This influence is built upon geographic, historical and political advantages. Beijing shall not be afraid of intensifying friendly relations with Pyongyang.” “China’s major task is to promote peace in the peninsula but if this fails, it will not be the largest victim. China, the US and South Korea all wish for Pyongyang to give up its nuclear program, but differ on their solutions to the matter. The US and South Korea consider sanctions to be vital, but China believes that soft measures to calm North Korean worries are more important.”

- **March 15, 2012 Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Liu Weimin’s Regular Press Conference** ([Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Liu Weimin’s Regular Press Conference on March 15 2012](#))

Quote: “China has been providing assistance to the DPRK as its capacity allows. We welcome the agreement recently reached between the US and the DPRK on the US’ provision of nutritional assistance to the DPRK. We hope that all parties concerned and the international community will continue to provide all forms of support and assistance to the DPRK for the latter’s development as well as peace and stability on the Peninsula.”



● **March 25, 2012 Remarks by President Obama** (Remarks by President Obama and President Lee Myung-bak in Joint Press Conference)

Quote: "Last month, North Korea agreed to a series of steps, including a moratorium on long-range missile launches. This month, North Korea announced its intention to conduct a missile launch. [...] this would constitute a direct violation of Pyongyang's own commitments and its international obligations." "If the North Koreans are serious about entering into six-party talks they have to show that they are operating in good faith." "[...] in the same way that North Korea needs to do something new if it actually wants to do right by its people, my suggestion to China is, is that how they communicate their concerns to North Korea should probably reflect the fact that the approach they've taken over the last several decades hasn't led to a fundamental shift in North Korea's behavior. And the irony of course is, is that during the last 20 years China has leapt into the 21st centur(y), in part by abandoning some of the practices that North Korea still clings to. You couldn't ask for a better model of the difference at least on the economic front that different policies had made. And again, I believe China is very sincere that it does not want to see North Korea with a nuclear weapon. But it is going to have to act on that interest in a sustained way"

● **March 27, 2012 White House Press Briefing by Press Secretary Carney** (Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communication Ben Rhodes and NSC Director for Nuclear Threat Reduction Shawn Gallagher)

Quote: "We're not going to go forward with assistance to the North Koreans or outreach to the North Koreans at a time when they're engaging in these type of provocative actions. And furthermore, we'd like to see nations like China that have close relations with North Korea consider what else they could do to send a clear signal to this new leadership that it's time for them to move in a different direction."

● **March 30, 2012 State Department Daily Press Briefing** (State Department Daily Press Briefing)

Quote: "[...] we've been very publicly vocal about our concerns and the fact that this launch, if it goes forward, would call into question the credibility of all North Korea's commitments. So beyond that, we continue to consult with our allies and partners within the Six-Party process about next steps. I know China and others have also been vocal as well about expressing their concerns."

● **March 20, 2012 Remarks by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei** (Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Briefing on China's Enhancement of Communication with All Parties on the DPRK's Satellite-Launching Plan)

Quote: "China has noted the DPRK's announcement of its satellite-launching plan as well as the international community's reaction. Leading officials of the Chinese Foreign Ministry have recently exchanged views with ambassadors of the DPRK, Russia, the US, the ROK and Japan to China respectively. China stresses that all parties shoulder common responsibilities and share common interests in safeguarding peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia. We hope that all parties concerned will keep level-headed, exercise restraint and make joint efforts to appropriately handle the current situation. We will keep in close communication with all parties."

● **March 27, 2012 Global Times Editorial** (Wrong policies leave the world open to nuclear danger)

Quote: "Preventing a nuclear-armed North Korea seems to have been a priority for several consecutive US presidents, but Pyongyang has nearly secured such weapons. Its strategic missile technology is also rising. From this perspective, Washington's policy has failed. If the US included peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula in its global wish list, it would have a better chance of success." "The US is greatly concerned by nuclear proliferation. Other major powers are willing to work with it on the issue but the US has never seriously considered other countries' opinions. Except for sanctions and the threats of war, Washington has not made much effort. However, once a country is determined to own a nuclear weapon, it has been shown that it can hardly be deterred. Concessions from the US toward enemy countries are nearly impossible."

● **March 29, 2012 Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** (Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference on March 29 2012)

Quote: "Maintaining peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, and avoiding the reversal of the hard-won relaxation of tension on the Peninsula serve the common interests of all parties. China positively comments on the February 29 consensus reached between the US and the DPRK and hopes that the two countries will continue with dialogue and improve their relations."



Issue 2. Direction of U.S.-Chinese Cooperation: U.S.-China Commitment to the Bilateral Relationship

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 7, 2012 Remarks by Secretary of State Clinton (Remarks at the U.S. Institute of Peace China Conference) Quote: “The United States is attempting to work with a rising power to foster its rise as an active contributor to global security, stability and prosperity while also sustaining and securing American leadership in a changing world.” “We are, together, building a model in which we strike a stable and mutually acceptable balance between cooperation and competition. This is uncharted territory. And we have to get it right, because so much depends on it.” “[...] we have underwritten regional peace and security that helped make room for China’s extraordinary economic progress [...], we made cooperation with China a priority; on issue after issue, we have not only welcomed, we have advocated for China’s participation and we have called for its leadership.” “If China’s rise means that we have an increasingly capable and engaged partner, that’s good news for us. And we will seize every chance to engage, because we’re not a country that sits on our lead.” “And for China, for everyone, success must be achieved responsibly; that is not at the expense of others, but in a way that contributes to the regional and global good. And this is where China has its own choices to make. Its power, wealth, and influence have pushed it rapidly to a new echelon in the international order.” “So China is faced with the complicated task of balancing the demands of development with its responsibilities as an emerging global power [...]” ● March 19, 2012 Remarks by Ambassador to China Locke (Remarks on U.S.-Chinese Relations) Quote: “The United States does not fear China’s growth. It sees China’s growth as opportunities. And while some of my Chinese friends have cast America’s deepening engagement in the Asia Pacific in competitive terms, President Obama does not subscribe to such a view. I believe we need to turn our focus toward strengthening bilateral collaboration at all levels to produce tangible benefits for the people of both our countries, in jobs, prosperity and security. Rhetoric alone will not sustain growth in this relationship. It’s in our mutual economic and strategic interest to have greater collaboration; greater understanding of the intentions, desires and objectives of each side, so that there never can be miscalculations or misunderstandings.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 27, 2012 Remarks by Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi (Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi’s Remarks To Conference on China-US Relations by Video Link) Quote: “The dynamic growth of China-US relations over the last 40 years proves that our shared interests far outweigh differences, that cooperation has always been the dominant trend of our relations, and that a sound China-US relationship is in the best interest of both countries.” “[...] I think it is important that we take the following steps: First, we should keep to the right direction in building China-US cooperative partnership.” “Second, we should endeavor to enhance strategic mutual trust.” “China is committed to peaceful development. We hope that the United States will see China’s development in the right and objective way, and take more steps to increase our mutual trust. We, on our part, would like to see continued development and prosperity in the United States.” “Third, we should adhere to the political foundation of China-US relations. There are three important political documents between China and the United States, namely the Shanghai Communiqué, the Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations, and the August 17th Communiqué.” “The most important principle enshrined in these documents is that the two countries should respect each other, treat each other as equals and enhance cooperation on the basis of common interests. We should earnestly respect each other’s core interests and major concerns, expand common ground while setting aside differences and properly handle differences to maintain steady growth of the bilateral ties.” “Fourth, we should pursue mutually beneficial cooperation in an innovative spirit.” “Fifth, we should strengthen communication and coordination in international affairs.” Sixth, we should encourage people-to-people and local exchanges.”



Issue 3. Economic Cooperation: U.S.-China Dispute on Rare Earth Materials

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 7, 2012 Remarks by Secretary of State Clinton (Remarks at the U.S. Institute of Peace China Conference) Quote: "As economic partners, we can make it possible for more people in both countries to work, trade, invest, create, and prosper. Whether we do or not depends on how we deal with some of our differences. China has things it wants, including more opportunities to invest in the United States, and we have things we want, including an end to discrimination against U.S. companies and protection for their intellectual property; an end to unfair preferences for domestic firms; and more opportunities for American goods, products and services; and of course, an end to what we see as unfair, distorting currency practices. We want to engage in more trade and investment with China, because we believe in the benefits that come with greater economic activity and healthy competition. But for it to be healthy, it has to be fair, rules-based and transparent. So we will continue to work with China to urge it to make reforms, and we, in turn, will hear and act on those changes it wants from us." March 13, 2012 Remarks by President Obama (Remarks by the President on Fair Trade) Quote: "We've got a constructive economic relationship with China, and whenever possible, we are committed to working with them to addressing our concerns. But when it is necessary, I will take action if our workers and our businesses are being subjected to unfair practices. Since I took office, we've brought trade cases against China at nearly twice the rate as the last administration, and these actions are making a difference." "This morning, we're taking an additional step forward. We're bringing a new trade case against China – and we're being joined by Japan and some of our European allies. This case involves something called rare earth materials, which are used by American manufacturers to make high-tech products [...]. We want our companies building those products right here in America. But to do that, American manufacturers need to have access to rare earth materials – which China supplies. Now, if China would simply let the market work on its own, we'd have no objections. But their policies currently are preventing that from happening. And they go against the very rules that China agreed to follow." "We've got to take control of our energy future, and we can't let that energy industry take root in some other country because they were allowed to break the rules." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 13, 2012 Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Liu Weimin's Regular Press Conference (Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Liu Weimin's Regular Press Conference on March 13, 2012) Quote: "Rare earth is scarce and nonrenewable. The exploitation of rare earth will exert impact on the environment. In order to protect the resources and environment and realize sustainable development, the Chinese Government adopts management measures not only on rare earth export, but also on its mining and production. Relevant measures meet WTO rules. China's reserves of rare earth take up 36.4% of the world's total. However, China has been supplying over 90% of the world's demand of rare earth. Over the years, China has been striving to maintain a considerable amount of rare earth export, despite enormous environmental pressure. China will continue to provide rare earth to the international market and carry out effective management of rare earth export in accordance with WTO rules." March 14, 2012 Global Times Editorial (Cool minds needed in rare earth dispute) Quote: "The Interagency Trade Enforcement Center, created by US President Barack Obama early this month, has filed an official complaint. The White House stated that Obama was to announce personally a case at the WTO against China's rare earth export restrictions." "This dispute is rooted in special interests, not politics. By pressuring China to sell its rare earths at cheap prices, the US, EU and Japan gain the same benefit. The three sides may politicize the issue. China can hardly argue with the West when a trade conflict emerges. The Western media is a powerful tool to tilt public opinion. China's restriction on rare earth exports should be punished, according to their theory, but blocking high-tech exports from the West to China is correct. The West makes up trade rules as it goes along." "The adjustment of rare earth exports is inevitable. The WTO ruling must consider the reality of the situation, otherwise, it cannot be implemented. China needs to respond seriously to this new case. But if China loses, the West should not expect to draw much advantage from it. China has different ways to adjust rare earth products and exports such as imposing a resources tax or an environmental protection tax. China now has more influence in deciding the price for many commodities. There may be more trade lawsuits filed against China in the future. It takes wisdom to deal with them, not emotion."



- **March 13, 2012 White House Press Briefing by Press Secretary Carney** ([Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney 3/13/2012](#))

Quote: "This administration is focused on our very important relationship with China. [...] we believe that China's rise is a good thing for the Chinese people and for the global community, a good thing for the United States. It is also important that as China becomes a bigger and bigger economic power, that China play by the same set of rules that other major economic powers play by. And that's the approach the President has taken. It's not one or the other; it's both. It's absolute engagement and it's a very important and complex relationship on a whole host of issues. It also, when we have differences, as we do on this matter, making them clear and taking action on them."

- **March 28, 2012 Remarks by Vice President Biden** ([Remarks by Vice President Joe Biden on Manufacturing at a Campaign Event](#))

Quote: "China is unfairly limiting American access to so-called rare earth materials that they possess, that are needed by American manufacturers to make high-tech products like electronic vehicles and advanced electronics."

- **March 21, 2012 Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference on March 21 2012](#))

Quote: "We always maintain that both China and the US should enhance mutual trade and investment in an effort to foster sound, sustainable and stable development of economic relations. We welcome the US' intention of relaxing restrictions on some hi-tech exports to China." "It is natural to see frictions in China-US economic relations. What matters is that the two countries should appropriately resolve relevant disputes through friendly consultation based on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, instead of allowing the frictions or disputes to impede the sound, stable and sustainable development of China-US economic ties."

- **March 27, 2012 Remarks by Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi** ([Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi's Remarks To Conference on China-US Relations by Video Link](#))

Quote: "Our trade and business ties are flourishing." "Such strong business ties have brought real benefits to both sides." "Mutual benefit is the defining feature of China-US business ties. Both China and the United States face the task of adjusting economic structure and promoting growth, and this will create greater opportunities for cooperation between us. We should both boost cooperation in traditional sectors and seize opportunities of cooperation in new areas such as energy, the environment and infrastructure. We hope that the United States will guard against any possible interference caused by domestic politics and work with China to uphold the overall interests of our long-term mutually beneficial cooperation."



Issue 4. U.S.-China Military Cooperation: U.S. Missile Defense System

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 26, 2012 Remarks by President Obama (Remarks by President Obama at Hankuk University) Quote: "Here in Asia, we've urged China – with its growing nuclear arsenal – to join us in a dialogue on nuclear issues. That offer remains open. And more broadly, my administration will continue to pursue ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. And after years of delay, it's time to find a path forward on a new treaty that verifiably ends the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons – ends it once and for all." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 9, 2012 <i>Global Times</i> Editorial (Defense budget guards peaceful intentions) Quote: "[...] the difference in defense budgets between China and the US is a far more important factor shaping Asian geopolitics than differences among Asian countries." "Maritime conflict between China and its neighboring countries may not avoid the consequence of a military clash but China is not willing to solve territorial disputes this way. Its restraint is the foundation of Asian stability." "China must possess strategic military power due to its uncertain defense environment. The uncertainty brought by China's rise is often stressed, but Chinese feel the same way. The US 'return to Asia' has created a disturbance in China and neighboring countries. The fast growth of Asian military budgets is related to this factor. Neither China nor the US has gone overboard in reacting to the other. China is not pursuing a military advantage over the US. This is inconceivable to this generation of Chinese. But it will strive for a balance against US naval and aerial strength in the West Pacific, including a military advantage in China's nearer maritime areas. It will also develop a strategic deterrent against the US. The country is not aiming to wage war with the US, but rather to safeguard peaceful competition. If the US must win absolute advantage in China's near sea areas, it will be haunted by this over ambitious security requirement and an arms race will be inevitable." ● March 20, 2012 <i>People's Daily Online</i> Editorial (Arms race will happen but who to blame?) Quote: "China is often cited by the West as the root reason behind the arms race in the region. The claim is half right at most. Countries cannot overcome the psychology of being wary of each other. This is in itself the cause for a regional arms race. The US is increasing strategic moves against China. Every action of the White House, however, will be followed by Chinese counter-measures. It is a chicken-and-egg affair. But the US is the one that stands to benefit most since most arms sold are made in the US." "Besides, the US should set a model of competing with China peacefully and not intervening in China's affairs in an unacceptable way. If so, China will be much less motivated to develop its own military strength. The problem is whether the US is interested in making these adjustments. As long as the US doesn't make these changes, China is destined to be cautious. Of course, it is necessary for China to increase military transparency and to develop non-military means to counter US ambition. But none of this will affect the overall military situation in the Asia-Pacific."



- **March 27, 2012 Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference on March 27 2012](#))

Quote: "We always believe that all countries should bear in mind the need to maintain global strategic stability and enhance strategic mutual trust between states, prudently handle the anti-missile issue and realize security for all through political and diplomatic means."

- **March 29, 2012 *Global Times* Editorial** ([US missile shield fosters Asian arms race](#))

Quote: "The US has announced that it is seeking to build a missile defense system in Asia and the Middle East, following a similar step in Europe. This will no doubt create disturbance and tension in the region, as it has in Europe. Japan, South Korea and Australia, which are invited to join the system, must seriously ponder the consequences. North Korea and Iran are named by Washington as the targets of the missile defense system, though it is clear the real targets are China and Russia. China should firmly oppose it." "But China can balance out the system's impact. North Korea's plan to launch a satellite next month has been used by Washington to install a missile defense system. It is a wise move. China can copy it and upgrade its nuclear weapon capability due to the possible threats posed by the US system. Specifically, China can improve its nuclear weapons in both quantity and quality as well as develop offensive nuclear-powered submarines. China's ballistic missiles should be able to break the interception capability of the US system." "Installing a missile defense system in Asia disrespects China's nuclear policy. The US is seeking to shift the regional balance. A strong response from China should be expected. An overarching missile defense system would force China to change its long-held nuclear policy. If Japan, South Korea and Australia join the system, a vicious arms race in Asia may follow. It is not what China wants to see, but it will have to deal with it if the arms race happens."



Issue 5. Human Rights: Human Rights in China, Violence in Tibetan Areas of China

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 2, 2012 Remarks by State Department Under Secretary for Civilian Society, Democracy, and Human Rights Otero (Remarks Before the 19th Session of the Human Rights Council) Quote: “[...] the United States remains gravely concerned about recent violence and continuing tensions in Tibetan areas of China. We call on all governments including China to respect the fundamental freedoms of religion and expression of all of its citizens including members of ethnic minorities.” March 7, 2012 Remarks by Secretary of State Clinton (Remarks at the U.S. Institute of Peace China Conference) Quote: “[...] can China meet its obligations to protect universal human rights and fundamental freedoms? Now, this is an area in which we have had long and profound disagreements. And even as our two countries become more interdependent, the United States will, of course, continue to stand by our principles and universal standards of human rights. And we believe that with development comes an opportunity for the aspirations of people everywhere to express themselves freely, whether on the Internet, or in a public square, or on the factory floor. And so like people everywhere, we do believe that the Chinese people have their own legitimate aspirations, and we do believe that everyone should have a legal system that is independent and will protect them from arbitrary action. And we do believe, not just in China but everywhere, in religious and linguistic differences, cultural differences being respected. Reforms that support these goals give people a greater stake in the success of their nations, which in turn makes societies more stable, prosperous and peaceful.” March 19, 2012 Remarks by Ambassador to China Locke (Remarks on U.S.-Chinese Relations) Quote: “[...] the standard of living for the people of China has improved dramatically, but that’s not how we in the United States define human rights. That’s part of it. But we also look at what we consider universal values of human rights, values that even China has enshrined in its own constitution and its own laws.” March 28, 2012 State Department Daily Press Briefing (State Department Daily Press Briefing) Quote: “We remain deeply concerned about the tensions and the human rights violations in the Tibetan areas. China’s own continuing vilification of the Dalai Lama and repeated accusations with regard to the Dalai Lama and saying that he’s directly involved adds to the Tibetan grievances and just makes the situation worse. So we continue to call on China to respect the human rights of Tibetans and to allow journalists in, et cetera.” 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> March 26, 2012 People’s Daily Online Editorial (Chinese industries not scapegoats of U.S. politics) Quote: “US media and political figures constantly attack China for alleged human rights violations, while conveniently turning a blind eye to human rights violations perpetrated by the United States in the name of its war on terror, for instance the use of torture at Abu Ghraib, the illegal detention of suspects at Guantanamo, the apprehension and extrajudicial transfer of individuals from one state to another, and the unauthorized surveillance of citizens are just some the US’ well-documented human rights abuses.” “In China the mass media is State owned, but again the Internet and smaller media outlets enable wider discussion. Regarding religious freedom, the US provides the right to practice any religion and to attempt to convert others to your religion, and does not allow any crimes in the name of religion. China allows believers to practice their religion in recognized places of worship and does not allow any crimes in the name of religion, either.” “While China needs to do more to convince the world that it has and will better protect human rights, the US-led West clearly needs to improve its own human rights record.” March 28, 2012 Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference on March 28, 2012) Quote: “The Chinese Government is committed to protecting the legitimate rights and interests of people of all ethnic groups, including their religious freedom. Some US legislators are confounding right and wrong, black and white in an attempt to interfere in China’s internal affairs by using Tibet-related issues. China is firmly against that. We urge these US lawmakers to recognize facts, discard prejudice and stop interfering in China’s internal affairs in any way. They should do more things to contribute to China-US relations instead of the contrary.”



Issue 6. Asia-Pacific Issues: U.S.-China Cooperation in the Asia Pacific Region

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 7, 2012 Remarks by Secretary of State Clinton (Remarks at the U.S. Institute of Peace China Conference) Quote: "We (United States and China) consult on every single issue of significance; not a day goes by when our governments are not in touch. In this Administration, we've launched our Strategic and Economic Dialogue and a Strategic Security Dialogue, and we've had intensive discussions on just about every issue you can imagine [...]" "All of this effort has taken place within a larger regional push to strengthen our ties throughout the Asia Pacific." "In short, we are working around the clock to do everything we can to defend and advance security and prosperity throughout the Asia Pacific. And having that positive, cooperative, and comprehensive relationship with China is vital to every one of those objectives." ● March 9, 2012 Remarks by Secretary of Defense Panetta (Media Roundtable with the Secretary of Defense in Hawaii) Quote: "We are a Pacific power, we're going to remain a Pacific power, and in order to do that, we need to have force projection in the Pacific. That obviously involves not only our Navy, which has a strong presence in the Pacific; we'll maintain our carriers in this area as well our fleet. Secondly, we'll continue to maintain our Air Force and our bomber capabilities in this area. And we will maintain our military forces as well. We have Marine deployments in the Pacific, and we have Army deployments in Korea. And we maintain those forces not only for – to help in the protection of South Korea, but also as a force to indicate that the United States is going to always maintain a military presence in the Pacific because we believe this is an important area economically, militarily, strategically and in terms of the allies that we have in this region that are an important part of our Pacific family." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 20, 2012 <i>Global Times</i> Editorial (Arms race will happen but who to blame?) Quote: "As China develops, China and the US need to communicate seriously over their respective understandings about security and try their best to form a situation in the western Pacific region that they can both accept. The US should help China eliminate the military danger across the Taiwan Strait and become a real peacemaker in the South China Sea. Besides, the US should set a model of competing with China peacefully and not intervening in China's affairs in an unacceptable way. If so, China will be much less motivated to develop its own military strength. The problem is whether the US is interested in making these adjustments. As long as the US doesn't make these changes, China is destined to be cautious. Of course, it is necessary for China to increase military transparency and to develop non-military means to counter US ambition. But none of this will affect the overall military situation in the Asia-Pacific. Emerging countries like China and India have much room to boost their military spending. But neither China nor the US can control the region alone. China is willing to cooperate with the US and try to balance the strong demand for military building in Asia-Pacific region. If the US is unwilling to do so, China cannot help it."



- **March 20, 2012 Remarks by Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications Rhodes** ([Press Briefing by Senior Administration Officials on the President's Upcoming Trip to the Republic of Korea – Via Conference Call](#))

Quote: “[...] I think what we stressed very much in our last Asia trip is that the United States did not seek to single out China or any other country; we sought to similarly strengthen international norms and rules of the road, whether it had to do with economic practices or whether it had to do with maritime security.”

- **March 25, 2012 Remarks by President Obama** ([Remarks by President Obama and President Lee Myung-bak in Joint Press Conference](#))

Quote: “[...] the United States is leading again in the Asia Pacific – a region that will affect American security and prosperity in the 21st century like no other. As I declared in Australia last year, the United State(s) as a Pacific nation will play a larger and long-term role in shaping this region and its future. And the cornerstone of our efforts is our strong alliances [...]” “I reaffirmed, as I said in Australia, that reductions in U.S. defense spending will not come at the expense of the Asia Pacific.”

- **March 27, 2012 White House Press Briefing by Press Secretary Carney** ([Press Briefing by Press Secretary Jay Carney Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communication Ben Rhodes and NSC Director for Nuclear Threat Reduction Shawn Gallagher](#))

Quote: “I think that as a general matter we’ve made very clear our focus on the Asia Pacific as a region of interest in our security efforts and in our defense budget. It’s prioritized within our defense budget. And what we’ve been trying to do is expand our bilateral relationships with a range of countries in the region.”

- **March 27, 2012 Remarks by Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi** ([Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi's Remarks To Conference on China-US Relations by Video Link](#))

Quote: “Both China and the United States are Asia-Pacific nations. China welcomes a constructive role played by the United States for peace, stability and prosperity in the region. And we hope that the United States will respect China’s interests and concerns in the region, and work with us to blaze a trail of sound interactions and win-win cooperation between two big countries.”

- **March 28, 2012 Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference on March 28 2012](#))

Quote: “Peace, development and cooperation is the trend of the times and the common aspiration of people in the Asia-Pacific. We hope relevant countries in this region will adapt to this historic trend and uphold the new security concept featuring mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination to jointly ensure security for all in this region.”



Issue 7. Middle East and Africa Issues: Sanctions on Iran, A Syria Crisis

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 1, 2012 White House Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Carney (Press Gaggle by Press Secretary Jay Carney en route Nashua, New Hampshire 3/1/12) Quote: "The fact of the matter is China and Russia vetoed a resolution at the Security Council that did not call for authorizing military force, but simply went after the Assad regime. And we will continue to work with other members of the United Nations Security Council. We'll continue to consult with the Russians and the Chinese. We'll continue to work through the 'Friends of Syria' to provide humanitarian assistance, to pressure Assad, to further sanction the regime – to do the things that we can do, working with our partners, to change the situation in that country." ● March 6, 2012 Remarks by President Obama (Press Conference by the President) Quote: "What we've been able to do over the last three years is mobilize unprecedented, crippling sanctions on Iran. Iran is feeling the bite of these sanctions in a substantial way. The world is unified; Iran is politically isolated. [...] we will not countenance Iran getting a nuclear weapon. My policy is not containment; my policy is to prevent them from getting a nuclear weapon – because if they get a nuclear weapon that could trigger an arms race in the region, it would undermine our non-proliferation goals [...]. And we've been in close consultation with all our allies, including Israel, in moving this strategy forward. At this stage, it is my belief that we have a window of opportunity where this can still be resolved diplomatically." "And, as a consequence, we are going to continue to apply the pressure even as we provide a door for the Iranian regime to walk through where they could rejoin the community of nations by giving assurances to the international community that they're meeting their obligations and they are not pursuing a nuclear weapon. That's my track record." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 4, 2012 Remarks by Foreign Ministry Official (A Leading Official of the Foreign Ministry Makes Remarks to Further Elaborate on China's Position On the Political Resolution of the Syrian Issue) Quote: "The Syrian Government and all parties concerned should immediately, fully and unconditionally cease all acts of violence [...]." "Relevant parties of the international community should earnestly respect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Syria and the right of the Syrian people to independently choose their political system and development path [...]." "China welcomes the appointment of the Joint Special Envoy on the Syrian crisis by the UN and the Arab League [...]." "Members of the Security Council should strictly abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter and the basic norms governing international relations. As a permanent member of the Security Council, China is ready to earnestly fulfill its responsibilities, engage in equal-footed, patient and full consultation with other parties on the political solution to the Syrian crisis in an effort to safeguard the unity of the Security Council." ● March 7, 2012 Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Liu Weimin's Regular Press Conference (Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Liu Weimin's Regular Press Conference on March 7 2012) Quote: "China is committed to peacefully resolving the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue, and endeavours to push for the resumption of the talks. P5 plus one countries have recently reached consensus on resuming talks with Iran. The EU wrote back to Iran on behalf of P5 plus one countries yesterday. This is a positive step taken by the international community to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue through dialogue and negotiation. We welcome that."



- **March 14, 2012 Remarks by President Obama** ([The White House - Remarks by President Obama and Prime Minister Cameron of the United Kingdom in a Joint Press Conference](#))

Quote: “[...] we’re seeing significant effects on the Iranian economy. So they understand the seriousness with which we take this issue. They understand that there are consequences to them continuing to flout the international community. And I have sent a message very directly to them publicly that they need to seize this opportunity of negotiations with the P5-plus-1 to avert even worse consequences for Iran in the future.” “And for us to provide strong support to Kofi Annan, to continue to talk to the Russians, the Chinese and others about why it is that they need to stand up on behalf of people who are being shelled mercilessly, and to describe to them why it is in their interest to join us in a unified international coalition – that’s the most important work that we can do right now.”

- **March 26, 2012 Remarks by President Obama** ([Remarks by President Obama and President Hu Jintao of the People’s Republic of China Before Bilateral Meeting](#))

Quote: “[...] we both have an interest in making sure that international norms surrounding non-proliferation and preventing destabilizing nuclear weapons is very important; issues like Sudan, where we both have an interest in ensuring peace and stability and development in a previously war-torn region of the world; the situation in the Middle East. In all of these issues, I think cooperation and coordination between the United States and China is very important not only to the interest of our two countries but to the interest of the world.”

- **March 9, 2012 Remarks by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Qin Gang** ([The Chinese Government’s Emergency Humanitarian Aid to the Syrian People](#))

Quote: “[...] the Chinese Government decides to provide emergency humanitarian aid, which is US\$ two million in cash, to the Syrian people through the International Committee of the Red Cross.” “China maintains that under the precondition of respecting Syria’s sovereignty, the UN or an impartial body acceptable to all parties should make an objective and comprehensive assessment of the humanitarian situation in Syria and ensure the delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid.”

- **March 22, 2012 Remarks by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Qin Gang** ([Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Qin Gang’s Remarks on the Security Council’s Adoption of the Presidential Statement on Syria](#))

Quote: “The Security Council’s move is a positive step towards the political resolution of the Syrian issue. China’s six-point proposal has been increasingly supported and echoed by the international community. It is proven that the Security Council is able to reach consensus and speak with one voice on the Syrian issue as long as there is patient and full consultation on an equal footing.” “China hopes that the Syrian Government and all relevant parties will cooperate and coordinate actively with Annan, halt violence immediately, show political will and launch the political dialogue as soon as possible so as to resolve the Syrian crisis through political means at an early date.”

- **March 22, 2012 Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference on March 22 2012](#))

Quote: “Based on its need of economic development, China imports crude oil from Iran through normal channels. It is understandable, reasonable and lawful. It does not violate the UN Security Council resolutions, nor does it impair the interests of a third party or the international community. China always opposes unilateral sanctions imposed by one country on another based on its domestic law, not to mention the practice of forcing the unilateral sanctions on a third country.”



- **March 27, 2012 Remarks by Secretary of State Clinton** (Remarks With Estonian Foreign Minister Urmas Paet After Their Meeting)

Quote: “[...] the Joint Special Envoy Kofi Annan and the Syrian National Council both said this morning that it is an important initial step that the Assad regime has written the United Nations to accept the Annan plan.” “[...] Kofi Annan has pledged to work with the opposition to take steps of its own so that the bloodshed ends, that there won’t be violence coming from opposition forces, that humanitarian aid will be permitted to come into areas where the opposition has been holding, that the true political dialogue will begin, and that all Syrians will be welcomed to participate in an inclusive process.”

- **March 30, 2012 White House Press Release** (Background Conference Call on Presidential Determination Required Pursuant to Section 1245 of the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act)

Quote: “I think India and China are two countries that we continue to have a dialogue with about their ability to reduce reliance on Iranian oil. I would note that while we continue to pursue reductions, what we also have not seen is, for instance, backfilling by the Chinese, whereby they make up the difference in Iranian oil that has come off the market in other places by increasing their economic relationship with Iran. And so that cooperation has been – in terms of maintaining a baseline of pressure – very important.”

- **March 22, 2012 Global Times Editorial** (Sanctions chance for China to show mettle)

Quote: “The US exempted 11 countries from sanctions relating to Iran, but left China and India among others exposed to possible punishment from Washington. This latest step gives rise to the potential friction between China and the US. This round of Iran sanctions have not been authorized by the UN. China and India are in line with the international law, though the US media tries to single out China. US-backed sanctions are not frightening. At most they would bring only minimal damage to China.” “There is no reason for China to trade its key national interest just for the sake of getting along with the US. China needs to demonstrate its will in the face of the US.” “There are many factors in the world that see the US need China’s help. In recent years whenever diplomatic frictions emerged between China and US, the White House took China’s concessions for granted. These Iran sanctions should be the opportunity to change this mindset. When it comes to principles and legitimate interests, China should resist giving in to US pressure. The US needs to reassess China’s national will. To this end, China needs to be prepared for some risks and to pay a certain price. We must show the US our stance, limits and determination, then respond to the US reaction with calm.”

- **March 23, 2012 Global Times Editorial** (West realizes at last bypassing UN is futile)

Quote: “The West has dominated the evolution of the Arab Spring. The change of tone is good for China and Russia. If this trend continues, it may break the tradition of the West dominating Middle Eastern affairs.” “The West is restricting Syrian government with China and Russia’s influence. It will then seek to oust the Assad government by other means.” “Meanwhile, the joint force of China and Russia cannot be easily ignored. They should stick to their guns. The West appears more hesitant in staging a military intervention in Syria than a few months ago, no matter how Western media have painted the situation. China and Russia should step up efforts through the Arab League and Syrian opposition.”



Issue 8. Taiwan Issues: Taiwan Independence and “One-China” Policy**China**

- **March 24, 2012 *Global Times* Editorial** ([Weighing up status quo key for Taiwan](#))

Quote: “The honorary chairman of the Taiwan-based Kuomintang (KMT) party, Wu Po-hsiung, made a proposal, referred to as ‘one country, two areas,’ during his meeting with Hu Jintao, general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, on Thursday in Beijing. The idea drew many comments in Taiwan while barely being picked up by the mainland media. The proposal is an old concept but appears to be positive.” “Neither side should be constrained to merely bandying words with the other. Efforts should be directed at paving the way for a wider recognition of the one-China principle, further nurturing understanding, and building political trust. The mainland and Taiwan need to expand contact and cooperation. This is crucial to prevent Taiwan being hijacked by extremism. Taiwan should remain rational at all times.”

- **March 27, 2012 Remarks by Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi** ([Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi’s Remarks To Conference on China-US Relations by Video Link](#))

Quote: “We hope that the United States will abide by principle and honor its commitments on issues related to Taiwan and Tibet, so as to prevent setbacks in China-US relations and ensure their steady growth.”



Issue 9. Cybersecurity Issues: Cyber Hacking**United States**

- **March 30, 2012 Remarks by Secretary of Defense Panetta** ([Secretary Panetta All Hands Call USS Peleliu](#))

Quote: “We’ve got rising powers in Asia. We’ve got the whole threat of cyber, a whole new world of attacks on this country. We get literally hundreds of thousands of cyberattacks in this country every day. And today, as a result of the technology that’s developing in the cyberworld, it is capable to cripple this country, to take down our power grid system, to take down our governmental system, take down our financial system. Cyber is the weapon of the future and we’re going to have to deal with it. So we’re facing a lot of threats that we have to confront if we want to keep America safe and if we want to give our children a better life. And it’s all happening in a time when this country’s also facing a security threat – a national security threat by virtue of the huge debt and the large deficits that are being run in this country. If we don’t have the resources – if we don’t have the resources we need to maintain a strong defense, if we don’t have the resources we need in order to maintain the quality of life that our people deserve, then we are going to weaken our national security.”



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