

# Rising Temperatures

## May 2015

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## Rising Temperatures

*Disagreements over China's land reclamation project in the South China Sea and China's issuance of a new Defense White Paper have shifted the attention in U.S.-China relations from the economic arena and discussions surrounding the AIIB to military and territorial sovereignty issues. The upcoming U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue and Chinese President Xi Jinping's imminent visit to Washington in September will give the two countries ample opportunities to work out their differences over the next several months, but during the month of May the two great powers were pressing their individual views of international norms and laws. Summarized below are five key issues highlighted by the U.S. and China over the previous month as tracked by the UCR Briefing.*

## Simmering Tensions in the South China Sea

China has been stepping up its rhetoric and has made clear its position regarding its territorial claims in the South China Sea.<sup>1</sup> China has also made clear it will continue to protect its national security by patrolling the waters and air space surrounding its claimed territory.<sup>2</sup> Although China has urged the U.S. to refrain from choosing sides in the territorial disputes in the South China Sea,<sup>3</sup> the U.S. is actively seeking maintenance of the freedom of navigation in an area crucial to international trade routes through a constant U.S. Navy presence.<sup>4</sup> The U.S. also continues to question the legality of China's land reclamation project in the area and does not recognize China's claim to territorial waters around these land reclamation projects.<sup>5</sup> While both countries agree the situation needs to be solved peacefully, this is about the only thing they seem to agree on leaving many

<sup>1</sup> UCR May Issue 2015 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes, Issue 9 pg. [41](#), [42](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, pg. [44](#), [46](#)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, pg. [47](#), [49](#)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, pg. [41](#), [44](#)

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, pg. [47](#)

questions on how the two nations will move forward with regards to the territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

## The Race to Set Trade Norms

In light of the emerging Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the U.S. and China have been head-to-head for dominance in the global market. Both sides have explicitly stated that it is imperative to grow their respective economies and maintain their economic profile in order for them to “set the rules” of global trade.<sup>6</sup> The U.S. is facing tough partisan-induced gridlock in Congress, which is delaying the process of them joining any global trade agreement, while China has seen some economic growth through increased exports during the second quarter of 2015.<sup>7</sup> In addition, the U.S. continued its sarcastic criticism of the AIIB as Secretary of State Kerry welcomed the institution to the world scene as long as it upholds “high quality standards,” and “genuine multilateral decision making.”<sup>8</sup>

## Different Approaches to the Crisis-riddled Middle East

The United States has taken proactive measures to mediate and resolve conflicts in the Middle East and Africa with their chief interests centered on the impending Iran Nuclear Deal, the civil war and the humanitarian crisis in Syria, the growing power of ISIL, and the civil war in Yemen. While the U.S. hopes that diplomacy will prevail, especially in the case of Yemen,<sup>9</sup> the U.S. has become more aggressive in its efforts with an example being the continued military involvement in eradicating ISIL. China, on the other hand, commends any actions that deter violence, but has chosen to support efforts in individual countries ranging from Egypt to Afghanistan to resolve their own domestic issues rather than becoming

<sup>6</sup> UCR May Issue 2015 – Economic Relations, Issue 2 pg. [11](#)

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, pg. [12](#)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, pg. [12](#)

<sup>9</sup> UCR May Issue 2015 – Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8 pg. [35](#), [36](#)



directly involved.<sup>10</sup> However, China has taken more proactive measures in expanding its reach in Africa by concluding a treaty with Djibouti that may establish China's first foreign military base.<sup>11</sup>

### China Serves Notice on Direction of Military Development

Both countries have openly been in support for nuclear disarmament and to undertake a more responsible and transparent nuclear policy that is in alignment with the NPT.<sup>12</sup> Furthermore, the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula remains a relentless obstacle that the U.S. and China are attempting to resolve.<sup>13</sup> The U.S. Department of State and China's Ministry of National Defense have both addressed the serious emerging issue of cyber security and propose more "cyberspace situation awareness" and "cyberspace defense," in addition to preventing further invasive attacks.<sup>14</sup> Yet the biggest news of the month with regards to military and security relations involved the release of China's 2015 Defense White Paper. In the document, China stated that it would continue to develop its military "as a security guarantee for China's peaceful development,"<sup>15</sup> and would seek to continue military cooperation with both the U.S. and Russia.<sup>16</sup>

### Exchange of Criticism on Human Rights Issues

U.S. criticism of China's human rights record is nothing new and the U.S. again this month urged the Chinese government to release imprisoned lawyer Pu Zhiqiang.<sup>17</sup> Secretary of State John Kerry also made declarations calling for open

access to the internet that were not directed specifically at China, but certainly poked at China's censorship of the internet within its borders.<sup>18</sup> China on the other hand lodged protests over a report published by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom that contended Chinese guarantees of religious freedom were weak,<sup>19</sup> and then highlighted the UN Human Rights Council Report on the U.S. which provided advice on issues should as excessive use of force by law enforcement personnel and racial discrimination that currently plague the U.S. domestic scene.<sup>20</sup> Indeed neither side can be declared free of human rights violations and both sides will continue to seek to set international norms on human rights and a host of other issues rather than be reactive to the other as both the U.S. and China maneuver to improve its international position.

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid, pg. [36](#), [38](#)

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, pg. [35](#)

<sup>12</sup> UCR May Issue 2015 – Military and Security Relations, Issue 3 pg. [13](#)

<sup>13</sup> UCR May Issue 2015 – Korean Peninsula, Issue 7 pg. [32](#)

<sup>14</sup> UCR May Issue 2015 – Military and Security Relations, Issue 3 pg. [13](#), [16](#)

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, pg. [15](#)

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, pg. [16](#)

<sup>17</sup> UCR April Issue 2015 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues, Issue 4 pg. [20](#)

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<sup>18</sup> Ibid, pg. [21](#)

<sup>19</sup> Ibid, pg. [19](#)

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, pg. [20](#)



May 2015:

TIME PERIOD: May 1 ~ May 31

MAIN ISSUES:

1. **U.S. – China Bilateral Relations:** The U.S. Speaks of the Need for Cooperation ahead of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue; China Criticizes the U.S. Tendency to Make Allies and Enemies

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 11, U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue and U.S.-China Consultation on People-to-People Exchange</li> <li>● May 13, Testimony by Daniel R. Russel: Maritime Issues in East Asia</li> <li>● May 16, Remarks at a Meeting With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi</li> <li>● May 18, Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 21, Remarks by Deputy Assistant Secretary Susan Thornton: Taiwan: A Vital Partner in East Asia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 10, <i>People's Daily</i>: Sino-Russian Relations Shouldn't Cause Alarm</li> <li>● May 11, <i>China Daily</i>: China Opposes Alliance with Any Other</li> <li>● May 15, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 15, <i>China Daily</i>: US' Double-dealing Risky</li> </ul>

2. **Economic Relations:** The U.S. and China Compete to Define International Trade Rules

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 8, Remarks by the President on Trade</li> <li>● May 13, Remarks by Secretary Kerry' on Background Briefing on Trip to Beijing, Seoul, and Seattle at Senior State Department Officials Via Teleconference</li> <li>● May 16, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Joint Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi</li> <li>● May 19, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: The World Wants What America Makes</li> <li>● May 29, Department of State Releases 2015 Investment Climate Statements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 7, <i>People's Daily</i>: China and US Compete to Set New Rules</li> <li>● May 15, Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 15, Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 15, Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 18, Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce</li> <li>● May 26, Official Comments on U.S. Countervailing and Anti-dumping Investigation against Containers Imported from China</li> <li>● May 29, <i>China Daily</i>: 'Currency Manipulator' an Outdated Criticism</li> </ul>

3. **Military and Security Relations:** The U.S. Works to Curtail Cyberattacks and Nuclear Proliferation; China Releases its Defense White Paper

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 1, Remarks by Ambassador Robert A. Wood, United States Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament: Statement by the United States to the NPT Review Conference Main Committee I</li> <li>● May 4, Department of Commerce Cybersecurity Trade Mission to Romania and Poland</li> <li>● May 8, Press Conference by Deputy Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken: Telephonic Press Briefing With European Journalists</li> <li>● May 8, Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 4, China's Statement by H.E. Mr. Fu Cong, Ambassador for Disarmament, on Nuclear Disarmament in NPT RevCon</li> <li>● May 9, China opposes U.S. Annual Report on Chinese Military</li> <li>● May 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 12, <i>China Daily</i>: U.S. Still Scaremongering</li> <li>● May 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 14, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 12, Remarks by Deputy Assistant Secretary Mallory Stewart: Promoting Space Security and Sustainability</li> <li>● May 17, Interview of Secretary of State John Kerry: Interview With Ms. Fu Xiaotian for Phoenix TV's "Talk With World Leaders"</li> <li>● May 18, Remarks of Secretary of State John Kerry: An Open and Secure Internet: We Must Have Both</li> <li>● May 21, Remarks by Deputy Assistant Secretary Susan Thornton: Taiwan: A Vital Partner in East Asia</li> <li>● May 22, Remarks by Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller: Remarks at the Conclusion of the 2015 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference</li> <li>● May 26, Remarks by President Obama and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg after Bilateral Meeting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 26, Full Text: China's Military Strategy</li> <li>● May 26, Full Text: China's Military Strategy</li> <li>● May 26, Full Text: China's Military Strategy</li> <li>● May 26, Full Text: China's Military Strategy</li> <li>● May 26, Full Text: China's Military Strategy</li> <li>● May 26, Full Text: China's Military Strategy</li> <li>● May 26, Full Text: China's Military Strategy</li> <li>● May 26, China Dismisses Recent Tensions in South China Sea as "Old Tricks"</li> <li>● May 27, <i>China Daily</i>: Military Paper Conveys Defensive Commitment</li> <li>● May 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> </ul>
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4. **Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues:** The U.S. Urges Global Respect for Human Rights and Attention to Refugee Issues; China Continues to Highlight its Aid to Nepal and Criticizes U.S. Human Rights Record

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 4, Press Availability by Secretary of State John Kerry: Press Availability in Nairobi, Kenya</li> <li>● May 5, Testimony by Catherine M. Russell, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues: Opening Statement on Resources, Priorities and Programs for Global Women's Issues</li> <li>● May 6, United States Announces \$68 Million in Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen</li> <li>● May 7, Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 15, Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz</li> <li>● May 15, Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 16, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: Commemorating International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia</li> <li>● May 18, Remarks of Secretary of State John Kerry: An Open and Secure Internet: We Must Have Both</li> <li>● May 22, Press Conference by Deputy Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken: Press Conference in Rangoon, Burma</li> <li>● May 28, Press Statement of Secretary of State John Kerry: Ethiopia's National Day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 4, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 4, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 6, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 7, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 8, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 13, <i>People's Daily</i>: Commentary: U.S. Needs to Work on Own Human Rights Record First before Blaming Others</li> <li>● May 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 15, Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 16, Statement by Ambassador Liu Jieyi at 90th Plenary Meeting of the 69th Session of the General Assembly Under Agenda item 69(c)</li> <li>● May 20, Interview with MOFCOM Spokesman Sun Jiwen on Chinese Government's Three Rounds of Relief Supplies to Quake-hit Nepal</li> </ul>



5. **Climate Change and Environmental Issues:** Both the U.S. and China Focus on Domestic Pollution Controls and Seek International Cooperation on Climate Initiatives

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 20, Press Gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz en route New London, CT</li> <li>● May 20, Preview of Upcoming Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas Ministerial (ECPA) and Sixth Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM6)</li> <li>● May 26, Statement by the President on Clean Water Rule</li> <li>● May 29, Announces by Media regarding EPA Proposes Increases in Renewable Fuel Levels</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 6, MoF and MEP Circulate the Implementation Opinions on Promoting PPP in the Water Pollution Prevention and Control Area</li> <li>● May 19, The Settlement Results of the Environmental Cases Filed by the Public through "12369" Tipline in 2014</li> <li>● May 20, Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India</li> <li>● May 25, MEP Releases Air Quality Status of Key Regions and 74 Cities in April</li> </ul>

6. **Asia Pacific Issues:** The U.S. Continues to Strengthen its Alliances in Asia and Focuses Specifically on Improving U.S.-Japan-ROK Tri-lateral Relations; China Continues Criticism of Japan on Historical Issues while Simultaneously Searching for Areas of Cooperation

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 1, Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 5, Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 14, Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 18, Press availability of Secretary of State John Kerry: Joint Press Availability With Republic of Korea Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se</li> <li>● May 18, Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 28, Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 30, Remarks on IISS Shangri-La Dialogue: "A Regional Security Architecture Where Everyone Rises" by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter</li> <li>● May 30, Remarks on IISS Shangri-La Dialogue: "A Regional Security Architecture Where Everyone Rises" by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 1, <i>People's Daily</i>: Abe's Speech in U.S. Congress Disappoints Asian Neighbors Again</li> <li>● May 6, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 7, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 14, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 14, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 14, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 15, <i>China Daily</i>: Do Not Obscure Reason for Atomic Bombing</li> <li>● May 15, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 15, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 20, Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India</li> <li>● May 22, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 28, <i>People's Daily</i>: Rohingya Crisis Demands Concerted Action</li> <li>● May 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> </ul>





7. **Korean Peninsula:** The U.S. and China Both Push for the Resumption of Talks to Resolve the North Korean Nuclear Problem

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 7, Remarks by Ambassador Adam Scheinman, Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation: Main Committee II - Subsidiary Body: Regional Issues</li> <li>● May 13, Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Trip to Beijing, Seoul, and Seattle</li> <li>● May 16, Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Joint Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi</li> <li>● May 18, Press Availability of Secretary of State John Kerry: Joint Press Availability With Republic of Korea Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se</li> <li>● May 18, Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 19, Remarks by Assistant Secretary Frank A. Rose: Missile Defense and the U.S. Response to the North Korean Ballistic Missile and WMD Threat</li> <li>● May 20, Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf</li> <li>● May 21, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: Readout of Secretary Kerry's travel to Beijing, Seoul and Seattle</li> <li>● May 27, Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 28, Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 11, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 18, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 21, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 28, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> </ul>

8. **Middle East and Africa Issues:** The U.S. Gropes for Solutions to Several Crises in the Middle East; China Hints at Possibility of First Overseas Military Base in Djibouti

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 4, Press Availability by Secretary of State John Kerry: Press Availability in Nairobi, Kenya</li> <li>● May 6, Letter – Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Actions of the Government of Syria</li> <li>● May 6, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>● May 8, Statement by Acting Deputy Department Spokesperson: U.S. Condemns Violence in Sudan</li> <li>● May 11, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>● May 12, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>● May 12, Remarks by Ambassador Laura E. Kennedy: Main Committee II - Subsidiary Body: Regional Issues</li> <li>● May 13, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>● May 15, Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz</li> <li>● May 15, Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 4, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 11, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 11, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 13, <i>China Daily</i>: Defensive arm now needs to be extended</li> <li>● May 15, Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 18, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 19, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 20, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 22, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 17, Meet the Press Transcript</li> <li>● May 19, Message – Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Iraq</li> <li>● May 21, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>● May 22, Remarks by the President on Jewish American Heritage Month</li> <li>● May 25, United States Calls for Peaceful Resolution to Crisis in Burundi</li> </ul>	
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9. **Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes:** The U.S. and China Exchange Volleys Over the Legality of China’s Land Reclamation Efforts in the South China Sea while Simultaneously Calling for a Peaceful Resolution

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 1, Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 1, Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 7, Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: On the Occasion of Europe Day</li> <li>● May 13, Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry’s Trip to Beijing, Seoul, and Seattle</li> <li>● May 13, Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry’s Trip to Beijing, Seoul, and Seattle</li> <li>● May 13, Testimony by Daniel R. Russel: Maritime Issues in East Asia</li> <li>● May 13, Testimony by Daniel R. Russel: Maritime Issues in East Asia</li> <li>● May 13, Testimony by Daniel R. Russel: Maritime Issues in East Asia</li> <li>● May 14, Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 15, Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 18, Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 21, Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: Readout of Secretary Kerry’s travel to Beijing, Seoul and Seattle</li> <li>● May 21, Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf</li> <li>● May 22, Commencement Address by the Vice President at the United States Naval Academy</li> <li>● May 22, Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf</li> <li>● May 26, Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 26, Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>● May 27, Remarks on U.S. Pacific Command Change of Command by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter</li> <li>● May 28, Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 29, Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke</li> <li>● May 30, Remarks on IISS Shangri-La Dialogue: “A Regional Security Architecture Where Everyone Rises” by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● May 5, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Remarks on the Philippines’ Allegation that China’s Construction on Maritime Features of the Nansha Islands Violates the DOC</li> <li>● May 7, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 8, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 11, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 12, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 13, <i>People’s Daily</i>: U.S. - Please Stop Playing up the “China Military Threat”</li> <li>● May 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 13, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 14, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 15, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 18, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 18, <i>China Daily</i>: Mutual Trust Vital to China-US Relations</li> <li>● May 21, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 21, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 22, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 25, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 26, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>● May 26, Construction on Nansha Islands Serves Military, Civilian Purposes</li> <li>● May 26, Full Text: China’s Military Strategy</li> </ul>





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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● May 26, Full Text: China's Military Strategy</li><li>● May 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li><li>● May 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li><li>● May 27, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li><li>● May 28, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li><li>● May 29, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li><li>● May 30, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on US Defense Secretary Carter's Speech Relating to the Issue of the South China Sea at the Shangri-La Dialogue</li></ul> |
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## Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: The U.S. Speaks of the Need for Cooperation ahead of the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue; China Criticizes the U.S. Tendency to Make Allies and Enemies

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 11, 2015 – U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue and U.S.-China Consultation on People-to-People Exchange</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “The Dialogue will focus on the challenges and opportunities that both countries face on a wide range of bilateral, regional and global areas of immediate and long-term economic and strategic interest. The U.S. Department of State also announced today that Secretary Kerry will participate in the sixth annual U.S.-China Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (CPE) in coordination with Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong.”</li> <li>● <b>May 13, 2015– Testimony by Daniel R. Russel: Maritime Issues in East Asia</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “Despite our differences over the South China Sea, the United States and China have worked hard to expand cooperation and develop effective channels of communication to manage differences. This administration has been clear and consistent in welcoming China’s peaceful rise, and in encouraging China to take on a greater leadership role in addressing regional and global challenges.”</li> <li>● <b>May 16, 2015 – Remarks at a Meeting With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “Indeed, this is a very important year for the United States and China. But as we begin the importance of this year, we also need to focus on the significant progress that we’ve been making over the course of the last two years. And I appreciate very much the cooperative relationship that you and I have built and that I’ve been able to develop with a number of other of your high officials, including President Xi.”</li> <li>● <b>May 18, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “They addressed a range of global issues on which we work together. That includes climate change, the nuclear negotiations with Iran, providing development aid around the world as well as Afghanistan. And they also share – they discussed our shared commitment to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. They agreed on the importance of maintaining pressure on the DPRK. And the Secretary also expressed U.S. concern about ongoing land reclamation efforts in the South China Sea and highlighted the need to lower tensions, resolve disputes peacefully, to respect international law, and to exercise restraint.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 10, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Sino-Russian Relations Shouldn’t Cause Alarm</b> (<a href="#">People’s Daily</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “The change of the international situation did contribute to closer China-Russia ties, but this is not all. The more decisive factor lies in China and Russia’s respect toward each other and willingness to handle disputes carefully. This is what big-power relations should be. But many major countries have not achieved this. [...] China and Russia’s strategic cooperation is not exclusive. But such relations are not understood by the West. For the U.S. and many Western countries, a country is either an ally or an enemy. It seems impossible for them to make friends without making enemies.”</li> <li>● <b>May 11, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: China Opposes Alliance with Any Other</b> (<a href="#">People’s Daily</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “What does peaceful development strategy mean? It means three “noes” and three “yeses”. The first “no” is no expansion. China will never follow in the footsteps of the former colonial powers. The second is no hegemony. China will never follow the policies of the United States or the Soviet Union. The third is no alliance. China will never enter into a military alliance with any country. The first “yes” is yes to peace. China has taken a huge undertaking to modernize itself. Peace is the sine qua non for development. The second is yes to development. China faces many problems and believes only development can help solve them. The third is yes to cooperation. China is aware that in a globalized world, no country can modernize itself in isolation. International cooperation is indispensable, and it is because of global cooperation over the past 36 years that China has achieved miraculous economic growth.”</li> <li>● <b>May 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “Q: U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is about to visit China. Do you have any comment on this? What will be discussed between the two sides? What message will China send to the U.S.?  <b>A:</b> The two sides will exchange in-depth views on bilateral relations and issues of common interest. As two major countries with great influence in the world, China and the U.S. share common interests on many issues. It is believed that sincere discussions would be held on a wide range of topics during the visit.”</li> </ul>



- **May 21, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Assistant Secretary Susan Thornton: Taiwan: A Vital Partner in East Asia ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “Even as we discuss our abiding interest in peaceful and stable cross-Strait relations with our friends on Taiwan, we also encourage Beijing to demonstrate flexibility and restraint. The benefits that stable cross-Strait ties have brought to both sides of the Taiwan Strait, the United States, and the region have been enormous. It is important that both sides of the Strait understand the importance of these benefits and work to establish a basis for continued peace and stability. Maintaining close communication and a no-surprises, low-key approach has allowed all parties to demonstrate restraint and flexibility. We want to see this approach continue.”

- **May 15, 2015 – *China Daily*: U.S.' Double-dealing Risky ([China Daily](#))**

**Quote:** “To counterbalance China's rise and enhance its own waning influence in the region, Washington has been playing two contradictory cards at the same time: cooperating with China in the fields where it benefits the most, such as trade, and trying to contain China's growing influence in other areas. Such double-dealing tactics are not conducive to building mutual trust. Worse, when the U.S. plays a containment card, it only sows seeds of distrust that could grow into misjudgment. Should the U.S. send its naval vessels to the waters near China's island building area, it would create a potential flashpoint.”



## Issue 2 – Economic Relations: The U.S. and China Compete to Define International Trade Rules

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 8, 2015 – Remarks by the President on Trade</b> (<a href="#">White House, Speeches and Remarks</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “The playing field is uneven. That puts American businesses and American workers at a disadvantage. So the question is, what should we do about it? Some folks think we should just withdraw and not even try to engage in trade with these countries. I disagree. We have to make sure America writes the rules of the global economy. And we should do it today, while our economy is in the position of global strength. Because if we don’t write the rules for trade around the world - guess what - China will. And they’ll write those rules in a way that gives Chinese workers and Chinese businesses the upper hand, and locks American-made goods out.”</li> <li>● <b>May 13, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary Kerry’ on Background Briefing on Trip to Beijing, Seoul, and Seattle at Senior State Department Officials Via Teleconference</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “We’re very excited about this for a number of reasons. As I said, obviously there’s the foreign policy concerns. But just on the economic side, TPP represents 40 percent of total global GDP, right now 800 million consumers, and nearly a third of global trade. Together with TTIP, we think this will place American business and American workers in the middle of a free trade zone that covers nearly two-thirds of global activity. We’re very excited about a number of the chapters in the TPP which, again, aren’t quite finished but are getting very close. This will be the bluest and greenest trade agreement we’ve ever negotiated. We’re working to get commitments on labor and environment. [...] Chinese are a very important and active participant in those negotiations, but also in Seoul where the Koreans have fully supported sanctions against Iran that most people believe brought the Iranians to the table and made them serious about attempting to reach a deal. The Koreans, of course, also have a huge interest in global nonproliferation, in as much as they – that they are sharing the peninsula with the DPRK, which is actively pursuing a nuclear and a missile capability in direct violation of its international norms.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 7, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: China and U.S. Compete to Set New Rules</b> (<a href="#">People’s Daily</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “The U.S. has pushed China into a platform where both sides must compete for the establishment of a new global trade order. Whether China likes it or not, the U.S. has made clear its rivalry with China and will likely make some rules specifically directed at China. Since the competition looks unavoidable, China has to be well prepared and conceive more inclusive trade rules when carrying out its “One Belt One Road” initiative and apply these rules into other programs.”</li> <li>● <b>May 15, 2015 – Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang’s Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Commerce</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “The world’s major economies and emerging markets have all seen negative growth in exports. Against such a backdrop, Chinese exports grew slightly, which was really exceptional among the major economies and trading nations. That said, China’s foreign trade and its efforts to stabilize foreign trade are faced with a grave situation and extremely heavy pressure. [...] Frankly speaking, despite the broad depreciation of the non-USD currencies, such as the Japanese yen, the euro and the ruble, the RMB has remained stable. This has hurt the competitiveness of Chinese exports and increased currency collection risks and operation pressure for foreign trade companies.”</li> <li>● <b>May 15, 2015 – Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang’s Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Commerce</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “China’s steel export grew at a fast pace of around 32.7% in the first four months of this year. The main driver behind this growth is the strong demand in the international market like the U.S. as you just mentioned. It is also partly because of the growing competitiveness of China’s steel products, thanks to falling prices of iron ore that cuts cost for steelmakers in China. It is therefore natural and undisputable to see a drastic increase in China’s steel sales in some countries and regions. Whether in the U.S. or other markets, we object to any measures taken against China’s steel products on the ground of its uptick in sale. We hope all trade partners will attempt to resolve concerns through dialogue and collaboration with China, resort to remedy investigation in a prudent and restrained way and jointly safeguard a sound international trade environment.”</li> </ul>



- **May 16, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Joint Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “There is a pressing need to enhance infrastructure investment throughout Asia as well as around the world. And the United States welcomes new multilateral institutions, including the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, provided that they share the international community’s strong commitment to high-quality standards, including genuine multilateral decision making, ever-improving lending requirements, and environmental and social safeguards. Those are the high standards that apply to global financial institutions.”

- **May 19, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: The World Wants What America Makes** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “We are living in a wholly different world, an exciting time, except for one thing: the need for American leadership. Like the generation of Warren Magnuson and Henry “Scoop” Jackson, our generation faces a test that we cannot allow partisanship or any other source of internal division to prevent us from meeting. We have an opportunity before us to shape and elevate the global rules of trade for decades to come.”

- **May 29, 2015 – Department of State Releases 2015 Investment Climate Statements** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “The United States encourages foreign governments to embrace open, non-discriminatory, predictable and transparent investment policies. Foreign investment can create jobs, increase productivity, raise living standards and provide businesses with first-hand knowledge of a wider pool of consumers’ preferences. Foreign investment can also spark innovation and creativity. It is a mainstay of the global economy”

- **May 15, 2015 – Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

**Quote:** “The establishment of the China-Japan-ROK FTA will give full play to industrial complementarity of the three countries, tap into and enhance the potential of trade and investment flows between the three countries and promote the integration of the regional value chain.”

- **May 18, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

**Quote:** “China’s total import and export in April 2015 reached RMB 1.96 trillion, down 10.9% year on year. Among that, the export was RMB 1.08 trillion, down 6.2%, and import RMB 0.87 trillion, down 16.1%. The trade surplus was RMB 210.2 billion, up 85.2%. In terms of the U.S. dollar, the total import and export reached US\$ 318.5 billion, down 11.1%, among which, the export was US\$ 176.3 billion, down 6.4%, and the import US\$ 142.2 billion, down 16.2%. The trade surplus was US\$ 34.1 billion, up 82.9%..”

- **May 26, 2015 - Official Comments on U.S. Countervailing and Anti-dumping Investigation against Containers Imported from China** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

**Quote:** “The Chinese enterprises and industries involved in this case paid close attentions to the ruling, and they believed that the final ruling objectively reflected the actual situation of container industry in the U.S.. It showed that China’s exports of containers did not do substantive harm on U.S. domestic industry and there were no evidence and proof for the U.S. to take measures of anti-dumping and countervailing measures. On the contrary, both China’s exports and the containers made in the U.S. have jointly met the needs of U.S. domestic markets. We hope that the USITC could adhere to principles of objectivity and justice in the future investigation and could be prudent with trade remedy measures in line with the WTO rules.”

- **May 29, 2015 – China Daily: 'Currency Manipulator' an Outdated Criticism** ([China Daily](#))

**Quote:** “In a technical decision, but one that may have some political reading, the International Monetary Fund said on Tuesday that the Chinese currency is no longer seen as being undervalued. Previously, the Chinese currency was labeled by the international financial institution as ‘modestly undervalued’; even earlier, the alleged undervaluation was referred to as a ‘major factor causing the large imbalances’ in the global market and in China.”



### Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: The U.S. Works to Curtail Cyberattacks and Nuclear Proliferation; China Releases its Defense White Paper

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 1, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Robert A. Wood, United States Delegation to the Conference on Disarmament: Statement by the United States to the NPT Review Conference Main Committee I</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>) <b>Quote:</b> “The United States has accomplished much over the past five years, and we will continue our efforts to advance nuclear disarmament and increase confidence and transparency. We encourage all parties to join with the United States to be ambitious but also to advance realistic and achievable objectives in support of these efforts.”</li> <li>● <b>May 4, 2015 – Department of Commerce Cybersecurity Trade Mission to Romania and Poland</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>) <b>Quote:</b> “We’re going to participate in a cyber security regional summit with government leaders from across Central and Southeast Asia – or Southeast Europe, sorry, not Asia. We will also celebrate the opening of a new cyber security innovation center in Bucharest, Romania, funded in part by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency and Fidelis Cybersecurity. This new center will really stand as a model and show how public-private partnership, how governments and companies can work together to effectively combat cyber crime and cyber attacks.”</li> <li>● <b>May 8, 2015 – Press Conference by Deputy Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken: Telephonic Press Briefing With European Journalists</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>) <b>Quote:</b> “NATO is prepared to defend its members under Article 5 if they are threatened or attacked. And indeed, we have backed up those practical initiatives with significant additional resources. Under the European Reassurance Initiative the President has committed another \$1 billion to NATO and to the defense of Europe.”</li> <li>● <b>May 8, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>) <b>Quote:</b> “The cyber attack manipulated international web traffic intended for one of China’s biggest web services companies and turned it into malicious traffic directed at U.S. sites. We have asked Chinese authorities to investigate this activity and provide us with the results of their investigation. At the same time, we’re working with all willing partners to enhance cyber security, promote norms of acceptable state behavior in cyber space, and to protect the principle of freedom of expression online.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 4, 2015 – China’s Statement by H.E. Mr. Fu Cong, Ambassador for Disarmament, on Nuclear Disarmament in NPT RevCon</b> (<a href="#">Permanent Mission to the UN</a>) <b>Quote:</b> “China firmly pursues peaceful development, implements an open, transparent and responsible nuclear policy, faithfully fulfills its nuclear disarmament obligation under the NPT and advocates comprehensive prohibition and total destruction of nuclear weapons. China adheres to a nuclear strategy of self-defense. Our nuclear weapons are only for the purpose of responding to possible nuclear attacks that endanger our national security. China has never threatened and will never threaten any state, or target any state with its nuclear weapons. We have faithfully honored our commitments of not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states and nuclear weapon free zones under any circumstances. China vigorously promotes the conclusion of a multilateral treaty among nuclear states in this regard. We believe that this in itself is a practical action for nuclear disarmament. We do not provide nuclear protection umbrella for other states, do not deploy nuclear weapons on the soil of other states, do not engage in any form of nuclear arms race, and have always kept our nuclear force at the minimal level required by our national security.”</li> <li>● <b>May 9, 2015 – China Opposes U.S. Annual Report on Chinese Military</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of National Defense</a>) <b>Quote:</b> “The United States annual report on China’s military development has severely damaged trust and runs counter to the important consensus reached between both state leaders on building a new type of major-country relationship and new model of military-to-military relations, Geng said. He urged the U.S. side to stop comments and actions that harm relations between the two countries and the trust between both militaries, and promote the healthy and stable growth of ties.”</li> </ul>





- **May 12, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Assistant Secretary Mallory Stewart: Promoting Space Security and Sustainability** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “The serious international concern voiced by the United States and others, some nations continue to develop their ASAT systems. The United States believes that such destructive capabilities are both destabilizing and a threat to the long-term security and sustainability of outer space.”

- **May 17, 2015 – Interview of Secretary of State John Kerry: Interview With Ms. Fu Xiaotian for Phoenix TV's "Talk With World Leaders"** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “We’re actually working very hard on our military-to-military relationship. I met yesterday for the first time with General Fan, and we have invited him to come to Washington. He will be part of our dialogue. We are working on military-to-military issues like reducing the tension of air-to-air potential collisions or intercepts, to understand the rules of the air as well as the rules of the road.”

- **May 18, 2015 – Remarks of Secretary of State John Kerry: An Open and Secure Internet: We Must Have Both** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “First, no country should conduct or knowingly support online activity that intentionally damages or impedes the use of another country’s critical infrastructure. Second, no country should seek either to prevent emergency teams from responding to a cybersecurity incident, or allow its own teams to cause harm. Third, no country should conduct or support cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, trade secrets, or other confidential business information for commercial gain. Fourth, every country should mitigate malicious cyber activity emanating from its soil, and they should do so in a transparent, accountable and cooperative way. And fifth, every country should do what it can to help states that are victimized by a cyberattack.”

- **May 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “Q: Can you brief us on the joint military drill between China and Russia in the Mediterranean?”

A: The Spokesperson of the Defense Ministry has answered this question, and there has been quite some media coverage about this. I’d like to refer you to the Defense Ministry for more details.”

- **May 12, 2015 – China Daily: U.S. Still Scaremongering** ([China Daily](#))

**Quote:** “At a time when the world is celebrating the Allies' victory in World War II in different ways, the United States, as the world's sole superpower, is expected to be sending signals of peace as well. On the contrary, the Pentagon issued its annual report on the state of China's national defense on Saturday, which once again tried to sell the outdated "China threat" theory. [...] The U.S., as the world's No 1 military power, is notorious for its hacking and wiretapping, and for keeping military bases worldwide. Uncle Sam owes the world an explanation why, despite playing its self-proclaimed role as global policeman, it is afflicted with ever-growing security concerns?”

- **May 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “The Chinese Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs who is currently at the conference has made clear elaboration on this. The Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT is now in a crucial stage. We hope that parties concerned can take a reasonable, pragmatic and collaborative view on relevant issues, avoid introducing complicated and sensitive factors, and make contributions to reaching a constructive outcome document based on consensus.”

- **May 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “You asked whether China feels insulted by being excluded from America’s invitation list consisting of over 20 countries. The Chinese have a much bigger heart than you think. Any country has the right to invite other countries to a symposium or event, as long as such activities contribute to regional peace and stability. You may ask the Defense Ministry for specifics of this symposium. But I can tell you that the Chinese and U.S. militaries maintain normal exchanges and cooperation at various levels. A sound and steady military-to-military relationship is conducive to the new model of major-country relations between China and the U.S. as well as world peace and stability.”



- **May 21, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Assistant Secretary Susan Thornton: Taiwan: A Vital Partner in East Asia** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** "In the security area, consistent with the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States makes available to Taiwan defense articles and services necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain a sufficient self-defense. We believe our policy supports improved relations across the Taiwan Strait by providing Taiwan with confidence to pursue constructive interactions with mainland China. We also support Taiwan's efforts to develop innovative and asymmetric capabilities to deter coercion or intimidation. In the spirit of this commitment, the Obama Administration has notified Congress of over \$12 billion in arms sales to Taiwan, providing additional defensive capability that makes a real contribution to Taiwan's security. While arms sales are an important component of our overall security relationship, they are far from the only measure. Our bilateral military exchanges and engagements have nearly doubled in recent years, increasing the quality of interactions between our service members."

- **May 22, 2015 – Remarks by Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller: Remarks at the Conclusion of the 2015 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** "It is precisely our understanding of the consequences of nuclear weapons use that drives our efforts to reduce - and eventually eliminate - nuclear weapons, and to extend forever the nearly 70 year record of non-use of nuclear weapons. Lasting nuclear disarmament will only be achieved through a sustained, collaborative effort to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons."

- **May 26, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg after Bilateral Meeting** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

**Quote:** "The one thing that we know is that NATO is going to be a central component of us being able to meet those challenges. And as the strongest alliance in the history of the world, we need to make sure that each member country is properly resourcing and committing to the NATO missions that have been set forth. That's the only way that we're going to maintain the kind of collective self-defense that has been the hallmark of peace and prosperity for many, many decades now."

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

**Quote:** "Q: Federal prosecutors of the U.S. charged six Chinese citizens with "economic espionage". What is your comment on that? If the U.S. asks for China's cooperation in this case by sending relevant individuals to the U.S. for trial, how will China respond?"

A: The Chinese government expresses strong concern about the relevant matter and is trying to get more details. The Chinese government will ensure that the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens in China-U.S. personnel exchanges will not be hurt."

- **May 26, 2015 – Full Text: China's Military Strategy** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

**Quote:** "Building a strong national defense and powerful armed forces is a strategic task of China's modernization drive and a security guarantee for China's peaceful development. Subordinate to and serving the national strategic goal, China's military strategy is an overarching guidance for blueprinting and directing the building and employment of the country's armed forces. At this new historical starting point, China's armed forces will adapt themselves to new changes in the national security environment, firmly follow the goal of the Communist Party of China (CPC) to build a strong military for the new situation, implement the military strategic guideline of active defense in the new situation, accelerate the modernization of national defense and armed forces, resolutely safeguard China's sovereignty, security and development interests, and provide a strong guarantee for achieving the national strategic goal of the "two centenaries" and for realizing the Chinese Dream of achieving the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation."

- **May 26, 2015 – Full Text: China's Military Strategy** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

**Quote:** "Outer space has become a commanding height in international strategic competition. Countries concerned are developing their space forces and instruments, and the first signs of weaponization of outer space have appeared. China has all along advocated the peaceful use of outer space, opposed the weaponization of and arms race in outer space, and taken an active part in international space cooperation. China will keep abreast of the dynamics of outer space, deal with security threats and challenges in that domain, and secure its space assets to serve its national economic and social development, and maintain outer space security."



- **May 26, 2015 – Full Text: China's Military Strategy** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

**Quote:** “Cyberspace has become a new pillar of economic and social development, and a new domain of national security. As international strategic competition in cyberspace has been turning increasingly fiercer, quite a few countries are developing their cyber military forces. Being one of the major victims of hacker attacks, China is confronted with grave security threats to its cyber infrastructure. As cyberspace weighs more in military security, China will expedite the development of a cyber force, and enhance its capabilities of cyberspace situation awareness, cyber defense, support for the country's endeavors in cyberspace and participation in international cyber cooperation, so as to stem major cyber crises, ensure national network and information security, and maintain national security and social stability.”

- **May 26, 2015 – Full Text: China's Military Strategy** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

**Quote:** “Developing all-round military-to-military relations. China's armed forces will further their exchanges and cooperation with the Russian military within the framework of the comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination between China and Russia, and foster a comprehensive, diverse and sustainable framework to promote military relations in more fields and at more levels.”

- **May 26, 2015 – Full Text: China's Military Strategy** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

**Quote:** “China's armed forces will continue to foster a new model of military relationship with the U.S. armed forces that conforms to the new model of major-country relations between the two countries, strengthen defense dialogues, exchanges and cooperation, and improve the CBM mechanism for the notification of major military activities as well as the rules of behavior for safety of air and maritime encounters, so as to strengthen mutual trust, prevent risks and manage crises.”



- **May 26, 2015 – Full Text: China's Military Strategy** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

**Quote:** “In the spirit of neighborhood diplomacy of friendship, sincerity, reciprocity and inclusiveness, China's armed forces will further develop relations with their counterparts in neighboring countries. Also, they will work to raise the level of military relations with European counterparts, continue the traditional friendly military ties with their African, Latin American and Southern Pacific counterparts. China's armed forces will work to further defense and security cooperation in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and continue to participate in multilateral dialogues and cooperation mechanisms such as the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM+), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), Shangri-La Dialogue (SLD), Jakarta International Defence Dialogue (JIDD) and Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS). The Chinese military will continue to host multilateral events like the Xiangshan Forum, striving to establish a new framework for security and cooperation conducive to peace, stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.”

- **May 26, 2015 – Full Text: China's Military Strategy** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

**Quote:** “Fulfilling international responsibilities and obligations. China's armed forces will continue to participate in UN peacekeeping missions, strictly observe the mandates of the UN Security Council, maintain its commitment to the peaceful settlement of conflicts, promote development and reconstruction, and safeguard regional peace and security. China's armed forces will continue to take an active part in international disaster rescue and humanitarian assistance, dispatch professional rescue teams to disaster-stricken areas for relief and disaster reduction, provide relief materials and medical aid, and strengthen international exchanges in the fields of rescue and disaster reduction. Through the aforementioned operations, the armed forces can also enhance their own capabilities and expertise. Faithfully fulfilling China's international obligations, the country's armed forces will continue to carry out escort missions in the Gulf of Aden and other sea areas as required, enhance exchanges and cooperation with naval task forces of other countries, and jointly secure international SLOCs. China's armed forces will engage in extensive regional and international security affairs, and promote the establishment of the mechanisms of emergency notification, military risk precaution, crisis management and conflict control. With the growth of national strength, China's armed forces will gradually intensify their participation in such operations as international peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance, and do their utmost to shoulder more international responsibilities and obligations, provide more public security goods, and contribute more to world peace and common development.”



- **May 26, 2015 – China Dismisses Recent Tension in South China Sea as "Old Tricks"** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

**Quote:** "We cannot rule out the possibility that a certain country is looking for an excuse to support future operations,' he said. 'This is not something new. It is an old trick.' He urged all parties to look at the current situation with clear eyes. Stressing that the China-U.S. relationship generally favorable, Yang said the armed forces of the two countries had a common understanding of relations. As for the disputes between the two sides, China expects the U.S. to respect its core interests and major concerns and hoped that the two sides would work together to improve mutual trust and manage disputes, he said. 'It must be noted that China is working toward establishing positive interactions with the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific region and hopes that other countries in the region will jointly safeguard peace, security and stability,' he said."

- **May 27, 2015 – *China Daily*: Military Paper Conveys Defensive Commitment** ([China Daily](#))

**Quote:** "Some in the West claim China is using its size to bully smaller countries or challenge the military supremacy of the United States, the world's sole superpower. For those who still harbor such sentiments, China's defense white papers have provided consistent clarification that China's military policy is defensive in nature. No matter how strong the country grows, China will oppose hegemony and power politics in all forms, and will never pursue expansion. The solemn pledges given in the white paper should drive home the message that China's defense forces will reliably safeguard world peace and stability."

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

**Quote:** "Q: China has clearly taken a more muscular military stance this week. What is China trying to say to the world? How do you think the world should read into this?"

A: The white paper presents a systemic analysis of China's external environment, which still poses diverse and complex security threats to China despite being generally favorable. The Chinese armed forces must undertake due strategic tasks and adopt the strategic guideline of active defense. When to publish the white paper is decided by its writing and formulating process. It has nothing to do with the current international and regional security landscape and China's relations with other countries."



#### Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: The U.S. Urges Global Respect for Human Rights and Attention to Refugee Issues; China Continues to Highlight its Aid to Nepal and Criticizes U.S. Human Rights Record

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 4, 2015 – Press Availability by Secretary of State John Kerry: Press Availability in Nairobi, Kenya</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “I’m pleased to announce that the United States has just provided an additional 45 million to the UN high commissioner for refugees for the operations here in Kenya. And we are proud of the fact that we’re perhaps the largest donor in the world in terms of the refugee effort at this moment, with 3.8 billion alone going to the refugees from Syria and that conflict.”</li> <li>● <b>May 5, 2015 – Testimony by Catherine M. Russell, Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues: Opening Statement on Resources, Priorities and Programs for Global Women’s Issues</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “We at the Department of State believe that advancing the status of women and girls worldwide is not only the right thing to do, but the smart thing to do. Study after study demonstrates that countries are more stable, peaceful, and prosperous when women are healthy, educated, and able to fully participate in their economies and societies.”</li> <li>● <b>May 6, 2015 – United States Announces \$68 Million in Humanitarian Assistance to Yemen</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “Today in Djibouti, Secretary Kerry announced the United States is providing more than \$68 million to help humanitarian organizations meet the needs of nearly 16 million people in need of assistance in Yemen, including 300,000 newly internally displaced persons. The funds will support the activities of the World Food Program, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Children’s Fund, and other organizations, providing food, water, shelter, medical care, protection, and other assistance. With this announcement, U.S. funding for humanitarian assistance for Yemen in Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015 now totals more than \$188 million.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “In terms of the support given by the Chinese government to Nepal in its earthquake relief work, the first batch of disaster relief supplies with the total amount of 186 tons has arrived in Nepal on May 2. At the request of the Nepali side, yesterday noon, the armed transportation police force of China entered Nepal via the Zhangmu border crossing to carry out cross-border relief operation and unplug part of the China-Nepal highway with the length of 114 km. A 70-member chemical defense and decontamination team organized by the Chinese military has arrived in Nepal on May 3, taking with them decontamination equipment and professional disinfectant. They will help the Nepali side with disinfection and epidemic prevention.”</li> <li>● <b>May 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “The Chinese government respects and protects citizens’ freedom of religious belief. Chinese citizens are fully entitled to freedom and rights of religious belief in accordance with the law. The so-called USCIRF report makes unfounded accusations against China based on political prejudice. It is totally unjustifiable, and we are firmly opposed to that. We have already lodged representations with the American side and urged them to stop interfering in China’s domestic affairs under the pretext of the religion issue.”</li> <li>● <b>May 6, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “After the massive earthquake hit Nepal, China immediately extended a helping hand by sending relief and medical teams in batches and offering emergency relief supplies to Nepal. [...] The second batch of 360 tons of relief supplies sent by the Chinese government will be loaded this afternoon and is expected to reach Nepal in four days. The 100 tons of emergency supplies offered by the Chinese military arrived in Nepal on May 2 and 3. At the request of the Nepali side, the Chinese military sent three MI-17 helicopters to perform airlift and relief operations in Nepal this morning.”</li> </ul>





- **May 7, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “Q: So yesterday, the State Department called for the release of human rights lawyer Pu Zhiqiang, and the Chinese foreign minister – foreign ministry responded basically saying that the U.S. should stop being the world police and it’s really none of your business. On what basis does the State Department feel it can call for a release of this lawyer in China?”

A: International human rights – are not bounded by borders. And we of course make the promotion of human rights one of our priorities in our foreign policy, and so we speak out about human rights, and that’s part of who we are as Americans, it’s part of our foreign policy, and it’s something we do around the world.”

- **May 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

**Quote:** “The President and this administration, from senior White House officials all the way up to the President, but also our team at the State Department and elsewhere throughout the federal government have worked hard on this. The reforms that are happening in Burma are important, are significant, but the process isn’t done. They have not completed their democratic reforms. That’s why, as I said, the United States is going to continue to raise concerns with that government and underscore the urgent need to fulfill that government’s commitment to respecting these human rights.”

- **May 15, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “We are deeply concerned that Pu Zhiqiang, a prominent Chinese defense lawyer, has been indicted [...] we have repeatedly called for Pu’s release, and we have expressed concern for his well-being. [...] who challenges official Chinese policies and actions. So we call on Chinese authorities to release him immediately and to respect China’s international human rights commitments, including the freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly.”

- **May 16, 2015 – Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: Commemorating International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “The United States will continue to promote and protect the rights of the LGBTI community. We will continue to speak out against the marginalization and persecution of LGBTI persons. And we will keep moving forward toward our shared goal of justice and equality for all.”

- **May 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “It seems to me that some people in the U.S. always want to play world police or judge, trying to reach as far as they can. As is known to all, the U.S. is facing a lot of problems inside its own country. It is better for the U.S. to give priority to and concentrate its efforts on domestic affairs. China is a country under the rule of law. The judicial authorities of China handle the relevant case in accordance with the law. We call on the American side to discard the double standard, be discreet with words and deeds and stop meddling with China’s judicial sovereignty and domestic affairs in any form.”

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

**Quote:** “Up to now, 218 out of the 360 tons of the second batch of disaster relief supplies sent by the Chinese government has been delivered to Kathmandu by six military aircrafts and four civil airplanes. The rest of it will arrive in Nepal tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. [...] 13 days after the earthquake, the quake-related operation in Nepal has shifted from search and rescue to disaster relief and post-disaster reconstruction. Over 500 foreign relief workers have left Nepal. Going forward, the Chinese side will continue to provide the Nepali side with all kinds of assistance in medical treatment and epidemic prevention, temporary relocation of disaster-affected people and post-disaster reconstruction in accordance with the situation and the actual needs of Nepal.”

- **May 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “Q: The UN Human Rights Council began the Universal Periodic Review on the U.S. on May 11, giving some critical advice on the human rights problems in the U.S. including the excessive use of force by law enforcement personnel, race, religion and gender discrimination, torture, the Guantanamo prison, etc. What is your response to this?”

A: The Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council on the U.S. on May 11 once again proves that no country can keep a perfect record or claim to be the best on human rights issue. There is always room for improvement. China hopes that countries under review can pay heed to other countries’ advice with modesty, strive to resolve their own human rights problems, and improve the human rights situation. China will continue to work in tandem with all countries to ensure the just and objective operation of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism.”



- **May 18, 2015 – Remarks of Secretary of State John Kerry: An Open and Secure Internet: We Must Have Both** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “America believes – as I know you do – that the internet should be open and accessible to everyone. We believe it should be interoperable, so it can connect seamlessly across international borders. We believe people are entitled to the same rights of free expression online as they possess offline.”

- **May 22, 2015 – Press Conference by Deputy Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken: Press Conference in Rangoon, Burma** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “Ultimately, it is up to the people of Myanmar to determine the future of their nation. Reform is a long-term process. You have to work every day to build the durable, democratic institutions and practices that reflect the values and live up to the aspirations of Myanmar’s citizens. This includes amending the Myanmar constitution to reflect the will of all its people; support fundamental democratic principles; and respect the right of all to participate in the country’s democratic process.”

- **May 28, 2015 – Press Statement of Secretary of State John Kerry: Ethiopia’s National Day** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “The United States continues to work with you to advance basic education, improve health and food security, and promote regional security in Somalia and South Sudan. We are also committed to supporting democracy, human rights, and civil society in Ethiopia.”

- **May 13, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Commentary: U.S. Needs to Work on Own Human Rights Record First before Blaming Others** ([People’s Daily](#))

**Quote:** “The United States, a self-proclaimed human rights watchdog, needs to examine itself critically and improve its own human rights record before blaming other countries for their violations. The UN Human Rights Council reviewed the U.S. human rights record Monday and found that the “preacher of human rights” itself was guilty of numerous offenses, including excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies, racial, religious and sex discrimination, and the Guantanamo Bay detention center.”

- **May 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “Nepal was once again struck by an earthquake on May 12. It is known that this earthquake is a strong aftershock of the one on April 25, and has caused over 60 deaths and over a thousand injuries up to now. China expresses condolences to the lost lives, and extends sympathies to the bereaved families and the injured. [...]. Since the powerful earthquake hit Nepal on April 25, the Chinese side has been going all out to assist Nepal in its disaster-relief efforts. The second batch of relief supplies sent by the Chinese government reached Nepal on May 10, and the third batch is being prepared. Relief forces sent by the Chinese government, military and civil societies are still carrying out rescue operations in Nepal. China is now in close contact with Nepal on the latest development of the disaster and its disaster relief need to work out a new plan on relief and assistance.”

- **May 15, 2015 – Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

**Quote:** “China’s relief and rescue efforts worked well and were appreciated by all the parties. There are three reasons: rapid response, continuous relief and government-people coordination. So far, MOFCOM has taken the lead and worked with other domestic departments in delivering three rounds of emergency humanitarian relief in materials worth RMB 140 million. [...] For the next step, MOFCOM will step up the planning and organization of relief efforts in light of the specific needs at transitional and reconstruction periods. Our preliminary consideration is to help Nepal formulate its reconstruction plans, work on major infrastructure construction, repair some historical relics and increase funding for medical care, education and training, which are urgently needed by the local people. We plan to provide systematic training to Nepalese officials and technicians on disaster early warning and emergency rescue to enhance their comprehensive capacity in disaster response, prevention and relief.”



- **May 16, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador Liu Jieyi at 90th Plenary Meeting of the 69th Session of the General Assembly Under Agenda item 69(c) (Permanent Mission to the UN)**

**Quote:** “After the earthquake, the Chinese government promptly announced two batches of emergency humanitarian aid to Nepal, totaling 60 million RMB yuan or about 10 million U.S. dollars. China delivered 650 tons of tents, generators, water purification facilities, blankets and other emergency supplies to Nepal by over 40 flights. Following the strong aftershock on May 12th, the Chinese government announced another batch of emergency aid totaling 80 million RMB yuan or about 13 million U.S. dollars. The relief goods and supplies are being prepared and will reach the disaster-stricken areas as soon as possible.”

- **May 20, 2015 – Interview with MOFCOM Spokesman Sun Jiwen on Chinese Government’s Three Rounds of Relief Supplies to Quake-hit Nepal (Ministry of Commerce)**

**Quote:** “China’s aid to Nepal started in 1956. Over the recent 60 years, China has carried out over 110 various kinds of projects in Nepal including civil service hospitals, comprehensive technical schools, National Research Center for Nature Conservation Foundation and traditional Chinese medicine research center, which have withstood the test of strong earthquake and were named “strong buildings”. In addition, the Chinese side also trained about 2,500 talents in various fields for Nepal. China’s aid has played a positive role in promoting Nepal’s economic and social development. “



## Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: Both the U.S. and China Focus on Domestic Pollution Controls and Seek International Cooperation on Climate Initiatives

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 20, 2015 – Press Gaggle by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz en route New London, CT (<a href="#">White House, Press Briefings</a>)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “We’ve made unprecedented investments to cut energy waste in our homes and our buildings. We’ve doubled the fuel efficiency of our vehicles so we’re putting less carbon in the air. We’re using more clean energy than ever before -- 20 times more solar, three times more wind. We’ve reduced carbon emissions more than any other advanced nation and today, our carbon pollution is near its lowest levels in almost two decades. Again, I believe the report that we issued earlier talks about not only the progress we’ve made over the past six years but also efforts happening in real time to continue and build on that progress.”</li> <li>● <b>May 20, 2015 – Preview of Upcoming Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas Ministerial (ECPA) and Sixth Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM6) (<a href="#">State Department</a>)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “Now in terms of the path to Paris for us, if I start by going back a ways to last November, of course, the announcement in China by President Xi and Obama in terms of joint commitment on climate we think was – and I think many others think was – certainly a very important event where the two largest emitters – two largest economies came together to, first of all, state jointly a commitment to being ambitious in addressing CO<sub>2</sub>, greenhouse gas emissions. And I would have to say that in my own experience, that announcement has certainly changed the nature of the discussion both domestically here in the United States and especially internationally.”</li> <li>● <b>May 26, 2015 – Statement by the President on Clean Water Rule (<a href="#">Statements and Releases, White House</a>)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “Today, after extensive input from the American public, they’re doing just that – finalizing the Clean Water Rule to restore protection for the streams and wetlands that form the foundation of our nation’s water resources, without getting in the way of farming, ranching, or forestry. This rule will provide the clarity and certainty businesses and industry need about which waters are protected by the Clean Water Act, and it will ensure polluters who knowingly threaten our waters can be held accountable.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 6, 2015 – MoF and MEP Circulate the Implementation Opinions on Promoting PPP in the Water Pollution Prevention and Control Area(<a href="#">Ministry of Environmental Protection</a>)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “Recently, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environmental Protection jointly printed and distributed the "Implementation Opinions on Promoting the Public-Private Partnership in the Water Pollution Prevention and Control Area" (hereinafter referred to as the Opinions), in an effort to well implement the "Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Water Pollution". The Opinions specifies the operational protocols of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects in the area of water pollution control.”</li> <li>● <b>May 19, 2015 – The Settlement Results of the Environmental Cases Filed by the Public through "12369" Tipline in 2014 (<a href="#">Ministry of Environmental Protection</a>)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “In 2014, the 12369 tipline received and processed a total of 1,463 environmental cases filed by the public, all of which have been concluded by far, with a settlement rate at 100%. Among those cases, 1,194 were about air pollution, 452 about water pollution, 362 about noise pollution, 65 about solid wastes, and 8 about administrative review and approval of construction projects. The EPDs at all levels, through on-the-spot investigations, confirmed 1,137 cases with claimed environmental violations, accounting for 78%. The remaining 326 cases which accounted for 22% were not found with claimed complaints. Local EPDs have handled those environmental incompliances, ordering enterprises concerned to make improvements within a prescribed period of time in 465 cases, suspending their operations to make improvements in 321 cases, imposing fines in 234 cases, ordering them to make improvements on the scene of investigations in 205 cases, ordering them to make up for the environmental review formalities in 170 cases, shutting down enterprises in 133 cases, and transferring 87 cases to relevant departments..”</li> </ul>



- **May 29, 2015 - Announces by Media regarding EPA Proposes Increases in Renewable Fuel Levels** ([U.S Environmental Protection Agency](#))

**Quote:** "Today the EPA announced proposed volume requirements under the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016, and also proposed volume requirements for biomass-based diesel for 2017. The proposal would boost renewable fuel production and provide for ambitious yet responsible growth over multiple years, supporting future expansion of the biofuels industry. "This proposal marks an important step forward in making sure the Renewable Fuel Standard program delivers on the Congressional intent to increase biofuel use, lower greenhouse gas emissions and improve energy security," said Janet McCabe, the acting assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Air."

- **May 20, 2015 – Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** "The two sides shared the view that the issue of climate change is of vital importance for the sake of today's world and future generations. They underscored the importance of working together and with other countries to conclude an ambitious, comprehensive, universal, balanced and equitable climate agreement at the forthcoming CoP 21 to UNFCCC to be held in Paris later this year that will also encourage genuine technology transfer, collaboration for adaptation and mitigation and financial support in meeting this common global challenge. The two sides issued Joint Statement on Climate Change between the Government of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of India during the visit."

- **May 25, 2015- MEP Releases Air Quality Status of Key Regions and 74 Cities in April** ([Ministry of Environmental Protection](#))

**Quote:** "MEP recently released the air quality status of 74 cities in April, including cities seated in Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, Yangtze River delta, Pearl River delta, as well as municipalities directly under the Central Government, provincial capital cities, and cities separately listed in State plans."



## Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: The U.S. Continues to Strengthen its Alliances in Asia and Focuses Specifically on Improving U.S.-Japan-ROK Tri-lateral Relations; China Continues Criticism of Japan on Historical Issues while Simultaneously Searching for Areas of Cooperation

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 1, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke (State Department)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “We also appreciated Prime Minister Abe’s constructive message – excuse me – about reconciliation in U.S.-Japan relations and his tribute to Americans who lost their lives in the war. So those are all important outcomes. I don’t have much more to add because it’s been – there’s been a lot already put out about the visit, but we’re certainly very happy with his visit to the United States.”</li> <li>● <b>May 5, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke (State Department)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “Q: President Park criticized yesterday on Prime Minister Abe’s speech on joint session of Congress with regards to historical issues because there was no apology. And she also mentioned United States also share this thought and criticism. Is it true, or are you sharing this thought?   A: My colleagues at the White House talked quite a bit about the importance of that visit. We thought it was a great visit. We appreciated Prime Minister Abe’s constructive message about reconciliation, and we’ve also talked about the important achievements during that visit: the revised defense guidelines, the reaffirmation of the U.S.-Japan alliance, the joint vision statement that was issued by the prime minister and the President.”</li> <li>● <b>May 14, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke (State Department)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “The security legislation itself is a domestic matter for Japan, but we certainly welcome Japan’s ongoing efforts to strengthen the alliance and to play a more active role in regional and international security activities. That’s reflected, of course, in the guidelines that were just approved for U.S.-Japan defense cooperation, so this is certainly consistent with the discussions that we’ve had both in the 2+2 as well as Prime Minister Abe’s visit.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 1, 2015 – People’s Daily: Commentary: Abe’s Speech in U.S. Congress Disappoints Asian Neighbors Again (People’s Daily)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s address in the U.S. Congress could be seen as “historic” in the way that Japan would no longer offer heartfelt apology to Asian neighbors victimized by its brutal aggression and colonial rule during WWII. [...] The Japanese leader must also understand that Japan, as a country that inflicted tremendous pain and damage to Asia during WWII, should first seek reconciliation with its Asian neighbors.”</li> <li>● <b>May 6, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “Q: What is China’s comment on today’s joint coast guard exercises between the Philippines and Japan?   A: It is hoped that countries in the region will work as one, contribute more positive energy and make more positive efforts to build up mutual trust and uphold regional peace and stability.”</li> <li>● <b>May 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “Q: The ROK government recently voiced its opposition to Japan’s move to list the “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution” as UNESCO World Heritage, saying that these places are proofs of Tokyo’s wartime practice of conscripting forced labour. Is China aware of that? Does China share the opposition of the ROK?   A: We have noted the relevant report. The world heritage application should live up to the principle of “building peace in the minds of men and women” as upheld by UNESCO and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage with a respect for the common values of humanity. The colonial history must not be glorified.”</li> </ul>





- **May 18, 2015 – Press availability of Secretary of State John Kerry: Joint Press Availability With Republic of Korea Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “Constructive relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea, our most important allies in East Asia, are critical to being able to promote peace and prosperity in the region. Only three countries – our three countries – share quite as much as we share in common: democracy, a commitment to human rights, free markets.”

- **May 18, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “As we discussed last week when you asked about Okinawa, certainly the United States remains committed to our security partnership with Japan. We are working with the Japanese Government on all aspects of our defense relationship. That includes the replacement facility for Futenma on Okinawa. And that is moving ahead. So that is a part of our security relationship with Japan and our alliance, and that is where we continue to go.”

- **May 28, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “It’s important to highlight two things that Ambassador Kim said: first, that the three countries (U.S., South Korea, Japan) agreed on the importance of enhancing pressure and sanctions on North Korea. This is in the nuclear context. And he said that we do that even as we keep all diplomatic options on the table. And those comments were in reference to the unity of the Five Parties – Japan, Korea, China, Russia, United States – with respect to that. [...] opening the possibility of talks depends on the DPRK showing readiness for meaningful steps that would make talks productive. [...] We remain concerned about North Korea’s nuclear and proliferation activity and we’re coordinating with our partners to address that, and at the same time we remain extremely concerned about the grave human rights situation in North Korea. [...] we continue our coordination with the five parties to try to make sure that that clear message – that the North Koreans respond to that clear message.”

- **May 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

**Quote:** “Q: Media reports say that on May 11, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito Party of Japan held consultations on the new security defense law. After reviewing and agreeing on a series of bills including an amendment to the law in response to armed attacks which approves the right to collective self-defense, the two parties would submit the bills to the parliament on May 15. What is China’s response to this?”

A: The Chinese side has repeatedly expressed its position and concerns to the Japanese side concerning its right to collective self-defense, calling on Japan to respect the legitimate security concerns of its Asian neighbors and take prudent actions so as not to impair the sovereignty and security interests of China. The Chinese side will continue to keep an eye on the relevant move of Japan, and resolutely safeguard national security and regional peace and stability.”

- **May 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

**Quote:** “Q: According to media reports, the ROK parliament passed a resolution on May 12 denouncing Shinzo Abe for shunning Japan's history of aggression and colonial rule, and not expressing remorse and apology on some history issues including the forced recruitment of "comfort women" in his addresses to the U.S. Congress and the Harvard University. What is China's comment on this?”

A: China constantly calls on the Japanese government and leaders to take a responsible view on history, strictly follow the Murayama Statement and other statements and commitment on facing squarely and reflecting upon the history of aggression made by the successive cabinets of Japan, and make concrete efforts to properly handle the history issues. This is the only way for Japan to win the trust of the international community, and develop friendly relationship for the future together with its Asian neighbors.”



- **May 30, 2015 – Remarks on IISS Shangri-La Dialogue: “A Regional Security Architecture Where Everyone Rises” by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter (U.S Department of Defense)**

**Quote:** “Second, we must strengthen regional institutions. The nations of ASEAN have laid the foundation for the architecture in Southeast Asia that we enjoy today, and ASEAN will continue to be central to it. That’s why the United States and the Department of Defense are making an affirmative investment of time, resources, and engagement in ASEAN. That’s why America has committed to sending a new U.S. Defense Advisor to augment the U.S. Mission to ASEAN in order to improve coordination and information sharing for humanitarian and disaster response and for maritime security. That’s also why I plan to travel to Malaysia in November for this year’s ADMM-Plus meeting. [...] Third, America’s alliances and partnerships have been the bedrock of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific for decades. And the United States is working with allies like Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines to be sure all our alliances continue to serve this vital function. Modernization means changing these alliances to address the evolving threat environment as the United States has done with South Korea and growing those alliances into platforms for regional and global cooperation, as we’ve done with Australia and Japan.”

- **May 30, 2015 – Remarks on IISS Shangri-La Dialogue: “A Regional Security Architecture Where Everyone Rises” by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter (U.S Department of Defense)**

**Quote:** “Meanwhile the U.S.-Korea alliance not only assures deterrence and stability on the Korean Peninsula; it increasingly works for the region as well. And...and in Australia, U.S. and Australian forces now train side-by-side not only with each other as they have for many years, but also with friends and partners across Southeast Asia. [...] We’re leveraging America’s alliances and partnerships to pursue...new forms of cooperation and that is why America’s trilateral networks are blossoming. With Japan and Australia, the United States is strengthening maritime security in Southeast Asia, expanding trilateral exercises, and exploring defense technology cooperation. With Japan and Korea, the United States is building on a first-of-its-kind information-sharing arrangement that will help them collectively deter and respond to crises. And with Japan and India, the United States is sharing lessons learned on disaster responses and building greater maritime security cooperation. ”

- **May 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Quote:** “Q: Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida proposed in the NPT review conference visits to Hiroshima and Nagasaki by world leaders. The draft document dropped this part due to China’s objection. Can you confirm this? Will Chinese leaders visit the two Japanese cities?”

A: The Chinese Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs has made clear elaboration on this. It is hoped that all parties would take a reasonable, pragmatic and collaborative view on handling relevant issues, and avoid drawing complicated and sensitive factors into this. You asked whether Chinese leaders would pay a visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Let me ask first: when will Japanese leaders come to China and visit the memorial hall of victims in the Nanjing massacre?”

- **May 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Quote:** “Q: According to media reports, the International Council on Monuments and Sites has completed the assessment on “Sites of Japan’s Meiji Industrial Revolution” which are applying for the honor of world cultural heritage. The application will be presented to the World Heritage Committee for review. The ROK has voiced strong objection to this, expressing grave concerns about the use of forced labor in the aforementioned Japanese sites during the Second World War. What is China’s comment on this?”

A: The world cultural heritage application should live up to the principle and spirit of promoting peace as upheld by UNESCO and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Many of the 23 Japanese industrial sites witnessed the use of forced labor from China, the Korean Peninsula and other Asian countries during the Second World War. The forced recruitment and enslavement of labor was a heinous crime committed by Japanese militarism during its aggression and colonial rule of other countries. [...] China shares the concerns of the ROK when it comes to Japan’s move to register the relevant industrial sites as world heritage, and expresses opposition to this. China calls on Japan to face up to and properly address relevant concerns. It is believed that the World Heritage Committee would figure out a responsible way to deal with this issue.”



- **May 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Quote:** “Japan’s abandonment of chemical weapons in China is one of the brutal crimes committed by Japanese militarist invaders during the war of aggression against China. The abandoned chemical weapons are still posing threats and harms to people’s life and property as well as the ecological environment in some areas of China 70 years after the war. The Chinese government constantly requires the Japanese government to act upon the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction as well as relevant memorandums between the two governments on the destruction of Japan’s abandoned chemical weapons in China, so as to destroy those weapons as soon as possible. Progress has been made on the disposal of Japan’s abandoned chemical weapons thanks to the joint efforts by both China and Japan.”

- **May 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Quote:** “As we put it many times before, changes to Japan’s security policies are closely followed by its Asian neighbors and the international community given some historical reasons. We hope that Japan would learn lessons from history, strictly follow a path of peaceful development, and do things positive and conducive to peace, stability and development of Asia.”

- **May 15, 2015 – *China Daily*: Do Not Obscure Reason for Atomic Bombing (China Daily)**

**Quote:** “They are embellishing Japanese aggression as ‘liberation’ from Western colonialism. They are recasting the women who were forced to be sex slaves as providing “voluntary” service. And they either flatly deny the existence of the Nanjing Massacre, or are only one step short of presenting it as a Japanese act of ‘self-defense’.”

- **May 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Quote:** “Conflicts in the Kokang area of Northern Myanmar have lasted for over three months, during which multiple shells fired by the Myanmar side fell into China and put the life and property security of the Chinese people as well as stability of the China-Myanmar border area in great danger. The Chinese side expresses strong dissatisfaction over this, and has solemnly required the Myanmar side to take effective measures to preclude similar incidents. We urge relevant parties to cool down the situation and restore peace and stability to Northern Myanmar at an early date. China reserves the right to make further response in light of the verification result.”



- **May 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “Q: China, Japan and the ROK held the third counter-terrorism consultation in Beijing today. Please tell us more about the arrangement and agenda of this consultation. In which areas will the three countries cooperate to combat terrorism?”

A: The three countries exchanged views on the international and regional situation of counter-terrorism, respective conditions and policies of counter-terrorism, combating cyber terrorism, uprooting extremism and other topics. This trilateral consultation is an important step to implement the consensus reached by foreign ministers of China, Japan and the ROK during their seventh meeting last March. This consultation will advance the policy dialogue and pragmatic cooperation among the three countries on counter-terrorism and add new contents to trilateral cooperation.”

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

**Quote:** “The Chinese side has lodged solemn representations with the Myanmar side over the recent landing of shells in China that injured Chinese border residents. The Myanmar side is required to carry out serious and thorough investigation, give a responsible explanation to China, take concrete and effective measures to prevent this kind of incident from happening again, calm things down and restore normal order to the border area between China and Myanmar. The Myanmar side has pledged to provide a formal response to China, and the Chinese side is waiting for that.”

- **May 20, 2015 – Joint Statement between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of India** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “The two sides believed that enhanced military ties are conducive to building mutual trust and confidence. The Indian side welcomed visit of a Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission of China to India this year, and the Chinese side invited Indian defence minister and other military leaders to visit China this year. The fifth joint counter-terrorism training between the two armies will be held in China in 2015. The two sides will exchange visits of naval ships and hold PASSEX and SAR exercises.”

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

**Quote:** “The Chinese side holds a clear and consistent position on the history issue. We once again urge the Japanese side to face squarely and reflect upon the history of aggression, make a clean break with militarism and win the trust of the international community and its Asian neighbors with concrete actions.”



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

**Quote:** "Q: First, Japan will for the first time join a U.S.-Australia military drill this July. Is China concerned that this is aimed at China? [...]"

A: On your first question, I have also seen the report. You ask whether we're concerned that this trilateral military drill is aimed at China. The answer is no. The Chinese side believes that relevant countries should play a positive and constructive role in enhancing mutual trust and cooperation between regional countries. It is hoped that all parties would contribute positive energy to regional peace, stability and development."

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

**Quote:** "Q: Bangladesh said last year that it would purchase two submarines from China, a move that aroused concerns of India. What is the purpose of China's military sales to Bangladesh?"

A: I am not aware of the specifics. Bangladesh is a friendly neighbor of China, and the two countries carry out normal cooperation in various fields."

- **May 28, 2015 –People's Daily: Rohingya Crisis Demands Concerted Action (People's Daily)**

**Quote:** "The Rohingya problem is an Asian problem. If Asian countries cannot work it out themselves, and have to depend on major powers beyond the region to "guide" or "coordinate," it will be impossible for regional security and order to stand on its own feet. There are many other similar regional issues that either involve several Asian countries or need collaboration of more nations to reach a resolution. Sometimes, regional cooperation can get a breakthrough from a specific problem, thus boosting each side's confidence for future joint work and setting up basic principles on human rights."

- **May 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Quote:** "Japan's policy changes in the military and security areas have been closely watched by its Asian neighbors and the international community for historical reasons. We hope that the Japanese side would learn from history, take seriously the security concerns of its Asian neighbors, watch its steps in the military and security areas, stick to the path of peaceful development, and do more things that contribute to mutual trust with neighboring countries and regional peace and stability instead of deliberately hyping up regional tension."



- **May 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

**Quote:** "As we have said, the world heritage application should live up to the principle and spirit of promoting peace as upheld by UNESCO and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Many of the Japanese industrial sites are connected to the use of forced labor from China, the Korean Peninsula and other Asian countries during the Second World War. The Chinese side is against Japan's insistent application for the world heritage in disregard of China and the ROK's concerns. China urges Japan to face up to the history and properly handle relevant concerns in a responsible manner."





**Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: The U.S. and China Both Push for the Resumption of Talks to Resolve the North Korean Nuclear Problem**

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 7, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Adam Scheinman, Special Representative of the President for Nuclear Nonproliferation, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation: Main Committee II - Subsidiary Body: Regional Issues (State Department)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “In its pursuit of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, the D.P.R.K. continues to act in defiance of the international community – heedless of its obligations and of nonproliferation rules. Financed and facilitated by its proliferation activities worldwide, the D.P.R.K. continues to advance its nuclear capabilities and seeks to use them as instruments of coercion and a means to hold hostage our common peace and security. [...] As emphasized by Secretary Kerry in the opening U.S. statement, the situation with the D.P.R.K. constitutes a fundamental challenge to the NPT, its future, and to regional and global security.”</li> <li>● <b>May 13, 2015 – Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry’s Trip to Beijing, Seoul, and Seattle (State Department)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “More broadly, I’d say that in Seoul the Secretary’s going to want to first of all encourage the Republic of Korea to continue and to expand its efforts to partner with us in tackling not only peninsular and Asian issues, but also global challenges. We see in preparing for the mid-June visit to Washington by President Park an opportunity to lift up our cooperation not only on global issues generally but to collaborate in what I’d call new frontiers in areas such as cyber, areas such as space and so on where the U.S. and Korea by collaborating have a lot to offer. Secondly, the Secretary very clearly will reiterate the United States ironclad commitment to the security of the Republic of Korea. This is especially important in light of the recent threatening behavior and provocations by North Korea. And thirdly, I think he is going to want to work on and strengthen the bilateral partnership issues, including on economic, commercial side as well as diplomatic, people to people, and defense and security issues as a way to prepare the ground for President Park’s visit.”</li> <li>● <b>May 16, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry: Joint Press Availability With Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (State Department)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “China is a vital partner in the Six-Party process with a very unique role to play because of its economic, diplomatic, and historical ties with North Korea. We share the common goal of peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula, and we agree on the need for denuclearization in a peaceful manner. President Xi and President Obama affirmed their fundamental agreement and commitment to the denuclearization of Korea.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “Q: The DPRK said that it has successfully test-fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile. What is China’s comment on that?   A: The current situation on the Korean Peninsula is complex and sensitive. It is hoped that all relevant parties will do more to ease the tension and jointly uphold peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula.”</li> <li>● <b>May 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “Q: The ROK intelligence agency told its lawmakers that the DPRK Defense Minister Hyon Yong Chol was executed. What is China’s comment on this?   A: I have taken note of the report. I am not aware of the specifics.”</li> <li>● <b>May 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “China’s stance on the Korean nuclear issue is consistent and clear. We always call for commitment to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, peace and stability of the Peninsula, as well as a peaceful settlement of the issue through dialogue and consultation. The current situation on the Peninsula is complex and sensitive. We hope that more efforts will be made to ease the tension and resume the Six-Party Talks.”</li> <li>● <b>May 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “Q: The DPRK said yesterday that it has developed the capacity to miniaturize and diversify nuclear weapons. What is China’s comment on the DPRK’s advancement in nuclear weapon technologies?   A: The Chinese side stays committed to realizing denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, safeguarding peace and stability of the Peninsula and resolving problems through dialogue and consultation. Given the complex and sensitive situation on the Peninsula, the Chinese side calls on all parties concerned to keep calm, exercise restraint, avoid provoking each other, do more to ease the tension and make joint and tangible efforts to uphold peace and stability of the Peninsula and push for the early resumption of the Six-Party Talks.”</li> </ul>



- **May 18, 2015 – Press Availability of Secretary of State John Kerry: Joint Press Availability With Republic of Korea Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “There is no daylight [...] between the United States and the Republic of Korea in our approach to the question of North Korea’s provocations and its nuclear program. [...] Together, we and the Republic of Korea and our other partners in Northeast Asia are continuing to put persistent, principled diplomacy at the center of our efforts. And the United States continues to offer Pyongyang an improved bilateral relationship if, and only if, and when it demonstrates a genuine willingness to fulfill its denuclearization obligations and commitments, and when it shows a willingness to address other important concerns shared by the international community.”

- **May 18, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “We see the U.S.-South Korea relationship as an essential alliance, and we’re going to work to advance it. [...] We continue to work with our – with the Five Parties, including China, and the international community to implement the UN Security Council resolutions, to pressure North Korea to return to credible denuclearization talks, and to take concrete steps. As the Secretary pointed out, we have the Strategic and Economic Dialogue happening here next month. [...] I think you can also observe that China has exactly the same interest in denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula that the United States does. So their focus on that issue has been increasing over time. It’s an issue on which we work together with China and we want to intensify that, but I don’t have an additional rollout to suggest or details.”

- **May 19, 2015 – Remarks by Assistant Secretary Frank A. Rose: Missile Defense and the U.S. Response to the North Korean Ballistic Missile and WMD Threat** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “Simply put, North Korea cannot obtain the security, prosperity, or respect it wants without negotiating an end to its provocative nuclear and missile programs. [...] The United States and its Five Party partners – the Republic of Korea, Japan, China, and Russia – remain committed to North Korea’s complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. We remain open to dialogue with the DPRK, with the aim of returning to credible and authentic negotiations on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, but North Korea has thus far been defiant. [...] We have encouraged our allies to contribute to their own defense by providing capabilities that can enhance their own security and add to stability in the Asia-Pacific region. The Korean Integrated Air and Missile Defense capability is a means to do just that and we continue to support South Korea in its development.”

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

**Quote:** “Q: According to media reports, the DPRK side has yet to accredit the new Chinese Ambassador to the DPRK. Can you give us more information?”

A: As far as I have learned, Chinese Ambassador to the DPRK Li Jinjun has already presented credentials to Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly of the DPRK on March 30.”

- **May 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “Q: Chief negotiators of the Six-Party Talks from the ROK, the U.S. and Japan held a trilateral meeting in Seoul the other day, agreeing to keep pressure on the DPRK. What is China’s comment?”

A: The proper settlement of the Korean nuclear issue concerns peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, meets the common interests and remains a common responsibility of parties concerned. Constructive efforts should be made to this end by all. As a close neighbor of the Peninsula and a major responsible country, the Chinese side will continue to play its due role in the proper settlement of the relevant issue.”

- **May 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “Q: U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy Sung Kim said today that China thinks it is important to keep pressure on the DPRK. What is your comment?”

A: The proper settlement of the Korean nuclear issue concerns peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, meets the common interests and remains a common responsibility of all parties concerned. The Korean nuclear issue is very complicated, and the concerns of relevant parties need to be addressed in a balanced way through dialogue and negotiation. All parties concerned should make constructive efforts to the proper settlement of this issue.”



- **May 20, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “Regarding that specific claim of miniaturization, we do not think North Korea has that capacity, and our assessment on that hasn’t changed. [...] we do know they’re working on developing a number of long-range missiles, [...] that’s obviously something we’re very concerned about, but in terms of that capability, we just don’t think they have it. [...] Kim Jong-un has a pattern of refusing these high-level diplomatic meetings of people who are trying to reach out to see if there’s some way to get North Korea back to a diplomatic process. I think this is just the latest in a line of what we’ve seen coming out of North Korea.”

- **May 21, 2015 – Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: Readout of Secretary Kerry's travel to Beijing, Seoul and Seattle ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “Future areas of cooperation, what some have called the new frontier in the U.S.-ROK relationship. These are cutting-edge areas where in the 21st century it makes sense for the United States and the Republic of Korea to expand cooperation. One of those areas is in cyberspace.”

- **May 27, 2015 - Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “Q: Does United States considering North Korea as terrorist country again?”

A: They are not currently on the list of state sponsors of terrorism.”

- **May 28, 2015 - Remarks by Director of Press Office Jeff Rathke ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “I don’t have anything further to add to Assistant Secretary Russel’s speech. Of course, the Secretary was just in Seoul, and he talked at some length about our partnership with South Korea, our alliance with South Korea, and how we increasingly work together to address not only bilateral and regional issues in Northeast Asia, but also global issues. So we are glad to see South Korea playing an increasing role, but I don’t have further to add to that.”



## Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: The U.S. Gropes for Solutions to Several Crises in the Middle East; China Hints at Possibility of First Overseas Military Base in Djibouti

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 4, 2015 – Press Availability by Secretary of State John Kerry: Press Availability in Nairobi, Kenya</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “Kenya is a key partner, as I just said, in the fight against terrorism, and cooperation between our governments is very, very strong. I think – I don't know what the period of years is, but I think we've put in some \$645 million in an effort to assist over these last years with Kenya directly, and this year alone, I believe it's more than \$100 million, and I just announced additional funding – 45 million plus the 5 million – so we are deeply engaged in trying to help Kenya to be able to push back and deal with terrorism.”</li> <li>● <b>May 6, 2015 – Letter – Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Actions of the Government of Syria</b> (<a href="#">Statements and Releases, White House</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “The national emergency with respect to the actions of the Government of Syria declared in Executive Order (E.O.) 13338 of May 11, 2004 is to continue in effect beyond May 11, 2015. [...] The regime's brutal war on the Syrian people, who have been calling for freedom and a representative government, not only endangers the Syrian people themselves, but could yield greater instability throughout the region. The Syrian regime's actions and policies, including pursuing chemical and biological weapons, supporting terrorist organizations, and obstructing the Lebanese government's ability to function effectively, are fostering the rise of extremism and sectarianism and continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.”</li> <li>● <b>May 6, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</b> (<a href="#">White House, Press Briefings</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “Next week the President has planned to bring the leaders of the GCC countries to Camp David for intensive consultations about our security cooperation with those countries. And the United States obviously has a long history in terms of our security relationship with these countries, and that relationship has been good for the security of the people of those countries. That relationship has also been beneficial to the security of the American people. And the President is committed to continuing to strengthen that relationship. And in fact, one of the chief benefits of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon is that it will have a corresponding positive impact on the security situation of our partners in the region.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 4, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “It is our longstanding opinion that force will not help solve the issue of Afghanistan, and national reconciliation is the only way out. The Chinese side will continue to support the “Afghan-led and Afghan-owned” reconciliation process. We hope to see an early realization of a highly inclusive reconciliation in Afghanistan.”</li> <li>● <b>May 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “The Chinese side calls on all parties concerned to implement relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council and initiatives of the Gulf Cooperation Council with concrete efforts, resolve differences through political dialogues and restore stability and legal order to Yemen at an early date.”</li> <li>● <b>May 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “Q: It is reported that the Chinese side is negotiating with Djibouti about building a military base there. Can you confirm that? Would Djibouti be the first country in the world where China establishes an overseas military base? If that is the case, don't you think that will feed into the fears about the so-called “China threat”?  A: Friendly cooperation between the two sides has achieved constant growth over recent years, with practical cooperation carried out in various fields. What needs to be pointed out is that regional peace and stability serves the interests of all countries and meets the aspirations shared by China, Djibouti and other countries around the world. The Chinese side is ready and obliged to make more contributions to that end.”</li> <li>● <b>May 13, 2015 – China Daily: Defensive Arm Now Needs to be Extended</b> (<a href="#">China Daily</a>)  <b>Quote:</b> “When asked about reports that China is in talks with the Republic of Djibouti to have a military base in that country, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs neither confirmed nor denied it. Citing traditional friendship, present practical cooperation and shared commitments, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson merely said China is willing and obliged to contribute more to regional peace and stability. She stopped short of clarifying in what manner.”</li> </ul>



- **May 8, 2015 – Statement by Acting Deputy Department Spokesperson: U.S. Condemns Violence in Sudan** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “We condemn the recent attacks against the United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) peacekeepers in Kass, South Darfur state. The UNSC has made clear that UNAMID is authorized to defend itself against attacks, as occurred in this incident. We call on the Government of Sudan to bring the perpetrators of such violence to account and to take all necessary action to prevent future attacks. The Government of Sudan has the responsibility to defuse tensions in the area and prevent future attacks on UNAMID personnel.”

- **May 11, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

**Quote:** “Well, we have been concerned about the violence there for some time, and we have been urging all sides to get started with all-party negotiations, led by the U.N. The U.N. has offered to step in and facilitate this role. The U.N. representative to Yemen was here in the White House in the last couple of weeks, meeting with members of our national security team here to talk about this important role. And what’s clear is that the violence that we see in Yemen right now is not going to address the political differences that exist within that country. We’re going to need all of the parties to set aside the violence and engage in political negotiations to try to resolve their differences. The United Nations has offered to step in and try to facilitate those conversations consistent with other GCC agreements that have previously been established in Yemen. And we’re hopeful that in the context of this cease-fire agreement that there’s a possibility that all the parties could begin those kinds of political negotiations. But the goal, the point of this cease-fire is specifically to try to address – give the international community the opportunity to address the pretty dire humanitarian situation that we see in that country right now.”

- **May 12, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

**Quote:** “Well, it’s my understanding that the journey of this particular maritime vessel has only recently begun from Iran and we’re monitoring the shipment. And, again, we would urge Iran to utilize this relief hub that’s been established in Djibouti. I mean, the other thing that I’ll – I guess the last thing I’ll point out on this is that Iran understands that they can’t afford to play games with humanitarian assistance to people who are in dire need, like we see in Yemen. And the Iranians know as well as anyone that a political stunt to defy their regional rivals outside the U.N. system is provocative and risks a collapse of the U.N.-led humanitarian ceasefire that’s scheduled to go in place later today.”

- **May 15, 2015 – Ministry of Commerce Spokesperson Shen Danyang's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

**Quote:** “Q: Recently SinoTruck has once again taken a large order for 1,550 vehicles in the African market. Some media reports suggested that this again highlighted the importance of Africa as China’s export destination. Could you brief us on the status of China’s investment and export to Africa in the first quarter? Thank you.”

A: You may find in the statistics I just shared with you that in the first quarter China’s foreign trade performance was less than satisfactory, whereas its outward direct investment and inward foreign direct investment have fared pretty well. However, China’s trade and economic cooperation with Africa is somehow different in that highlights were precisely on the trade front. It is fair to say that during the first quarter against unfavorable external factors China-Africa trade and economic cooperation has maintained a steady and rapid development. The features of the current China-Africa trade and economic cooperation can be summarized in ‘two highs’ and ‘two lows’. The first ‘high’ is that electromechanical products have driven the high speed growth of China’s export to Africa. [...] The second ‘high’ is the high growth rate of the value of newly-signed infrastructure contracts. [...] The first of the ‘two lows’ refers to the relatively low growth rate of major investment projects in Africa. [...] The second ‘low’ refers to the low growth momentum for China’s import from Africa due to falling commodity prices. [...] Given the considerable downward pressure on the African economy, energy and resource producing countries have a stronger desire to speed up their industrialization process. We will make good use of this window of opportunity to continue to strengthen strategic planning and top-level design for China-Africa trade and economic cooperation.”

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

**Quote:** “Q: First, an Egyptian court sentenced former President Mohamed Mursi and others to death. What is China's comment on the decision?”

A: On your first question, the Chinese side believes that the domestic affairs of Egypt should be decided by the Egyptian people themselves. We hope that Egypt will continue with the process of political transition, and realize social stability, economic growth and improvement of people's livelihood.”



- **May 12, 2015 – Remarks by Ambassador Laura E. Kennedy: Main Committee II - Subsidiary Body: Regional Issues (State Department)**

**Quote:** “The United States remains committed to convening a conference on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.”

- **May 13, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefings)**

**Quote:** “The United States continues to have concerns about regional stability in this region of the world. And so when it comes to a discussion of our shared security interests, it makes a lot of sense that the situation in Yemen, the situation in Iraq, the situation in Syria are all subject to an intensive discussion in addition to our ongoing efforts to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL. So this is an important part of our relationship with them.”

- **May 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz (White House, Press Briefings)**

**Quote:** “Q: But the Vatican is recognizing the Palestinian State. That’s something the United States has not done. So the question is, what do you all think about that? I mean, do you think that will help the two-state solution – get the two-state solution that the President has talked about? Or will it hurt efforts to do that?”

A: Well, I think as the President aptly said yesterday, that we believe that peace between Israelis and Palestinians is necessary, just, and possible, and will only come with a two-state solution. That’s why we’ve worked hard over the years for a two-state solution and to develop innovative ways to address Israel’s security and Palestinian sovereignty needs.”

- **May 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Principal Deputy Press Secretary Eric Schultz (White House, Press Briefings)**

**Quote:** “Q: But what do you want to see in Syria, instead of Assad?”

A: Well, I think there would need to be resolution at a negotiating table with a political framework. The President believes that all countries are stronger when there’s a legitimate political framework that is an all-inclusive government.”

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

**Quote:** “The Chinese side has noted the important and positive step forward in the process of achieving peace and reconciliation in Mali. We congratulate Mali on that and call on all parties in Mali to seize the opportunity and pull together to move forward the peace process, so as to realize enduring peace and stability as well as economic and social development in Mali.”

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

**Quote:** “Q: In a letter to the relevant Chinese authorities, the Greenpeace said that some of the Chinese Distant Water Fishing vessels in West African countries falsify vessel gross tonnage. What is China's comment on that?”

A: The Chinese government always asks Chinese companies "going global" to do business in strict accordance with the law, fulfill their social obligations and practice the correct viewpoint of righteousness and benefit with concrete actions, especially when they conduct economic cooperation and trade with African countries. It is learned that relevant fishing vessels are operating in the waters off West Africa with the approval of the Chinese government and the countries where they go fishing. The tonnage registered on their certificates has been recognized by the relevant countries. They also have the fishing licenses issued by the governments of the relevant countries..”

- **May 22, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Quote:** “Recently, the conflict in South Sudan has escalated, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement In Opposition made threats to attack the infrastructure including the oil fields. The Chinese side expresses grave concern over that. Violent conflict will cause additional human suffering, jeopardize the economic future of South Sudan, and risk regional stability. [...] All sides have the responsibility to protect the country's oil infrastructure, which will be a critically important resource for South Sudan in economic reconstruction and development during a peaceful period of transition. There can be no military solution to this conflict. We urge all parties involved in the South Sudan conflict to make the political decision, bring about a reconciliation and initiate a meaningful transition as soon as possible.”





- **May 17, 2015 – Meet the Press Transcript** ([Meet the Press](#))

**Quote:** “I think that we always have to have the threat of military force behind diplomacy. But I would prefer diplomacy. I think we can still have negotiations. And the thing is-- is that we negotiated with the Soviets for 70 years and we ended up coming to a peaceful outcome. I think, with Iran, we need to be steady and firm that they cannot have a nuclear weapons program. There has to be the threat of military force. But my hope is really that negotiations continue. There are some in my party who say, “Oh, I don’t want any negotiations.” They’re ready to be done with it.”

- **May 19, 2015 – Message – Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Iraq** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

**Quote:** “Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Accordingly, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.”

- **May 21, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([Statements and Releases, White House](#))

**Quote:** “We are deeply concerned by reports that ISIL is attacking and has taken control of the ancient town of Palmyra [...] a UNESCO World Heritage site. [...] We are going to continue to work with our coalition to pursue our strategy. But again, [...] there are limits. Until we’re able to build up local forces on the ground in Syria who can take the fight to ISIL in their own country, this is going to continue to be a difficult challenge, and one that is not going to be solved overnight, but rather one that will require a long-term commitment.”

- **May 22, 2015 – Remarks by the President on Jewish American Heritage Month** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

**Quote:** “I can’t stand here today and guarantee an agreement will be reached [with Iran]. We’re hopeful. We’re working hard. But nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. And I’ve made clear that when it comes to preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon, all options are and will remain on the table.”

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

**Quote:** “Q: Representatives of the Afghan government and former officials of the Taliban reportedly held a two-day meeting in Urumqi, China. What is your comment?”

A: I am not aware of what you mentioned. Peace and stability of Afghanistan meets the common interests of the international community. As a friendly neighbor to Afghanistan, China attaches great importance to China-Afghanistan relations, hopes for the realization of long-lasting peace, stability and development of the country at an early date and supports the “Afghan-led and Afghan-owned” peace and reconciliation process. We are willing to play a constructive role to this end.”

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

**Quote:** “Q: Washington blocked the outcome document which includes the establishment of a zone free of weapons of massive destruction in the Middle East of the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). What is China’s comment?”

A: During this NPT review conference, all parties discussed and deliberated on issues such as nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Despite the failure to reach an outcome document at the conference, all parties still pay great attention to the Treaty’s role as a cornerstone in the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, and support the purposes and goals of the Treaty. [...] China consistently and firmly supports the establishment of a zone free of weapons of massive destruction in the Middle East, and welcomes the work done by parties concerned including the Arab states. We are willing to work in tandem with all parties and try to convene the relevant international conference as soon as possible.”





- **May 25, 2015 – United States Calls for Peaceful Resolution to Crisis in Burundi** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “We call on all parties to immediately renounce the use of violence. We urge the Burundian government to conduct timely and credible investigations of the recent attacks to bring to justice those responsible and to take concrete steps to ensure the safety of political actors during the electoral process.”

- **May 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “Q: According to media reports, representatives from China, Russia and India held a consultation on the Afghan issue in New Delhi the other day. Please give us more information on that.

A: The three parties exchanged views mainly on the situation in Afghanistan and the region as well as trilateral cooperation on the Afghan issue. They agreed that how the situation in Afghanistan plays out has a direct bearing on regional security and stability. As close neighbors of Afghanistan, the three parties support the peaceful reconciliation and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan and will play a constructive role in this regard. They agreed to enhance communication and coordination on the Afghan issue, effectively leverage the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Istanbul Process, and jointly push for security, stability and development of Afghanistan. They also reached consensus on a third round of consultation at a proper time, and the specific time and place will be finalized through the diplomatic channel.”

- **May 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “Q: China has been proactively coordinating the peace talks between the Afghan Taliban and the Afghan government, yet conflicts still occur frequently in the country. How does China assess the current situation in Afghanistan?”

A: As a friendly neighbor of Afghanistan, China hopes for the early realization of lasting peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, supports the “Afghan-led and Afghan-owned” peace and reconciliation process, and stands ready to play a constructive role to this end.”



## Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: The U.S. and China Exchange Volleys Over the Legality of China's Land Reclamation Efforts in the South China Sea while Simultaneously Calling for a Peaceful Resolution

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 1, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke (State Department)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “China’s extensive land reclamation in the South China Sea has eroded trust, it’s eroded confidence in the region, it’s contributed to rising tensions, and the addition of hundreds of acres of reclaimed land is a drastic change to the status quo, and it’s not conducive to diplomatic progress or to reducing tensions, in our view. So we certainly want to see tensions reduced, and that’s our view on the reclamation. [...] Now, if there is a desire to reduce tensions, China could actively reduce them by taking concrete steps to halt land reclamation; clarify its nine-dash line claim in accordance with international law, as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention; and conclude a code of conduct on the South China Sea with ASEAN. We also encourage China to work with existing multilateral mechanisms for humanitarian and disaster relief, such as the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Center, and – to increase the possibilities and the likelihood of regional cooperation.”</li> <li>● <b>May 1, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke (State Department)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “We certainly welcome ASEAN’s call for negotiations toward a code of conduct; they’ve been calling for that for some time and we’ve supported those calls as well. And we welcome their call for this to be intensified. We think an effective code of conduct would reduce tensions arising from territorial and maritime disputes in the South China Sea.”</li> <li>● <b>May 7, 2015 – Press Statement by Secretary of State John Kerry: On the Occasion of Europe Day (State Department)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “Together we stand firm with the people of Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. We share a vision of a Ukraine secure in its internationally recognized borders and at peace with all its neighbors.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>May 5, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on the Philippines' Allegation that China's Construction on Maritime Features of the Nansha Islands Violates the DOC (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “The Chinese side has more than once enunciated its position on carrying out lawful, reasonable and justified construction activities on relevant maritime features of the Nansha Islands. [...] First, the Philippine side illegally seized some of the maritime features of China's Nansha Islands in the 1970s, which constitutes the crux and root cause of the disputes between China and the Philippines over the South China Sea. [...] Second, according to the basic principle of law "Ex injuria jus non oritur", the Chinese side does not recognize the "status quo" of Philippines' illegal occupation of relevant maritime features of the Nansha Islands, and opposes the unlawful construction carried out by the Philippines on maritime features of China's Nansha Islands. [...] Third, the DOC requires the observation of all parties concerned. While firmly upholding territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, the Chinese side stays committed to resolving the relevant disputes with countries directly concerned through negotiation and consultation. [...] The Chinese side urges the Philippine side to end the malicious hyping and provocation in no time, meet China and a majority of ASEAN countries halfway, and jointly uphold peace and stability of the South China Sea.”</li> <li>● <b>May 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>  <b>Quote:</b> “China is entitled to set up ADIZs. A decision in this regard depends on whether the air safety is threatened and to what extent it is threatened. A whole range of factors should also be taken into account before establishing an ADIZ. The situation in the South China Sea is stable in general, and China enjoys a sound relationship with ASEAN countries. We are exploring to promote mutually beneficial cooperation, and jointly safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea. Obviously, there are some other motives behind the deliberate hype of the so-called ‘ADIZ in the South China Sea’.”</li> </ul>



- **May 13, 2015 – Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry’s Trip to Beijing, Seoul, and Seattle** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “Now the question of what the U.S. Navy does or doesn’t do is one that the Chinese are free to pose to the Secretary, and I’m sure that as our other officials from the Pacific Command and from the Pentagon do when they meet with their counterparts, he will leave his Chinese interlocutors in absolutely no doubt that the United States remains committed to maintain freedom of navigation and to exercise our legitimate rights as pertain to overflight and movement on the high seas. That won’t change, and not only for us, but – and not only in the South China Sea, but internationally and as a global matter, that’s a principle that we are determined to uphold. Now, where exactly U.S. Navy ships go is not the issue. It is the right for all ships and all states to utilize the seas freely. The South China Sea is a very rich fishing ground and has a long tradition of access by fishermen from all of the coastal states. It’s important for the food security of the region, and the ability of countries to move and to operate freely in international waters is also directly relevant to stability and maintaining the kind of open rules-based order in the Asia Pacific that benefits all of us. [...] ultimately, no matter how much sand China piles on top of a submerged reef or shoal, it is not affecting its territorial claim. It’s not enhancing its territorial claim. You can’t build sovereignty. You can’t, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, create an island, and that land feature, that land mass, all that landfill that is dredged up with – at great environmental cost to the ecosystem, simply doesn’t accrue territorial seas or entitle the dredger to any sovereignty rights whatsoever. And although the Chinese know this perfectly well, that will be among the points that Secretary Kerry will convey when he’s in Beijing.”

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

**Quote:** “The Chinese side has repeatedly stated its position on China's construction work on some of its garrisoned maritime features of the Nansha Islands. In response to the Philippines' remarks void of factual and jurisprudential basis, I would like to underline the following points. China's sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters is fully supported by historical and jurisprudential evidence. [...] Just like its construction work on all the illegally occupied islands and reefs, the so-called "repairs and maintenance" by the Philippines, whether massive or minor, old or new, are illegal and invalid, as they are conducted on China's islands and reefs grabbed by the Philippines. Illegal construction is illegal construction. Its illegal nature will not change no matter how it is covered up. The Philippines keeps vowing that its actions are totally in line with the DOC. Is that true? [...] The DOC is not a tool for the Philippines to whitewash its wrongdoings. The Philippines' willful abuse and distortion of the DOC is in itself a breach and damage to the DOC. As the Chinese side has been saying, one aim of the construction is to better fulfill China's international responsibility and obligation in maritime search and rescue, navigation safety, ocean science and research, etc. [...] We urge the Philippine side to respect China's territorial sovereignty, reflect upon its own actions, stop the unfounded accusation and hyping of China's construction work, and meet China halfway to jointly uphold peace and stability of the region.”

- **May 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “The U.S. report makes willful speculations and comments on China's military growth in defiance of the facts. By hyping up "China's military threat and the lack of transparency in military strength", the report questions China's normal defense building and strategic intention, and makes inappropriate remarks on China's justified actions of safeguarding territorial sovereignty and security interests in the South China Sea. [...] China unswervingly follows the path of peaceful development and a national defense policy that is defensive in nature, and remains a staunch force in maintaining peace and stability of the Asia-Pacific and the world. China's national defense building, a right China is entitled to as a sovereign state, is for the sole purpose of safeguarding national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is hoped that the American side would abandon the cold-war mentality, view China's military development with objectiveness and reason instead of prejudices, stop issuing such kind of report or doing and saying anything that jeopardizes bilateral relations and military-to-military mutual trust, and make tangible moves to ensure the sound and steady development of state-to-state and military-to-military relations between China and the U.S.”



- **May 13, 2015 – Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Trip to Beijing, Seoul, and Seattle (State Department)**

**Quote:** “We briefed and the Japanese briefed the Chinese directly through diplomatic channels on the revised defense guidelines and explained in detail what the alliance, under the new guidelines, aims to do and will be able to do. And I think we saw from the Chinese an expression of understanding with regard to the defense guidelines and the arrangement. The press has carried stories about the potential for greater Japanese presence and activism in the South China Sea. That’s not a direct function of any changes made by the U.S. and Japan in terms of our alliance cooperation, per se. It is instead a reflection of the greater demand signal on the part of the countries of Southeast Asia for active and visible engagement by major powers – not only the United States, but also Japan, also Australia. And it seems likely that that demand signal is driven in part by anxiety generated by the land reclamation and other behavior on the part of China which clearly is creating tension and generating anxiety in the region, anxiety that is to no one’s benefit. Now taking a step back, what we have seen over the course of the last two years under the Abe government is a significantly enhanced degree of active engagement in the economic and the security life of Southeast Asia. Prime Minister Abe has hosted the leaders of ASEAN more than once. He has traveled throughout the region. And the strengthening of ties between ASEAN and Japan is clearly something that we welcome both because of the contributions that Japan makes in terms of helping to build partner capacity in these countries; partly because of the strong economic and commercial ties that have lifted so many millions of people in Southeast Asia out of poverty; but also because Japan embraces the same democratic values and commitment to clean government and to open markets and fair trade that are important to the United States, and they’re increasingly becoming a feature of the Southeast Asia region as well.”

- **May 13, 2015 – Testimony by Daniel R. Russel: Maritime Issues in East Asia (State Department)**

**Quote:** “All disputes over claims in the South China Sea should be pursued, addressed, and resolved peacefully. [...] But for any claimant to advance its claims through the threat or use of force or by other forms of coercion is patently unacceptable. [...] I noted U.S. concern over an apparent pattern of behavior by China to assert its nine-dash line claim in the South China Sea, despite the objections of its neighbors and the lack of clarity of the claim itself. More than a year later, China continues to take actions that are raising tensions and concerns throughout the region about its strategic intentions.”

- **May 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Quote:** “South China Sea remains stable in general. It is hoped that relevant countries would respect efforts by regional countries to safeguard peace and stability of the South China Sea by themselves, and refrain from playing up tensions or doing anything detrimental to security mutual trust among regional countries and peace and stability in this region.”

- **May 12, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Quote:** “China exercises indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands including Zhongye Dao. According to the international treaties which define the territory of the Philippines, Zhongye Dao and other maritime features in the Nansha Islands have never been part of the Philippines. The Chinese side is opposed to the Philippines’ occupation of some maritime features of China’s Nansha Islands by force, and stays resolute in safeguarding territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests. The Philippines recurrently goes against the international law and the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), stirs up troubles concerning the South China Sea issue and keeps taking provocative actions which undermine mutual trust among all parties and regional peace and stability. What happens lays bare that the Philippines is the real rule-breaker and trouble-maker. Its attempt to seize maritime features of China’s Nansha Islands is futile.”

- **May 13, 2015 – People's Daily: U.S. - Please Stop Playing up the "China Military Threat" (People's Daily)**

**Quote:** “The U.S. ignores the reality that Taiwan issues belong to China's internal affairs, and insists on 'sustaining the military balance' on the other side of the Taiwan Strait by providing weapons to Taiwan. This interference in China's internal affairs acts as an obstruction to China's peaceful unification. [...] No mention is made about the provocative actions of Japan, the Philippines and Vietnam in this report. The U.S. ignores China's tolerance and the efforts it has made to ensure peace and stability in the East China Sea and the South China Sea. It accuses China of striving for maritime sovereignty by intimidating and threatening other countries.”



- **May 13, 2015 – Testimony by Daniel R. Russel: Maritime Issues in East Asia** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “Far from protecting the environment, reclamation has harmed ecosystems and coral reefs through intensive dredging of the sea bed. Given its military might, China also has the capability to project power from its outposts in a way that other claimants do not. And perhaps most importantly, these activities appear inconsistent with commitments under the 2002 ASEAN China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, which calls on all parties to forgo actions that “would complicate or escalate disputes.”

- **May 13, 2015 – Testimony by Daniel R. Russel: Maritime Issues in East Asia** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “Apart from reclamation, the ambiguity and potential breadth of China’s nine-dash line maritime claim also fuels anxiety in Southeast Asia. It is important that all claimants clarify their maritime claims on the basis of international law, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. [...] Simple common sense dictates that tensions and risks would also be reduced if all claimants commit to halt reclamation activities and negotiate the acceptable uses of reclaimed features as part of a regional Code of Conduct. Talks on a regional Code of Conduct over several years have been inconclusive, but we share the growing view in the region that a binding Code should be completed in time for the 2015 East Asia Summit in Malaysia. [...] But against the backdrop of a strong and sustained U.S. military presence, which is welcomed by the overwhelming majority of countries in the region, diplomacy will continue to be our instrument of first resort. We are vigorously engaging with all of the claimants.”

- **May 14, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “So we continue to believe that the scope of China’s land reclamation in the South China Sea is contributing to rising tensions in the region. And we’ve spoken about the effect that has and our support for ASEAN’s efforts to conclude a code of conduct with China. Our position on this is pretty well known, and I think it will be an opportunity for the Secretary to discuss with his Chinese counterparts.”

- **May 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “The Chinese side advocates the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, yet the freedom definitely does not mean that foreign military vessels and aircrafts can enter one country’s territorial waters and airspace at will. China will stay firm in safeguarding territorial sovereignty. We urge parties concerned to be discreet in words and actions, avoid taking any risky and provocative actions and safeguard regional peace and stability.”

- **May 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “Q: Second, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to China starts tomorrow. Do you expect any consensus and progress on the boundary question?”

A: The two sides have common interest in the boundary question. Both sides have not only shown great willingness but also worked hard to resolve the boundary question at an early date. An early settlement of the boundary question meets the expectation of the two governments and two peoples and serves their common interests. However, the boundary question is an issue left over by history, and thus impossible to be settled overnight.”

- **May 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “Q: The U.S. navy said that on May 11, a littoral combat ship USS Fort Worth cruised near Nanwei Dao with a Chinese naval frigate sailing close behind and monitoring it. The U.S. navy claimed that the U.S. ship was only sailing in international waters. Does China have any comment on this?”

A: The Chinese side will take resolute measures to safeguard national sovereignty and safety. We will keep an eye on the situation in relevant waters and airspace and respond to any violation of China’s sovereignty and threat to China’s national security.”



- **May 15, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “South China Sea was one topic of discussion, but we have a broader – a broad relationship with ASEAN. [...] we see this as a – this meeting today as an opportunity to make progress along many fronts in our relationship with ASEAN, rather than a specific – only a single issue meeting.”

- **May 18, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “We support the ASEAN-China discussions on a code of conduct. We are against any unilateral efforts to determine sovereignty. There are multiple claimants to many of the land features in the South China Sea, and those need to be resolved diplomatically and in accordance with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. So our policy on that issue hasn’t changed.”

- **May 21, 2015 – Briefing by Assistant Secretary Daniel R. Russel: Readout of Secretary Kerry's travel to Beijing, Seoul and Seattle ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “The United States doesn’t claim any territory in the South China Sea. But we do claim the international rights of freedom of navigation, freedom of overflight, freedom to conduct lawful commerce, that belong to every sovereign nation. Those are rights that we will continue to exercise and those are principles that we will defend. It’s not only the big and strong countries like the United States that deserve to be able to conduct trade in the South China Sea area; it’s every country.”

- **May 21, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “I don’t think I’d call it a confrontation. There were certainly warnings – verbal warnings – given by the Chinese. It’s unclear on what basis they issued these warnings. U.S. military planes operate in accordance with international law in disputed areas of the South China Sea, so the U.S. military has and will continue to operate consistent with the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea in the South China Sea. Again, it’s unclear what the basis for these warnings was.”

- **May 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

**Quote:** “Q: According to American media reports, a U.S. naval combat ship was closely followed by a Chinese missile frigate when patrolling in waters off the Nansha Islands. Please give us more details and China’s take on this.”

A: China exerts indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and the adjacent waters. China is entitled to monitor the situation in relevant waters and airspace so as to guard against any harm to China’s national security and maritime and aerial accidents. We will keep the situation in relevant waters and airspace under surveillance, and protect China’s national security from being jeopardized and maritime and aerial accidents from happening.”

- **May 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

**Quote:** “Q: According to media reports, Philippine chief of armed forces Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang yesterday welcomed a possible deployment of U.S. navy aircraft and vessels in the South China Sea, saying that the U.S. plan would help restore stability to the contested waters and that there might be the possibility of Philippine troops joining their American counterparts. The Philippines will focus its attention on developing the Ulugan Bay and the naval base in Palawan so that when U.S. ships patrol, they have a place to dock. Do you have any response to this?”

A: China has expressed grave concern about the relevant remarks made by the U.S., and enunciated China's position. [...] China and most ASEAN countries are devoted to handling the South China Sea issue and safeguarding freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and regional peace and stability through the "dual-track" approach. Borrowing other's power, the Philippines keeps taking provocative measures that complicate and escalate the disputes in disregard of the common interests of regional countries. China is determined to maintain national sovereignty and rights and interests, and will firmly respond to all provocations.”





- **May 22, 2015 – Commencement Address by the Vice President at the United States Naval Academy** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

**Quote:** “In the disputed waters of the South China Sea, the United States does not privilege the claims of one nation over another. But we do – unapologetically – stand up for the equitable and peaceful resolution of disputes and for the freedom of navigation. And today, these principles are being tested by Chinese activities in the South China Sea. They’re building airstrips – the placing of oil rigs, the imposition of unilateral bans on fishing in disputed territories, the declaration of air-defense zones, the reclamation of land, which other countries are doing, but not nearly on the massive scale the Chinese are doing.”

- **May 22, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “Well, U.S. military planes operate in accordance with international law in disputed areas of the South China Sea. This is an important principle. As we are aware and as we saw, I think, on some TV reports, China frequently issues warnings to these aircraft. It’s unclear what basis they issue these warnings on. But the U.S. military has and will continue to operate consistent with the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea in the South China Sea.”

- **May 26, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke** ([State Department](#))

**Quote:** “Our position on the South China Sea is longstanding. It hasn’t changed. We, of course, appreciate Taiwan’s call on claimants to exercise restraint, to refrain from unilateral actions that could escalate tensions, and to respect international law as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention. With regard to the maritime claims and the claims to sovereignty over land features in the South China Sea, our position is that maritime claims must accord with the Law of the Sea. We have a strong interest in peace and security and in the manner in which claimants address their disputes. Now, as to the question of sovereignty over islands claimed by Taiwan or other land features claimed by claimants, we don’t take a position on the sovereignty of land features. [...] China’s extensive land reclamation efforts in the South China Sea have created to – have contributed – excuse me – to rising tensions, and I think this something also that countries in the region have spoken to. [...] I would also highlight that under international law it’s clear that land reclamation cannot change the maritime zones of a geographical feature. That would include a territorial sea or an exclusive economic zone.”

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

**Quote:** “Q: The Chinese side announced that there would be a fishing moratorium on the South China Sea from May 16 to August 1. The Foreign Ministry of Vietnam voiced its opposition and accused China of violating Vietnam’s sovereign rights and jurisdiction. How does China respond?”

A: The Chinese side holds a clear and consistent position on the issue of the South China Sea. Competent authorities of China impose fishing moratorium on waters under China’s jurisdiction in the South China Sea at summer time every year. That is a regular administrative measure taken by China to protect living marine resources in the relevant waters and a proper act to fulfill China’s international obligation and responsibility.”

- **May 18, 2015 – *China Daily*: Mutual Trust Vital to China-U.S. Relations** ([China Daily](#))

**Quote:** “By backing the countries that have territorial disputes with China, the U.S. has further complicated the already complex South China Sea issue. And by taking sides in the disputes, the U.S. has added uncertainties to U.S.-China relations and diverged from the cooperative track of bilateral ties.”

- **May 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** “Q: U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken reportedly told a conference yesterday in Jakarta, Indonesia that land reclamation by China in the South China Sea risks provoking tension, instability and can even lead to conflict. He said that the U.S. does not take sides on issues concerning the sovereignty over the South China Sea but strongly opposes actions that aim to advance a claim by force or coercion. How does China respond?”

A: It is a peaceful cause for public interests, and thus beyond reproach. The speculation by the U.S. does not hold water. The relevant remarks will do no good at all to the settlement of relevant disputes, nor will they help maintain mutual trust among countries in the region as well as peace and stability in the South China Sea. It will only end up encouraging a few countries to take different provocative actions. It is hoped that the U.S. can honor its commitment of not taking sides on issues relating to sovereignty, take an objective and fair look at the relevant issue on its own merits, be discreet with words and deeds, refrain from making inappropriate remarks and play a more constructive role in safeguarding regional peace and stability.”





- **May 26, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest ([White House, Press Briefings](#))**

**Quote:** “Q: I wanted to ask you about the events that are ongoing in the South China Sea. Has the President been briefed on China’s alleged island building, for lack of a better description? And is he aware of some of the back-and-forth between the U.S. military reconnaissance and aircraft and Chinese aircraft?”

A: The President has often talked about how critically important the security situation is in the South China Sea. It’s critical to the national security of the United States. It’s also critical to the global economy that the free flow of commerce in the South China Sea is something that needs to be maintained. And the United States is committed to working with other countries in the region to protect it. And because it is a priority, yes, you can expect that the President has been briefed on the latest in this situation and will continue to be.”

- **May 27, 2015 – Remarks on U.S. Pacific Command Change of Command by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter ([U.S Department of Defense](#))**

**Quote:** “That’s why I want to be clear about our position on the South China Sea. First, we want a peaceful resolution of all disputes, and an immediate and lasting halt to land reclamation by any claimant. We also oppose any further militarization of disputed features. Second – and there should be no mistake, should be no mistake about this – the United States will fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows, as we do all around the world. Finally, with its actions in the South China Sea, China is out of step with both international norms that underscore the Asia-Pacific’s security architecture, and the regional consensus in favor of a non-coercive approach to this and other long-standing disputes. China’s actions are bringing countries in the region together in new ways. And they’re increasing demand for American engagement in the Asia-Pacific, and we’re going to meet it. We will remain the principal security power in the Asia-Pacific for decades to come.”

- **May 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

**Quote:** “Q: It is reported that the Chinese navy issued warnings as a U.S. surveillance plane on Wednesday flew over China’s islands in the South China Sea.

A: I am not aware of the specifics. I would like to reiterate that China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters. The Chinese side is entitled to monitor the situation in relevant waters and airspace, so as to guard against any harm to China’s national security and maritime and aerial accidents. The Chinese side urges the relevant country to respect China’s sovereignty as well as rights and interests, avoid taking any action that may complicate or exacerbate the disputes and play a constructive role for regional peace and stability.”

- **May 22, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))**

**Quote:** “Information from the competent authorities of China shows that a U.S. P-8A anti-submarine and maritime surveillance aircraft flew over waters off relevant maritime features of China’s Nansha Islands for reconnaissance activities on May 20. Chinese troops garrisoning the islands and reefs acted upon the rules and asked the aircraft to leave through radio. It must be pointed out that the reconnaissance conducted by the U.S. military aircraft poses a potential threat to the security of China’s maritime features, and is highly likely to cause miscalculation, or even untoward maritime and aerial incidents. It is irresponsible and dangerous and detrimental to regional peace and stability. The Chinese side hereby expresses strong dissatisfaction. We call on the American side to act in strict accordance with the international law and relevant international rules, and refrain from taking any risky and provocative actions..”

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

**Quote:** “For a long period of time, there has never been any problem concerning the freedom of navigation and over-flight in the South China Sea that all countries are entitled to under the international law. Nor will there be any in the future. China always values and safeguards the freedom and safety of navigation and over-flight in the South China Sea. The freedom of navigation and over-flight, however, is not tantamount to the violation of the international law by foreign military vessels and aircraft in defiance of the legitimate rights and interests as well as the safety of over-flight and navigation of other countries. The close reconnaissance conducted by the U.S. military aircraft of China’s maritime features is highly likely to cause miscalculation and untoward incidents in the waters and airspace, and is utterly dangerous and irresponsible.”



- **May 28, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “We’ve consistently underscored our interest in preserving the freedom of navigation, the freedom of overflight, including in the South China Sea. This includes all of the rights, freedoms, and lawful uses of the sea and of the airspace, and these are guaranteed under international law and are reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention. So the international law is also clear about land reclamation, so we’ll continue to exercise our rights under the Law of the Sea. [...] First, we want a peaceful resolution of all disputes and an immediate and lasting halt to land reclamation by any claimant. We also oppose any further militarization of disputed features. And second, I think it’s clear that the United States will operate, will fly, will sail where international law allows. That’s what we do around the world, and we will continue to do so. And I think lastly, as the Secretary pointed out, with its actions in the South China Sea, China is out of step with the regional consensus in favor of a non-coercive approach to this and to other longstanding disputes.”

- **May 29, 2015 – Remarks by Press Office Director Jeff Rathke ([State Department](#))**

**Quote:** “We oppose any further militarization of outposts in disputed areas of the South China Sea and that all claimants should avoid any actions that escalate tensions. So we urge all claimants to show restraint and to halt reclamation in favor of diplomacy. [...] we support the freedom of navigation and overflight and free flow of commerce through the vital waterways of the South China Sea, and the non-use of force or coercion and respect for international law, including UNCLOS. [...] We do our operations in accordance with international law around the world and we will continue to do that. [...] it’s clear that this is an important interest of the United States and we remain committed to – not only to the freedom of navigation and overflight but also that the tensions remain – that they diminish and that we work with partners in the region to that end.”

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

**Quote:** “China and ASEAN countries are fully and effectively implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). Under this framework, consultations on the COC are making steady progress, and all parties are striving to seal the COC based on consensus. The U.S. is not a party concerned to the South China Sea issue. Instead of stirring up troubles, it should show full respect for efforts by China and ASEAN countries, be discreet with words and actions and create an enabling environment for the consultation.”

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

**Quote:** “Q: The Global Times published an editorial today saying that a war between China and the U.S. is inevitable unless the U.S. stops demanding China to halt the reclamation activities on maritime features in the South China Sea. Is this China’s official position or just a public opinion?”

A: The editorial of the Global Times only speaks for itself. In recent days, we notice that some people from the U.S. have been making jarring noise and misleading the public on issues concerning China’s construction on some stationed maritime features in the Nansha Islands. We are gravely concerned over relevant remarks and deeds of the U.S. China’s position on the relevant issue has been made crystal clear. We stand ready to carry out good interactions with the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific. But as Foreign Minister Wang Yi put it when jointly meeting the press with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry who visited China not long ago, China is rock-firm in safeguarding national sovereignty and territorial integrity. If the U.S. really wants to see a peaceful and stable Asia-Pacific, it should keep its promise of not taking sides on issues related to territorial sovereignty, do more things that are placatory and less inflammatory, stop irresponsible provocations and join hands with China to maintain peace and stability of the South China Sea.”

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

**Quote:** “China’s construction of lighthouses on Huayang Jiao and Chigua Jiao of the Nansha Islands is to implement China’s international obligations and responsibilities, and provide passing vessels with efficient guidance and aiding services which will substantially improve navigation safety in the South China Sea. Going forward, the Chinese side will continue to build other civilian facilities on relevant maritime features of the Nansha Islands and offer better services to vessels from littoral countries of the South China Sea and those sailing through this area.”



- **May 30, 2015 – Remarks on IISS Shangri-La Dialogue: “A Regional Security Architecture Where Everyone Rises” by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter (U.S Department of Defense)**

**Quote:** “The United States is deeply concerned about the pace and scope of land reclamation in the South China Sea, the prospect of further militarization, as well as the potential for these activities...to increase the risk of miscalculation or conflict among claimant states. [...] Nations across the region and the world, many of you here in the room today, have also voiced the same concerns and raised questions about China’s intentions in constructing these massive outposts. So let me make clear the position of the United States: First, we want a peaceful resolution of all disputes. [...] Second, the United States will continue to protect freedom of navigation and overflight – principles that have ensured security and prosperity in this region for decades. [...] Finally, with its actions in the South China Sea, China is out of step with both the international rules and norms that underscore the Asia-Pacific’s security architecture, and the regional consensus that favors diplomacy and opposes coercion. [...] The United States will always stand with its allies and partners. It’s important for the region to understand that America is gonna remain engaged...continue to stand up for international law and universal principles...and help provide security and stability in the Asia-Pacific for decades to come.”

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

**Quote:** “The Philippine President reportedly said that Philippine military aircraft will keep flying over disputed areas in the South China Sea, and that China should not bully small countries. The Philippine Air Force spokesman said its planes will fly over the South China Sea along the route taken by the U.S. Navy plane. I can feel the restlessness and rashness of some people from the Philippines on issues of the South China Sea. China’s relevant position has been made pretty clear on multiple occasions. Here is a gentle reminder to the Philippines: China will not bully small countries, meanwhile, small countries shall not make trouble willfully and endlessly. We hope that the Philippine side would stop instigation and provocation and come back to the right track of resolving issues through negotiation and consultation.”

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

**Quote:** “Q: According to media reports, Taiwan today proposed a “peace initiative in the South China Sea”. What is the mainland’s comment?”

A: We have noted the relevant “initiative” brought up by Taiwan. Chinese people across the Taiwan Straits are obliged to jointly safeguard national territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, and maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.”

- **May 26, 2015 – Construction on Nansha Islands Serves Military, Civilian Purposes (Ministry of National Defense)**

**Quote:** “Infrastructure projects on the Nansha Islands in the South China Sea will serve both military and civilian purposes, said a defense ministry spokesperson Tuesday. [...] The infrastructure projects not only benefit China but also the international community, he said. Yang also stressed the development is within China’s sovereignty.”

- **May 26, 2015 – Full Text: China’s Military Strategy (Ministry of National Defense)**

**Quote:** “The Taiwan issue bears on China’s reunification and long-term development, and reunification is an inevitable trend in the course of national rejuvenation. In recent years, cross-Taiwan Straits relations have sustained a sound momentum of peaceful development, but the root cause of instability has not yet been removed, and the “Taiwan independence” separatist forces and their activities are still the biggest threat to the peaceful development of cross-Straits relations.”



- **May 26, 2015 – Full Text: China's Military Strategy** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

**Quote:** “On the issues concerning China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, some of its offshore neighbors take provocative actions and reinforce their military presence on China's reefs and islands that they have illegally occupied. Some external countries are also busy meddling in South China Sea affairs; a tiny few maintain constant close-in air and sea surveillance and reconnaissance against China. It is thus a long-standing task for China to safeguard its maritime rights and interests. Certain disputes over land territory are still smoldering.”

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

**Quote:** “China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and the adjacent waters. We have put it many times that China's sovereignty and relevant claims of rights in the South China Sea have been formed in the long course of history and upheld by successive Chinese governments. This position has adequate historical and legal basis. There is no need to assert or reinforce China's territorial sovereignty through construction activities on relevant islands and reefs. China carries out lawful, justified and reasonable construction activities within its own sovereignty. Even some senior officials from the U.S. said in public that China's construction on relevant islands and reefs did not violate the international law.”

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

**Quote:** “Q: The U.S. Defense Ministry Spokesperson expressed welcome to China's white paper on military strategy, but reiterated that the U.S. will continue to carry out reconnaissance activities near the Nansha islands and reefs so as to uphold the freedom of over-flight and navigation in relevant areas. How does China respond?”

A: We are against a few countries' moves to defy or even impair other country's sovereignty, lawful rights and safety of over-flight and navigation by using navigation freedom as an excuse. With regard to activities by U.S. vessels and aircraft in the South China Sea, China has stated on multiple occasions that the close reconnaissance of Chinese maritime features by U.S. vessels and planes is very likely to cause miscalculation and untoward incidents in the waters and airspace. It is utterly dangerous and irresponsible. We hope that the U.S. can take a responsible attitude, follow the spirit of safeguarding peace and stability of the South China Sea, view the relevant issue in a rational and unbiased manner and cease all irresponsible provocations in words and deeds.”



- **May 27, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Quote:** "Q: In response to "highlighting maritime military struggle and maritime preparation for military struggle (PMS)" as was written in China's white paper on military strategy, Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said that the use of force should be avoided under all circumstances. He also said that Japan has earned high praise from the world as a peaceful country for the last seven decades since the end of the Second World War. What is China's comment?"

A: The Chinese nation has struggled under the invasion and bullying of foreign powers for a long period of time since modern times. The Chinese people's memory of that painful experience cannot be erased. No one cherishes peace more than we do. We treasure peace and oppose wars, follow a path of peaceful development and uphold a national defense policy that is defensive in nature. History tells us that it is necessary to build a national defense force commensurate with the demand of national security and the level of economic development. No country is allowed to infringe upon China's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

- **May 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Quote:** "The Chinese side has repeatedly elaborated on its principled position on the relevant issue. I'd like to underscore that the U.S. chooses to be mute about a few countries' enduring construction on illegally occupied Chinese islands and reefs, but keeps talking improperly about China's lawful, justified and reasonable normal construction within its own sovereignty. If this is not a habitual application of double standard, then there must be hidden motives behind this. [...] No one else has the right to tell China how to behave. The South China Sea is generally stable. However, a few countries continuously make troubles in the area and provoke China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests at will in order to obtain selfish gains with the encouragement and instigation of some other people. [...] We urge the U.S. side to think twice, take a genuinely responsible attitude, halt all provocative words and deeds and make positive and constructive efforts to safeguard regional peace and stability."



- **May 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** "Q: U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said yesterday that it is the scale of China's land reclamation in the South China Sea that has changed the status quo there. How does China respond?"

A: I wonder what kind of "status quo" the U.S. referred to. If he means the Philippines' and some other countries' illegal occupation of China's Nansha islands and reefs and massive construction since the 1970s by saying "status quo", we do not recognize that as a matter of course. A basic legal principle states that "Ex injuria jus non oritur" (Law does not arise from injustice), accordingly China does not recognize the so-called "status quo" of the Philippines' and some other countries' occupation of relevant Nansha islands and reefs through illegal means. [...] We urge the Philippine side to stop making erroneous remarks and the American side who is not a party to the South China Sea disputes to genuinely take a responsible attitude, be discreet with words and deeds, keep rational and calm, and refrain from any provocative and inflammatory remarks which will only jeopardize regional peace and stability instead of helping with the peaceful settlement of disputes."

- **May 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on U.S. Defense Secretary Carter's Speech Relating to the Issue of the South China Sea at the Shangri-La Dialogue** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

**Quote:** "I would like to make the following six points on the issue of the South China Sea. First, China's sovereignty and relevant claims of rights in the South China Sea have been formed in the long course of history and upheld by successive Chinese governments. This position has adequate historical and legal basis. [...] Second, China's construction work on some garrisoned islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands is totally within China's sovereignty. [...] Third, as a major country, China shoulders more international responsibilities and obligations. [...] Fourth, for a long period of time, there has never been any problem concerning the freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea that all countries are entitled to under the international law. [...] Fifth, China and ASEAN countries have made it clear that the issue of the South China Sea shall be addressed through the 'dual-track approach', which means that relevant disputes shall be resolved by countries directly concerned through negotiation and consultation, and peace and stability of the South China Sea shall be jointly upheld by China and ASEAN countries. [...] Sixth, the U.S. is not a party to the South China Sea issue."



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