

# **Bandages Holding?**

## **July 2015**

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*China and the U.S. emerged from their face to face meetings at the Strategic and Economic Dialogue having agreed on a variety of measures and with promises of future cooperation essentially placing bandages over the wounds that had developed in the relationship over issues such as the territorial disputes in the South China Sea. Some actions this month showed signs of potentially healing the relationship such as the cooperation in concluding the Iranian nuclear deal, and at other times the bandages seemed to provide little relief such as in the realm of cyber security. A new issue has emerged as the Chinese stock market is losing value at a rapid pace and the Chinese government felt compelled to step in to stop the bleeding. Continuing to treat these wounds as well as avoiding self-inflicted injury will be key as President Xi Jinping's state visit to the U.S. approaches. The following summarizes key issue areas emphasized by the U.S. and China during July 2015.*

### **Iranian Nuclear Deal**

Other than the presidential primaries, no issue has been talked about more in the United States than the nuclear deal struck with Iran. Both the Chinese and U.S. governments stated that achieving this deal would be vital to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, as well as national security.<sup>1</sup> The agreement allows for Iran to produce power via a nuclear source but removes the Iranian government's ability to produce material suitable for use in a nuclear weapon. The deal also allows for inspectors to be able to enter Iran in order to inspect the country's nuclear facility with only very short notice.<sup>2</sup> In return for their cooperation at the negotiating tables, the UN sanctions currently in place around Iran will be lifted, however, should the agreement be violated then the U.S. and the UN will be able to bring back the sanctions. Although the Obama administration and the Chinese government both agree that this deal is vital to regional security,

<sup>1</sup> UCR July Issue 2015 – Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8 pg. [29](#), [31](#)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, pg. [32](#)

not all states agree. Israel in particular is unhappy thus causing issues in U.S. domestic politics.<sup>3</sup> Although the deal has caused quite a firestorm in the U.S., China has remained relatively silent and is simply urging both parties to hold up their ends of the bargain.<sup>4</sup>

### **Japan and Escalating Regional Tension**

With the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II approaching, China has escalated its criticism of Japan on several key issues including the proposed new security bill, Japan's position on the dispute in the South China Sea, and remaining historical grievances. China's press echoed the sentiments of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, that the Abe administration's attempts to pass a bill that introduce elements of collective self-defense would push Japan toward a military stance of "active attack," which constitutes a threat to regional security.<sup>5</sup> The press also criticized the Mitsubishi Corporation's apology to U.S. POWs, calling for Mitsubishi and other firms to apologize to other victims of WWII era forced labor policies and other wartime era wrongdoing.<sup>6</sup> China continued to oppose Japan's involvement and stance on the South China Sea and East China Sea disputes, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs calling Japan's accusations against China "groundless."<sup>7</sup> Meanwhile, the U.S. has refrained from officially commenting on Japan's security bill, while reaffirming the importance of the U.S.-Japan military alliance.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Ibid

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, pg. [29](#)

<sup>5</sup> UCR July Issue 2015 – Asia Pacific Issues, Issue 6 pg. [24](#)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, pg. [22](#)

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, pg. [23](#)



### Feud Developing over Cyber Crime

The U.S. considers cyber security to be a top priority in its relations with China. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management, OPM, announced a personal data breach and that the hack affects 21 million Americans. Washington is not yet confident whether or not the OPM breach was backed by Chinese government, was conducted by private Chinese citizens, or even originated in China at all as the FBI continues to investigate.<sup>9</sup> For its part, Chinese spokesperson Hua Chunying called the accusations made in the U.S. “groundless” and called for continuing efforts to setup a “code of conduct in cyberspace and jointly safeguard peace, security, openness and cooperation of the cyber space through enhanced dialogue and cooperation in the spirit of mutual respect.”<sup>10</sup>

### Managing the Stock Market Crisis

The Chinese stock market had lost 30 percent of its value by July 9, 2015, and the Chinese government decided to step in and take action to prevent further losses. The Chinese media paid special attention to justifying the government’s moves by noting that the intervention in the market was “good for the world.”<sup>11</sup> The U.S. government urged the Chinese government to continue its process of moving towards a more market-oriented economy<sup>12</sup> and decided to add to China’s misery by touting its victory in a WTO case that accused China of illegally high duties on imported high-tech steel.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> UCR July Issue 2015 – Military and Security Relations, Issue 3pg. [15](#)

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, pg. [16](#)

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, pg. [17](#)

<sup>12</sup> UCR July Issue 2015 – Economic Relations, Issue 3 pg. [11](#)

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, pg. [12](#)

### Differing Approaches to North Korea

President Obama extended sanctions against North Korea for another year, stressing that North Korea’s nuclear development, policy, and actions are a special threat to the national security of the U.S. In addition, the U.S. pointed out human rights abuse in North Korea saying, “we continue to try to shine a light on the problem.”<sup>14</sup> The U.S. also stated that the Iran nuclear deal that was recently concluded proves there is a possibility of negotiating with North Korea. On the other hand, China stated the U.S. should try to improve relations with North Korea, and this will help restore the Six-Party talks and quickly settle the North Korea nuclear problem.<sup>15</sup> Also, China noted that the China-DPRK friendship “will leave an indelible mark on history” while noting the anniversary of the armistice that halted the Korean War.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> UCR July Issue 2015 – Korean Peninsula, Issue 7 pg. [26](#)

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, pg. [27](#)

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*



1. U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: U.S. Looks Towards Upcoming State Visit by President Xi Jinping; China Warns U.S. Against Continued Exaggerations of the China Threat, Disapproves of U.S. Engagement with the Dalai Lama

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 7, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 28, 2015 – Readout of the President’s Call with Chinese President Xi Jinping</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• July 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Remarks on US President’s Senior Adviser Jarrett’s Attendance at Dalai’s “Birthday Celebrations”</li> <li>• July 20, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i> : Reckless Rivalry May Unsettle Asia-Pacific</li> <li>• July 22, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i> : For China and U.S., Spats Are Better than Fights</li> <li>• July 27, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: TPP’s Geopolitical Leverage May Be Inflated</li> </ul>

2. Economic Relations: U.S. Touts Victories at the WTO, Urges China to Make Reforms to its Stock Market; China Emphasizes the Need for Government Intervention in Stock Market Crisis, Talks Up AIIB and BRICS NDB

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 1, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 8, 2015 – Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 19, 2015 – U.S Led Effort Reaches ‘Major Breakthrough’ to Expand Information Technology Agreement</li> <li>• July 24, 2015 – U.S. Leads WTO Partners in Clinching Landmark Expansion of Information Technology Agreement</li> <li>• July 31, 2015 – U.S. Wins Trade Enforcement Challenge to China’s Duties on Steel</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 1, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• July 1, 2015 – Speech by H.E. Li Keqiang Premier of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China At the OECD Headquarters</li> <li>• July 2, 2015 – Li Keqiang Delivers Speech at OECD, Stressing the Focus on Development for Common Prosperity and Promotion of Mutual Benefits and Multi-win Results Through International Cooperation in Production Capacity</li> <li>• July 6, 2014 – <i>China Daily</i> : Stock Market Interference Is a Necessary Move</li> <li>• July 7, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce</li> <li>• July 21, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce</li> <li>• July 24, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i> : Stable Chinese Stock Market Good for World</li> <li>• July 24, 2015 – Video Message by Foreign Minister Wang Yi At the Launch Ceremony of The Report on China’s Implementation of The Millennium Development Goals</li> <li>• July 24, 2015 – Address by Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong At the Launch Ceremony of the Report on China’s Implementation Of the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015)</li> <li>• July 27, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i> : TPP’s Geopolitical Leverage May Be Inflated</li> <li>• July 30, 2015 – <i>Xinhua</i>: Commentary: TPP Talks Should Bolster WTO’s Core Role in Global Trade Liberalization</li> </ul>



3. Military and Security Relations: U.S. Hints at Involvement of China in OPM Hack; China Denies These Rumors Promotes Enlargement and Cooperation Achieved Through Shanghai Cooperation Organization

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 8, 2015 – Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 10, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 15, Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 24, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 26, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 2, 2015 – Statement by H.E. Li Baodong Vice Foreign Minister of China At the Vilnius Sherpa Meeting of the Nuclear Security Summit 2016</li> <li>• July 5, 2015 – <i>Xinhua</i> : Commentary: New Phone Hacking Scandal Exposes U.S. Hypocrisy, Arrogance</li> <li>• July 7, 2015 – <i>Xinhua</i> : Interview: Closer SCO Anti-terror Cooperation Conducive to Regional Security: Official</li> <li>• July 8, 2015 – <i>Xinhua</i> : Commentary: Bigger SCO Brings Boons, Not Threats, to Int'l Community</li> <li>• July 10, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i> : Cyberspace Rules Should Balance Security and Rights</li> <li>• July 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• July 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on Japan's Issuance of Defense of Japan 2015</li> </ul>

4. Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Continues to Point Out Human Rights Abuses in China Including Detained Family Members of a Reporter with U.S. Citizenship; China Insists Uyghurs Returned to China by Thailand are Illegal Immigrants

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 9, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 10, Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 12, 2015 – U.S. Condemns Detention of Human Rights Defenders in China</li> <li>• July 14, 2015 – Remarks Before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• July 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• July 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on the US State Department's Statement on Thailand's Deportation of Illegal Immigrants to China</li> <li>• July 13, 2015 – Remarks by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying on US President's Senior Adviser Jarrett's Attendance at Dalai's "Birthday Celebrations"</li> <li>• July 20, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: Monk's Death No Excuse for Human Rights Accusations</li> </ul>



## 5. Climate Change and Environmental Issues: Both U.S. and China Take Measures to Curb Carbon Emissions

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 1, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry at the Submission of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (China, R.O.K., Iceland and Serbia) &amp; U.S.-Brazil Climate Cooperation Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 2, 2015 – EPA Finalizes Rule to Reduce Climate-Damaging HFCs</li> <li>• July 22, 2015 – More than 6,500 Buildings Face Off in EPA’s Sixth Annual Energy Star Battle of the Buildings Competition/U.S. commercial buildings in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. race to save energy, water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• July 27, 2015 – FACT SHEET: White House Launches American Business Act on Climate Pledge</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 2, 2014 – <i>China Daily</i>: The Determined Will to Peak Carbon Emissions</li> <li>• July 8, 2015 – Reform and Innovation Is the Inexhaustible Driving Force for Development of Environmental Protection Undertaking</li> <li>• July 14, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: China Deserves Applause for Global Clean-energy Leadership</li> </ul>

## 6. Asia-Pacific Issues: The U.S. Welcomes General Secretary of Vietnam’s Communist Party to Washington, Remains Ambiguous on Japan’s Security Bill; China Strongly Criticizes Japan’s New Security Bill, Defense White Paper, and Inadequate Apologies

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 7, 2015 – United States – Vietnam Joint Vision Statement</li> <li>• July 7, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong of Vietnam</li> <li>• July 13, 2015 – The 10th Anniversary of the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Deal</li> <li>• July 16, 2015 – Remarks by Spokeserpson John Kirby</li> <li>• July 17, 2015 – The Third U.S.-Japan Cyber Dialogue</li> <li>• July 30, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 8, 2014 – <i>China Daily</i>: Commemoration Aims at Real Reconciliation</li> <li>• July 8, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Japan Is Trying to Court Influence in Southeast Asia Through ODA</li> <li>• July 8, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Commemorating 70th Anniversary of Victory of Anti-Japanese War</li> <li>• July 8, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Vietnam-U.S. Bond Less Rosy than it Appears</li> <li>• July 16, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Passage of New Security Bills Is a Dark Stain for Japan</li> <li>• July 16, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Commentary: High-level Interaction to Boost Political Trust Between China, Vietnam</li> <li>• July 17, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i>: Security Bills Signal Offensive Change</li> <li>• July 17, 2015 – Defense Ministry: Japan’s Security Bills Complicates Regional Security Situation</li> <li>• July 20, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: One Belt, One Road’ Could Revitalize Trade in Taiwan and Hong Kong</li> <li>• July 21, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Mitsubishi Materials’ Apology to Forced Laborers Should not be Selective</li> <li>• July 21, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: Top-level Visits to Southeast Asia to Boost China’s Belt and Road Initiative</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on Japan's Issuance of Defense of Japan 2015</li> <li>• July 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on Japan Permitting a Visit by Li Denghui</li> <li>• July 26, 2015 – <i>Xinhua</i> : China Voice: Self-deception Leads Japan to Nowhere</li> <li>• July 30, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i> : Abe's Mudslinging Only Sticks to Him</li> </ul>
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7. Korean Peninsula: U.S. Renews Sanctions on North Korea, Still Waiting for North Korea to Come to the Table; China Holds Track 1.5 Dialogue with South Korea

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 7, Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 10, Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 13, 2014 – Ambassador Catherine Russell To Travel to Asia and Africa</li> <li>• July 16, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby</li> <li>• July 17, 2015 – Written Q&amp;A with Dr. Jill Biden in Vogue Korea</li> <li>• July 23, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Supporters of North Korea's Ocean Maritime Management Company and Updates Sanctions List</li> <li>• July 27, 2015 – Remarks in Seoul, Republic of Korea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• July 23, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i> : US Snub Worsens North Korea Nuclear Issue</li> <li>• July 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on DPRK Top Leader Kim Jong-Un Paying Tribute to Martyrs and Veterans of Chinese People's Volunteer Army</li> </ul>

8. Middle East and Africa: U.S. Focuses on Selling Iranian Nuclear Deal to Domestic Audience and Allies; China Applauds Iranian Nuclear Deal and Urges Western Powers to Hold Up Their End of the Bargain

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 2, 2015 – The United States Urges Dialogue, Announces Additional Suspension of Assistance</li> <li>• July 2, 2015 – Concern about the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen</li> <li>• July 9, 2015 – Updating the EU/P5+1 Ongoing Negotiations With Iran</li> <li>• July 13, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• July 14, 2015 – Press Availability on Nuclear Deal With Iran</li> <li>• July 14, 2015 – Interview With Margaret Brennan of CBS</li> <li>• July 14, 2015 – Interview With James Robbins of BBC</li> <li>• July 14, 2015 – Interview With Christiane Amanpour of CNN</li> <li>• July 15, 2015 – Press Conference by the President</li> <li>• July 17, 2015 - Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest</li> <li>• July 19, 2015 – Face the Nation Transcripts July 19, 2015: Kerry, Moniz, Netanyahu</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 7, 2014 – <i>China Daily</i> : Turkey's Twisted Facts</li> <li>• July 15, 2015 – <i>China Daily</i> : Iran Deal Shows Diplomacy Can Work if Given a Chance</li> <li>• July 15, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i> : Chinese FM Urges Parties Involved to Honor Nuke Deal Promises</li> <li>• July 15, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i> : Iranian Nuclear Deal Set to Increase Trade with China</li> <li>• July 20, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i> : S. African Deputy President's Visit to China Cements Bilateral</li> <li>• July 21, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i> : Diplomacy Still Crucial in Process of Iran Nuclear Deal Implementation</li> <li>• July 21, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i> : Iran Confident in Future of Nuclear Deal</li> <li>• July 27, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i> : Piracy-free Oceans - Myth or Reality?</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 19, 2015 – Media Availability with Secretary Carter En Route to Tel Aviv, Israel</li> <li>• July 19, 2015 – Interview With Jonathan Karl of ABC This Week</li> <li>• July 19, 2015 – Interview With John Dickerson of CBS Face the Nation</li> <li>• July 20, 2015 – Joint Press Conference with Secretary Carter and Minister of Defense Ya'alon in Tel Aviv, Israel</li> <li>• July 21, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson of Secretary Lew's Meeting with Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari</li> <li>• July 21, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Hizballah Leaders, Military Officials, And An Associate In Lebanon</li> <li>• July 22, 2015 – Media Availability With Secretary Carter in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia</li> <li>• July 24, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary Carter at a Troop Event in Erbil, Iraq</li> <li>• July 24, 2015 – Discussion at the Council on Foreign Relations on Iran</li> <li>• July 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Kenyatta of Kenya in a Press Conference</li> <li>• July 26, 2015 - Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes</li> <li>• July 27, 2015 – FACT SHEET: U.S. Support for Peace, Security, and Countering Violent Extremism in Africa</li> <li>• July 28, 2015 – Readout of the President's Call with Chinese President Xi Jinping</li> <li>• July 28, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama to the People of Africa</li> <li>• July 28, 2015 – Iran Nuclear Agreement: The Administration's Case</li> <li>• July 31, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing with Brigadier General Kevin J. Killea, chief of staff, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve via DVIDS from Southwest Asia on Operation Inherent Resolve</li> <li>• July 31, 2015 – Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Trip to Cairo and Doha</li> </ul>	
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9. Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Continues to the Easing of Tensions in the South China Sea; China Refuses Filipino Calls for Arbitration over South China Sea Dispute and Ignores Japanese Demands that it Halt Oil Exploration Efforts

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 2, 2015 - Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 7, Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 21, 2015 – Press Gaggle en route Pittsburgh, PA</li> <li>• July 22, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing</li> <li>• July 30, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Individuals and Entities Involved In Sanctions Evasion Related To Russia and Ukraine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• July 4, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i> : China Urges Japan to Stop Provoking Tensions in South China Sea</li> <li>• July 6, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> </ul>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• July 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference</li> <li>• July 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Remarks on the Philippines' Reinforcing a Military Vessel Illegally "Grounded" on China's Ren'ai Jiao</li> <li>• July 17, 2015 – <i>Xinhua</i>: Time for Manila to End Farce of Arbitration on South China Sea</li> <li>• July 21, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: Swift's South China Sea Flight Can Only Fool Manila</li> <li>• July 21, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: Philippines' Illegal Occupation of Ren'ai Reef Must Be Ended with Determination</li> <li>• July 22, 2015 – Chinese Military Voices Stern Concern Over Japan's New Defense Whitepaper</li> <li>• July 23, 2015 – <i>People's Daily</i>: Sophisticated Diplomacy Needed to Tackle Challenges in South China Sea</li> <li>• July 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on the US Statement about Issues Relating to the Arbitration Unilaterally Initiated by the Philippines</li> <li>• July 27, 2015 – China's Oil and Gas Development in the East China Sea is Justified and Legitimate</li> <li>• July 30, 2015 – Defense Ministry Spokesperson Yang Yujun's regular press conference on July 30, 2015</li> </ul>
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**Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations:** U.S. Looks Towards Upcoming State Visit by President Xi Jinping; China Warns U.S. Against Continued Exaggerations of the China Threat, Disapproves of U.S. Engagement with the Dalai Lama

United States	China
<p>• <b>July 7, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing (State Department)</b>            Quote: “ Q: After the S&amp;ED, you showed the outcomes of the strategic track. And one outcome is that the U.S. and China are going to continue to cooperate on anti-corruption initiatives. Could you explain what specific actions you will take to strengthen the cooperation?</p> <p>A: Well, I mean, I don’t have specific actions to read out to you today. I mean, this was a topic of discussion during the S&amp;ED. I think we both recognize the – a sense of purpose here with respect to corruption. This is not something that, I mean, is new to the discussion between us and the Chinese. And I think we’re – as came out of the S&amp;ED, we’re looking for ways to continue to have a constructive dialogue on anti-corruption measures. We don’t see eye-to-eye with China on every issue, and sometimes even in this realm. But that doesn’t mean that dialogue can’t lead to greater resolution. So, again, I don’t have any specific items to read out to you today. The S&amp;ED just completed a couple of weeks ago. But we’re certainly – it’s in our interest to move forward to work with China on these kinds of issues. Okay?</p> <p>• <b>July 28, 2015 – Readout of the President’s Call with Chinese President Xi Jinping (White House)</b>            Quote: “Both leaders agreed on the fundamental importance of continued U.S.-China cooperation in ensuring the full implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. President Obama reaffirmed that he looks forward to welcoming President Xi to the White House for a State Visit in September.”</p>	<p>• <b>July 3, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>            Quote: “We are dissatisfied with and opposed to some contents of the U.S. report which groundlessly exaggerates the China threat. China has repeatedly elaborated on its position concerning the construction on some maritime features in the South China Sea. The U.S. side should throw away the Cold War mentality, take an unbiased perspective of China’s strategic intention, work together with China to advance the building of the new model of major-country relationship between China and the U.S. following the consensus reached by the two leaders and the spirit of non-confrontation, non-conflicts, mutual respect and win-win cooperation. This is also in the interests of the U.S. itself.”</p> <p>• <b>July 13, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Remarks on US President’s Senior Adviser Jarrett’s Attendance at Dalai’s “Birthday Celebrations” (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>            Quote: “China is strongly dissatisfied with and opposed to U.S. senior official’s engagement with the Dalai Lama in disregard of China’s multiple representations. We urge the U.S. side to honor its commitment of recognizing Tibet as part of China and not supporting “Tibet independence”, make tangible efforts to correct its mistakes and eradicate adverse effects, and stop providing any convenience and support to the “Tibet independence” forces lest China-U.S. relations be disrupted and jeopardized.”</p> <p>• <b>July 20, 2015 – People’s Daily: Radical Reckless Rivalry May Unsettle Asia-Pacific (People’s Daily)</b>            Quote: “It is possible that the next phase of Sino-U.S. competition will be around the advancement of the “One Belt, One Road” strategy. A clear mind is needed before the competition becomes intense. Now, the global economy is still struggling to recover from the prolonged crisis, and everyone is trying their best to avoid getting worse instead of pursuing getting better.”</p>



• **July 22, 2015 – *People's Daily*: For China and U.S., Spats Are Better than Fights**  
([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Their ongoing debate aims at making more people cognizant of the importance of Sino-U.S. relations to the stability and development of China and the U.S., to the peace in the Asia-Pacific region, and to the common destiny for the whole world before Chinese President Xi Jinping's upcoming visit to the U.S."

• **July 27, 2015 – *People's Daily*: TPP's geopolitical leverage may be inflated**  
([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "China's GDP is almost equivalent to all 11 countries combined except for the US in the TPP negotiations. China's economic presence and influence in the Asia-Pacific can neither be ignored nor bypassed. Even the White House is positive toward expanding bilateral trade with Beijing. The days of US dominance over the Asia-Pacific economic map may already be over."



**Issue 2 – U.S. – China Economic Relations:** U.S. Touts Victories at the WTO, Urges China to Make Reforms to its Stock Market; China Emphasizes the Need for Government Intervention in Stock Market Crisis, Talks Up AIIB and BRICS NDB

United States	China
<p>• <b>July 1, 2015 –Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing (State Department)</b>            Quote:“Q: Any comments that – China has brought up 50 countries to set up a new Asia bank, and – including many of them are U.S. close friends, including India, Germany, and other countries. You think this is a challenge to the U.S. and IMF and World Bank?</p> <p>A: The participation of other countries in this are obviously sovereign decisions they have to make. And we’ll just – we’ll see where it goes [...] these are sovereign decisions that these nations have to make. It’s our hope that the same sorts of – same sort of transparency and proper management and good stewardship that is exemplified by the IMF and the World Bank would be replicated in the AIIB.”</p> <p>• <b>July 8, 2015 – Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the Press Briefing (White House)</b>            Quote: “Q: On the Chinese stock market, Secretary Lew said earlier today that he wasn’t worried about the immediate impact but that could sort of slow important financial reforms within China because it could, I guess, keep the Chinese from pivoting towards a more market-based economy. Is there anything that the White House or the federal government is doing to encourage China to continue to take those market reforms despite some of the turbulence in their stock market?</p> <p>A: Well, I’m not aware of any specific conversations that have arisen in the last five or six days that we’ve seen this renewed volatility in the securities markets in China. But it has been a consistent message that’s been delivered by U.S. officials about the importance of these kinds of economic reforms being effectively implemented in China. The United States has – and I believe this is true even of the previous administration – has made the case to China that it’s not just in the best interest of the global economy, it’s actually in the best interests of the Chinese economy for these kinds of reforms to be implemented; that we could actually make some progress in stabilizing the economy over the longer term if they were able to effectively implement these kinds of reforms.”</p>	<p>• <b>July 1, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>            Quote: “The building of the BRICS NDB is meant to support the infrastructure building and sustainable development projects in BRICS countries and other emerging markets and developing countries. It will supplement the existing multilateral and regional development banks in promoting infrastructure building and sustainable development, build a constructive platform for BRICS countries to participate in global economic governance, and make the BRICS countries more influential and vocal in international economic affairs. There is no such thing as a dominant or backseat role played by the AIIB and the BRICS NDB. The two are rather complementing and reinforcing each other, and will make respective contribution to global growth and development.”</p> <p>• <b>July 1, 2015 – Speech by H.E. Li Keqiang Primer of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China At the OECD Headquarters (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>            Quote: “First, it is important to uphold the environment for peaceful development. Peace is the number one guarantee for development, without which nothing could be accomplished [...] Second, it is important to step up structural reform [...] To encourage mass entrepreneurship and innovation, the Chinese government has taken measures to streamline administration, delegate power, strengthen regulation and improve services [...] Third, it is important to carry out global cooperation on production capacity. Since the outbreak of the international financial crisis, some countries have taken a QE policy, which was necessary to forestall an economic recession. But to ensure strong growth of the world economy, it is imperative to adopt multiple measures to support the real economy [...] The idea involves advanced technology and equipment from developed countries, localized production and assembly in developing countries as well as financing cooperation with international financial institutions.”</p>



• **July 19, 2015 – U.S Led Effort Reaches ‘Major Breakthrough’ to Expand Information Technology Agreement** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “We are very pleased with the breakthrough reached today in Geneva to expand the Information Technology Agreement (ITA). This will open overseas markets for some of America’s most competitive companies and workers,” said U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman. ‘Building on the agreement between President Obama and President Xi last November, the United States led efforts to broker compromises among the other parties to find the path forward toward a final agreement. We are confident that all parties will now give formal approval to their participation in what would be the first tariff-elimination deal at the WTO in 18 years.”

• **July 24, 2015 – U.S. Leads WTO Partners in Clinching Landmark Expansion of Information Technology Agreement** ([Office of the U.S. Trade Representative](#))

Quote: “The United States and nearly 50 partners at the World Trade Organization (WTO) have finalized a landmark expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA) that will generate economic growth by phasing out hundreds of tariffs on information technology exports all over the world. [...] In November 2014, President Obama and President Xi of China came together in a key bilateral breakthrough that brought closure of the ITA negotiations in Geneva within striking distance. Then, this summer, during the latest negotiating round, the United States led efforts to broker compromises among the parties to find the path forward toward a final agreement – making critical progress last week.”

• **July 31, 2015 – U.S. Wins Trade Enforcement Challenge to China’s Duties on Steel** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “U.S. Trade Representative Michael Froman announced today that the United States has prevailed in a WTO challenge to China’s compliance actions following WTO findings in 2012, that China’s duties on high-tech steel were inconsistent with WTO rules – duties that contributed to over \$250 million in annual export losses for American steel exporters. This compliance challenge was the first time any WTO Member had initiated a WTO proceeding to challenge a claim by China that it had complied with adverse WTO findings.”

• **July 2, 2015 – Li Keqiang Delivers Speech at OECD, Stressing the Focus on Development for Common Prosperity and Promotion of Mutual Benefits and Multi-win Results Through International Cooperation in Production Capacity** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China is willing to combine its own equipment with the demand of developing countries and the advantages of developed countries to promote international cooperation in production capacity. China will not only adopt the advanced technical equipment of developed countries and conduct production and assembly locally for the developing countries, but also cooperate with financing institutions in financing to provide energy-saving and environmentally-friendly equipment of high quality and low price, production capacity and guaranteed financial service for the global market, which will not only improve the industrial level of developing countries, but also force the upgrading of China's equipment industry and other industries, and drive the export of key technologies and originality of the developed countries, thus realizing triple-win results.”

• **July 6, 2014 – China Daily: Stock Market Interference is a Necessary Move** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Necessary as interference is, it will have to be temporary. It should not constitute a reversion in the market-oriented reform that China has maintained for the past 30 some years. The stock market has a healthy role to play. Only, rules have to be clear and effective to prevent irresponsible risk-taking - under a more capable industry regulator.”

• **July 7, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “In June 23-24, during the period of the 7th Round of China-U.S. Strategic and Economic Dialogue, both sides agreed to continue to positively promote the China-U.S. Investment Agreement Negotiations. In this round of negotiations, both sides used the word “milestone” to describe the significant progress of the first exchange of the negative list bid and agreed to exchange the bid in the early September this year again.”



• **July 21, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “Q: Could you update us on China-U.S. province-state cooperation? For example, what mechanisms are put up? What role will they play? What measures will be introduced moving forward?”

A: [...] China-U.S. province-state and inter-city commercial cooperation holds great significance for deepening China-U.S. commercial relations, expanding common interests, furthering interest integration, and enriching the substance of the new model of major country relationship between China and the US.”

• **July 24, 2015 – China Daily: Stable Chinese Stock Market Good for World** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “As the world holds its breath over Greece struggling out of its debt crisis, a runaway fall in the Chinese stock market valued at 10 times the total Greek gross domestic product would have led to undesirable consequences.”

• **July 24, 2015 – Video Message by Foreign Minister Wang Yi At the Launch Ceremony of The Report on China’s Implementation of The Millennium Development Goals** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The world today is not tranquil. Local turbulences and conflicts are emerging now and then; global economic recovery remains a daunting task; and various new challenges keep cropping up. Only through development can we address the myriad problems confronting our world and meet the simple yet ardent aspiration of our people. The development cause of mankind must keep moving forward, rather than go backward. This year is the Year of Development.”

• **July 24, 2015 – Address by Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong At the Launch Ceremony of the Report on China’s Implementation Of the Millennium Development Goals (2000-2015)** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China is still a developing country working toward the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and achieving sustainable development. Ahead of us is a long journey beset with many difficulties. To achieve this goal, the Chinese government is making relentless efforts to deepen reform on all fronts, advance the rule of law and finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. At the same time, China stands ready to fulfill its due international obligations and continue to help other developing countries to the best of its ability.”



• **July 27, 2015 – *People's Daily* : TPP's Geopolitical Leverage May Be Inflated** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "In asking how much influence the TPP will have on trade patterns in the Asia-Pacific region, the answer does not depend entirely on the deal itself. What happens in the realm of global trade depends on a variety of practical factors, especially the irreplaceable role of 'interests.' All Asia-Pacific nations are striving to maximize their own national interests, yet no single multilateral or bilateral trade deal can meet these needs. Therefore, one country will simultaneously join different trading systems to gain as much benefit as possible. Although U.S. President Barack Obama has said that 'if we don't write the rules, China will write the rules out in that region,' it is still hard to say whether the TPP will thus become a new U.S. tool of geopolitical competition against China. But one thing is certain, most of the other 11 nations that are negotiating with Washington over the TPP have no interest in this regard. China is now promoting the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP), and has already signed bilateral free trade deals with South Korea and Australia. In the meantime, Australia is also crucial to the TPP negotiations. It shows the universal mentality of countries in the Asia-Pacific - all potential interests are welcome."

• **July 30, 2015 – *Xinhua* : Commentary: TPP Talks Should Bolster WTO's Core Role in Global Trade Liberalization** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: "While it is understandable that countries, frustrated by the long-stalled Doha round of global trade talks, have turned their attention to various initiatives to set up regional FTAs, it is worth noting that the WTO's central role in global trade liberalization should be maintained. The apparent possible defects aside, the TPP arguably represents so far the closest try to establish a FTA in the geographically vast and culturally diverse Asia-Pacific region, and it offers hope, and possibly wisdom, to revive the Doha round negotiations."



**Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations:** U.S. Hints at Involvement of China in OPM Hack; China Denies These Rumors Promotes Enlargement and Cooperation Achieved Through Shanghai Cooperation Organization

United States	China
<p>• <b>July 8, 2015 – Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest at the Press Briefing (White House)</b></p> <p>Quote: “Q: So how confident is the administration that it now has a handle on the hacking? Do you know who did it [the OPM hack]?”</p> <p>A: Well, at this point, Bill, our investigators are continuing to work on this. [...] I would anticipate that there would be additional information made available soon about what we know about some of the cyber breaches that have been experienced over at the Office of Personnel Management.</p> <p>Q: Do you still think it’s the Chinese who are responsible?</p> <p>A: I know that there are some who speculated on who may be responsible at this point. I’m not willing to do that. But I will note that there have been other incidents of inappropriate cyber activity that we have attributed to the Chinese. We have freely acknowledged that just about every time the President meets with his counterpart, and when other U.S. officials meet with their Chinese counterparts, that the issue of China’s conduct in cyberspace is one that we routinely raise.”</p> <p>• <b>July 10, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner at the Daily Press Briefing (State Department)</b></p> <p>Quote: “I would just say, more broadly speaking, that obviously, cyber security is a much more urgent issue between countries like the U.S. and China, but frankly, countries around the world, because it affects, obviously, security, but also business-to-business relationships and the investment climate – all that thing is tied into it. But in terms of – again, I don’t want to get out in front of the investigation into this latest breach and conjecture on what might be done and how that might work. It’s just a – that’s – it’s in the FBI’s hands now. They’re investigating it and – so I’m going to stop there.”</p>	<p>• <b>July 2, 2015 – Statement by H.E. Li Baodong Vice Foreign Minister of China At the Vilnius Sherpa Meeting of the Nuclear Security Summit 2016 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b></p> <p>Quote: “Guided by the nuclear security approach initiated by President Xi Jinping, China will continue to take an active part in international nuclear security affairs, and work with all parties to ensure the success of the Summit [...] Regarding the United Nations action plan under discussion, China supports the United Nations to continuously play an important role in strengthening global nuclear security. The current draft in general reflects the main work of United Nations in this sphere, and could serve as a good basis for discussion. Meanwhile, we are of the view that this action plan should be conducive to enhancing the effectiveness and universality of International Convention of Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, promoting full implementation of the Security Council Resolution 1540, and should avoid creating new obligations for participating states. As for the specific actions included there within, full consideration should be given to different conditions of each nation with due respect to its sovereignty.”</p> <p>• <b>July 5, 2015 – Xinhua : Commentary: New Phone Hacking Scandal Exposes U.S. Hypocrisy, Arrogance (Xinhua)</b></p> <p>Quote: “Repeated wiretapping scandals have indicated that Washington has never treated anyone as a true friend, not even its allies: probably they are merely chess pieces for Uncle Tom to maintain its global supremacy. Using the Internet and the most advanced technologies it has developed, Washington has gained access to a lot of private and classified information. Sadly, it has abused the advantage it has gained over other countries through its sophisticated spying and hacking programs.”</p> <p>• <b>July 7, 2015 – Xinhua : Interview: Closer SCO Anti-terror Cooperation Conducive to Regional Security: Official (Xinhua)</b></p> <p>Quote: “Closer anti-terror cooperation among the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) boosts common security in related regions, the chief of the bloc’s anti-terror agency has said. [...] The upcoming 15th meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the SCO is of great significance for the SCO’s development as leaders of its members states are expected to discuss the blueprint for cooperation, formulate future development strategies and adopt a series of important documents, Zhang said.”</p>





• **July 15, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote: “Q: I have a China-related question about Micron Technologies and the potential for a takeover by a firm backed by the Chinese state. Does the United States see any national security issue with such a takeover of a major technology firm by a company backed by the Chinese state?”

A: I – well, I’m not sure I understand or I’m familiar with the case you’re talking about. So without addressing that specifically, we’ve long made our concerns over cyberspace with China – we’ve long made those concerns well known. When they were here a few weeks ago for the Strategic & Economic Dialogue, cyber was certainly on the agenda. This is an area where we don’t always agree with the Chinese. But certainly, with respect to both the security and the economic sectors, cyber activity was very much a part of the discussion. And we’re going to continue, as we said we would at the end of those couple of days, continue to engage the Chinese on our concerns. But I don’t have anything specific with respect to this case you’re talking about.”

• **July 24, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner at the Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote: “Q: There are some reports about the FBI looking into tens if not more cases of Chinese espionage on corporate entities here in the U.S. Can you – just broadly, how concerned are you that China seems to have ramped up its level of corporate espionage?”

A: I actually can’t speak to those reports. I’d refer you to the FBI. We talk to China about many different issues, including stronger economic ties and trade, and the need for transparency, both for businesses operating in China and certainly Chinese companies operating here. But I don’t have anything specifically to address the allegations of corporate espionage. I just don’t.”

• **July 8, 2015 – Xinhua : Commentary: Bigger SCO Brings Boons, Not Threats, to Int’l Community (Xinhua)**

Quote: “The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is growing in size, but a larger SCO means more boons, not threats, to the international community. [...] A decision on starting procedures for India and Pakistan to join the bloc as full members is scheduled to be adopted at the meeting, signifying the official beginning of the SCO’s expansion, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cheng Guoping said Monday. [...] Thanks to the member states’ achievements through cooperation, the SCO appeal is growing. Many countries have shown interest in joining the bloc, appreciating its philosophy of mutual trust and mutual benefit. With its expansion, the bloc will provide a platform for broader economic and security cooperation within the Eurasian region and help make the world more stable and prosperous.[...] Thus, the SCO is solely a platform for cooperation that is focused on its own development and never targets any third party. A bigger SCO will play a bigger role in the world and take more responsibility for global stability and prosperity.”

• **July 10, 2015 – China Daily : Cyberspace Rules Should Balance Security and Rights (China Daily)**

Quote: “Cyber sovereignty advocates will endorse it [the proposed law]; because from their perspective, it bestows on domestic authorities ample latitude to do whatever they deem necessary for national sovereignty. For this country, sovereignty is unquestionable, nonnegotiable.”

• **July 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “Q: Recently there are allegations from Washington that Chinese hackers are responsible for security hackings into the US Office of Personnel Management. What is China’s comment?”

A: We have stated the Chinese government’s principle and position on the issue of cyber security many times. All parties should adopt a constructive attitude on this issue. It is imperative to stop groundless accusations, step up consultations to formulate an international code of conduct in cyberspace and jointly safeguard peace, security, openness and cooperation of the cyber space through enhanced dialogue and cooperation in the spirit of mutual respect.



• **July 26, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Q : DNI Clapper said over the weekend that failing to call out the guilty parties (OPM data breach), i.e. China or some entity in China, may lead to more of this kind of thing. Why have you not called out China or some entity in China? Why have you not considered pursuing criminal charges?”

A: As it relates to attribution, our investigators, our national security professionals will make the decision about whether or not it is in the best interest of our national security and in the best interest of the ongoing investigation to disclose who we actually believe is responsible for this particular matter. And so at this point, they have concluded that it’s not in our interest to do that, but if that changes we’ll obviously let you know.”

• **July 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on Japan's Issuance of Defense of Japan 2015** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The new defense white paper of Japan once again ignores facts, makes irresponsible remarks on China’s normal military growth and maritime activities, deliberately plays up the “China threat” and stirs up tensions. China is strongly dissatisfied with and opposed to this [...] China is committed to a path of peaceful development and national defense policy that is defensive in nature. China’s strategic intentions are transparent. China’s development of defense capacity is justified and poses no threat to any other country. China is devoted to promoting China-Japan friendship and developing bilateral ties based on the four political documents signed by China and Japan. The Japanese side must stop misleading the Japanese people or installing barriers for the improvement of bilateral ties.”



**Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues:** U.S. Continues to Point Out Human Rights Abuses in China Including Detained Family Members of a Reporter with U.S. Citizenship; China Insists Uyghurs Returned to China by Thailand are Illegal Immigrants

United States	China
<p>• <b>July 9, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing (State Department)</b>            Quote: “We condemn Thailand’s forced deportation of over – today of over 100 ethnic Uyghurs to China, where they could face harsh treatment and a lack of due process. And we are concerned for the welfare of these individuals. We’ve expressed our grave disappointment to Thailand, and we urge Thai authorities as well as authorities in other countries where Uyghurs have taken refuge not to carry out any further forcible deportations. We also urge Chinese authorities to uphold international human rights norms with regard to these individuals who have been returned to China and to ensure transparency, due process, and the safety and proper treatment of these individuals. We also likewise condemn the violent attacks against the Thai honorary consulate in Istanbul, and we urge all parties to peacefully express their views.”</p> <p>• <b>July 10, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner at the Daily Press Briefing (State Department)</b>            Quote: “Q: There is a U.S. citizen who works for Radio Free Asia. He has family still in the Uighur part of western China. Three of his brothers have now been arrested. One was supposed to go on trial today. It appears that the Chinese Government is trying to make him stop reporting on human rights abuses in western China by harassing his family. What has the U.S. Government said to Beijing about the harassment of the Hoshur family, including the arrests of his three brothers?”</p> <p>A: Yes, his brothers have been detained and other family members have been harassed in apparent retribution for Mr. Hoshur’s reporting.</p> <p>Q: What is particularly worrisome is that Mr. Hoshur is a U.S. citizen, and none of his relatives have U.S. citizenship, and it appears that he may have relinquished his Chinese citizenship. It is worrisome, as a journalist now, that if another government doesn’t like what you are doing, that they can come after your family. Has the U.S. expressed concerns to China about that?</p> <p>A: No, absolutely. And if I didn’t come across – if that didn’t come across in my response then I apologize. But no, absolutely we’ve said that this is – we recognize this is in apparent retribution for his reporting, and we urge the Chinese authorities to allow him to do his work and to stop the harassment of his family.”</p>	<p>• <b>July 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>            Quote: “Q: According to media report, it has been confirmed by Thailand that more than 100 illegal Uyghur immigrants were deported back to China from Thailand. Could you confirm that? What punishment will these Uyghurs receive?”</p> <p>A: Illegal immigration disrupts normal international order of exit and entry and undermines the common interests of the international community. A consensus has already been reached by the international community on combating illegal immigration. China is committed to strengthening international cooperation to safeguard international and regional security and stability. China’s policies on illegal emigrants are clear and consistent.”</p> <p>• <b>July 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>            Quote: “For a period of time, China and Thailand have found that some Chinese citizens of ethnic minority groups went to Thailand through various channels and illegally stayed there. Collaborative investigation shows that those people are illegal smugglers and immigrants. Illegal smuggling and immigration by holding falsified passports or by other means is a universally-acknowledged crime [...] The deportation of these illegal smugglers agreed by China and Thailand according to relevant international conventions and bilateral cooperation treaties is normal cooperation between countries on combating illegal smuggling and immigration.”</p>



• **July 12, 2015 – U.S. Condemns Detention of Human Rights Defenders in China** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Over the last few days we have noted with growing alarm reports that Chinese public security forces have systematically detained individuals who share the common attribute of peacefully defending the rights of others, including those who lawfully challenge official policies. We are deeply concerned that the broad scope of the new National Security Law is being used as a legal facade to commit human rights abuses. We strongly urge China to respect the rights of all of its citizens and to release all those who have recently been detained for seeking to protect the rights of Chinese citizens.”

• **July 14, 2015 – Remarks Before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “On the first topic, the Obama Administration believes that resuming dialogue between the Chinese government and the Dalai Lama would provide the best hope for alleviating tensions in Tibetan areas and would contribute to the overall stability of China. We are increasingly concerned about the more than five years that have lapsed since the last round of such discussions. When President Obama invited the Dalai Lama to the White House in February 2014, he stressed the benefits of renewed dialogue and expressed support for the Dalai Lama’s “Middle Way” approach. Pursuant to the “Middle Way,” the Dalai Lama has repeatedly clarified that he does not seek independence for Tibet, but instead wants China to ensure the preservation of Tibet’s cultural heritage through genuine autonomy within the People’s Republic of China. While the United States has also consistently voiced respect for Chinese sovereignty, we have repeatedly expressed concern about China’s repression of the Tibetan people and culture as well as the horrific self-immolations that reflect the desperation of many Tibetans. To enhance long-term stability within Tibetan areas, we continue to urge the Chinese government to resume direct dialogue, without preconditions, with the Dalai Lama or his representatives.”

• **July 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Remarks on the U.S. State Department’s Statement on Thailand’s Deportation of Illegal Immigrants to China** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The U.S. statement, in disregard of the facts and full with political prejudice, is a connivance of illegal immigration and smuggling and also a violation of relevant international conventions and laws. China hereby voices strong dissatisfaction with and opposition to this, and has lodged solemn representations with the U.S. We urge the U.S. side to take a right perspective on China’s efforts to combat illegal immigration, stop making erroneous remarks, and take tangible moves to maintain the sound and steady development of China-U.S. relationship.”

• **July 13, 2015 – Remarks by Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying on US President’s Senior Adviser Jarrett’s Attendance at Dalai’s “Birthday Celebrations”** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China is strongly dissatisfied with and opposed to US senior official’s engagement with the Dalai Lama in disregard of China’s multiple representations. We urge the US side to honor its commitment of recognizing Tibet as part of China and not supporting “Tibet independence”, make tangible efforts to correct its mistakes and eradicate adverse effects, and stop providing any convenience and support to the “Tibet independence” forces lest China-US relations be disrupted and jeopardized.”

• **July 20, 2015 – People’s Daily: Monk’s death no excuse for human rights accusations** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China is making continuous progress in human rights protection. The public also has higher requirement over the rule of law. Authorities have been more scrupulous in dealing with sensitive cases, for example, making distinctions between making politically provocative speech and actually committing a crime. Meanwhile, it is clearer to the Chinese public that human rights is a political tool for the West to maliciously intervene in Chinese internal affairs or use as leverage to bargain with Chinese government.”



<b>Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: Both U.S. and China Take Measures to Curb Carbon Emissions</b>	
<b>United States</b>	<b>China</b>
<p>• <b>July 1, 2015 - Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry at the Submission of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (China, R.O.K., Iceland and Serbia) &amp; U.S.-Brazil Climate Cooperation Press Briefing</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>) Quote: “Leaders from around the world are signaling loud and clear that taking action to address climate change is a top priority. As an important step, China, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, and Iceland all formally submitted their greenhouse gas emissions targets this week to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Just last week, I convened the U.S.-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue with Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew, during which cooperation on climate change was a key area of discussion. China’s submission this week delivers on those discussions and the commitment made during our historic joint announcement on climate change last November. Our two Presidents stood together then – as leaders of the world’s two largest economies – and pledged to take decisive steps to combat the global threat we know we can’t wait any longer to address.”</p> <p>• <b>July 2, 2015 – EPA Finalizes Rule to Reduce Climate-Damaging HFCs</b> (<a href="#">Environmental Protection Agency</a>) Quote: “Today’s action delivers on the President’s Climate Action Plan and the administration’s commitment to acting on climate. And it is in line with steps leading businesses are already taking to reduce and replace HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons) with safer, climate-friendly alternatives,” said EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy. “This rule will not only reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions, but also encourage greater use and development of the next generation of safer HFC alternatives.”</p> <p>• <b>July 22, 2015 – More than 6,500 Buildings Face Off in EPA’s Sixth Annual Energy Star Battle of the Buildings Competition/U.S. commercial buildings in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. race to save energy, water and reduce greenhouse gas emissions</b> (<a href="#">Environmental Protection Agency</a>) Quote: “Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched the 2015 Energy Star Battle of the Buildings. Nationwide, more than 6,500 buildings and 125 teams are competing to reduce their energy and water use. In support of President Obama’s Climate Action Plan, which calls for businesses to cut waste and become 20 percent more energy efficient by 2020, the competition targets wasted energy in commercial buildings and motivates organizations to improve energy efficiency, reduce harmful carbon pollution and save money.”</p>	<p>• <b>July 2, 2014 – <i>China Daily</i>: The Determined Will to Peak Carbon Emissions</b> (<a href="#">China Daily</a>) Quote: “And while it is true China is the world’s biggest carbon emitter, it is far behind the United States when it comes to historical accumulation. In addition, since China is the world’s biggest manufacturer and exports consumer goods to all over the world, it is shouldering more of the carbon-producing sectors for the benefit of others.”</p> <p>• <b>July 8, 2015 – Reform and innovation is the inexhaustible driving force for development of environmental protection undertaking</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Environmental Protection</a>) Quote: “The third plenary session of the 18th CPC Central Committee specifically proposed that in an effort to develop ecological civilization, we must establish a systematic and complete set of ecological civilization systems and implement the toughest source protection system. The “Opinions on Accelerating the Promotion of Ecological Progress”, which was released by the CPC Central Committee and the State Council a while ago, also required expediting the establishment of a systematic and complete set of ecological civilization institutions, directing, regulating, and restricting assorted activities in development, utilization, and conservation of natural resources, and protecting the ecological environment with institutional systems.”</p> <p>• <b>July 14, 2015 – <i>People’s Daily</i>: China deserves applause for global clean-energy leadership</b> (<a href="#">People’s Daily</a>) Quote: “A major milestone in efforts to combat climate change will come in six months at the COP 21 climate negotiations in Paris. As these talks approach, Chinese officials are among those leading the push to decouple economic growth from greenhouse-gas emissions. Indeed, China has already helped show the world that such a decoupling is possible [...] China is already the undisputed global leader in clean energy, having invested more than any other nation in renewables. China in 2014 spent over \$80 billion in new renewables generating capacity, more than the European Union (\$46 billion), more than Japan (\$37 billion) and more than the United States (\$34 billion).”</p>



• **July 27, 2015 – FACT SHEET: White House Launches American Business Act on Climate Pledge** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: "Climate change is a global challenge that demands a global response, and President Obama is committed to leading the fight. The President's Climate Action Plan, when fully implemented, will cut nearly 6 billion tons of carbon pollution through 2030, an amount equivalent to taking all the cars in the United States off the road for more than 4 years. And while the United States is leading on the international stage and the federal government is doing its part to combat climate change, hundreds of private companies, local governments, and foundations have stepped up to increase energy efficiency, boost low-carbon investing, and make solar energy more accessible to low-income Americans. [...] The American Business Act on Climate Pledge shows that the U.S. private sector, with its history of innovation and ingenuity, is committed to stepping up and doing its part in taking on this global challenge. "



**Issue 6 – Asia-Pacific Issues:** The U.S. Welcomes General Secretary of Vietnam’s Communist Party to Washington, Remains Ambiguous on Japan’s Security Bill; China Strongly Criticizes Japan’s New Security Bill, Defense White Paper, and Inadequate Apologies

United States	China
<p>• <b>July 7, 2015 – United States – Vietnam Joint Vision Statement</b> (<a href="#">White House</a>) Quote: “The United States and Vietnam have made numerous significant accomplishments since the formation of the United States – Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership in 2013. In particular, there has been continued rapid growth in bilateral trade and investment; the entry into force of the “123” Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy; Vietnam’s endorsement of the Proliferation Security Initiative’s Statement of Interdiction Principles; the easing of U.S. restriction of arms sales; the signing of the Joint Vision Statement on Defense Relations; and increased cooperation on regional and multilateral issues [...] Strengthening political and diplomatic relations, increasing exchanges at high levels, and expanding bilateral consultations to continue to build trust and improve cooperation remain priorities for both the United States and Vietnam, as are enhancing economic, trade, and investment cooperation and deepening cooperation in science and technology, education, training, health, environment, and law enforcement.”</p> <p>• <b>July 7, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong of Vietnam</b> (<a href="#">White House</a>) Quote: “Obviously, there has been a difficult history between our two countries in the 20th century. And there continue to be significant differences in political philosophy and political systems between our two countries. But because, I think, of the efforts of leaders in both parties here in the United States, as well as the leadership in Vietnam over successive years, what we’ve seen is the emergence of a constructive relationship that is based on mutual respect, and that has benefitted the peoples of both countries. Already in the last two years alone, we’ve made significant progress on deepening our cooperation in the areas of education, science, technology, climate change, public health, as well as security issues. And this was an excellent opportunity for us to deepen our discussions around our vision for a comprehensive partnership.”</p> <p>• <b>July 13, 2015 – The 10th Anniversary of the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Deal</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>) Quote: “I’m convinced the United States and India can and will deliver a better life for future generations. I believe we will see a day when businesses in the United States and India can reap the benefits of a high-standard Bilateral Investment Treaty. I believe we will see the day when India will be accepted into APEC, and meet the standards of the world’s most progressive trade pacts.”</p>	<p>• <b>July 8, 2014 – China Daily: Commemoration Aims at Real Reconciliation</b> (<a href="#">China Daily</a>) Quote: “The need for reconciliation after a seven decade-old war may sound anachronistic. Yet, given the stubbornness with which Japanese right-wing politicians have sought to whitewash, if not defend, their country’s role in the war over the years, a rapprochement between Japan and its Asian neighbors has remained elusive.”</p> <p>• <b>July 8, 2015 – People’s Daily: Japan is Trying to Court Influence in Southeast Asia Through ODA</b> (<a href="#">People’s Daily</a>) Quote: “Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged 750 billion yen (\$6.1 billion) in financial aid to the “Mekong Five” countries that include Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam at the Japan-Mekong summit held in Tokyo over the weekend [...] This move comes amid China’s active efforts to promote the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), which Japan sees as a challenge to the Asian Development Bank led by itself. In recent years, the deteriorating Sino-Japanese relations have overshadowed Japanese investment in China and bilateral trade. With some other factors such as China’s rising labor costs and the devaluation of the yen, Japan has looked to the ASEAN nations for investment opportunities.”</p> <p>• <b>July 8, 2015 – People’s Daily: Commemorating 70th Anniversary of Victory of Anti-Japanese War</b> (<a href="#">People’s Daily</a>) Quote: “This year is the 70th anniversary of the victory of the War of Chinese People’s Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War [...] The Pacific battle of World War II began in China, and finally ended in China. The War of Chinese People’s Resistance against Japanese Aggression is an accomplished part of the world anti-fascist war. In terms of building a variety of regional security mechanisms and actively participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations, China has more personnel and stays active on the international stage.”</p>



• **July 16, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Any comment for the first time in 60 years that now Japanese parliament is considering a defense bill or security bill and there’s – there are demonstrations in Japan, throughout Japan against it? And that means –

A: Yeah. Well, look, I talked about this yesterday. I mean, this is a democracy. And in a democracy people are allowed to express their views, whether they’re favorable or not favorable against a lot of government actions. We aren’t going to comment on draft legislation in the Japanese Government. That would be completely inappropriate. What I said yesterday I’ll say again today: Japan is an important ally in the region and a long friend, and we are always interested in looking for ways to improve our partnership and cooperation, particularly on the defense side of things, as we did with working through these new guidelines.”

• **July 17, 2015 – The Third U.S.-Japan Cyber Dialogue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “This dialogue follows Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s recent visit to Washington in April 2015, during which both the United States and Japan reaffirmed their commitment to working together “to ensure the safe and stable use of cyber space based on the free flow of information and an open internet.” Officials from relevant ministries and agencies of the two governments will discuss wide-ranging bilateral cooperation on cyber issues, including critical infrastructure protection, capacity building, cybercrime, national security issues in cyberspace, and our common approach in relevant international venues. This dialogue is expected to further deepen our shared understanding of our respective organizations, policies, and operational architectures, as well as identify additional opportunities to strengthen bilateral cooperation mechanisms going forward.”

• **July 30, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Generally speaking, we want to see our strong bilateral relations with Japan continue to be strengthened going forward. We believe they’re on the path to do so. And this is a relationship that’s obviously been pivotal to the peace and stability of the Asia Pacific region, and we continue to want to grow those ties. And speaking more narrowly to your question about the role of these kinds of foundations and the work that they do in terms of fostering people-to-people growth, exchanges, and interaction – absolutely that work is vital, not just specifically to U.S. and Japan, but all around the world. So we do believe that that kind of work is vital to growing a really healthy bilateral relationship.”

• **July 8, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Vietnam-U.S. bond less rosy than it appears** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Deep inside, Vietnam wants to move closer to the U.S., while holding back somewhat, hence it is unlikely to completely embrace the U.S. as the Philippines does [...] The closer ties between Vietnam and the U.S. are partly aimed at China, which will entail countermeasures from China. This will bring pressure on the three sides, but as it evolves, Vietnam may become the one that suffers most.”

• **July 16, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Passage of New Security Bills is a Dark Stain for Japan** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Though they still need to be debated at the upper house, the bills will very probably be enacted because the ruling bloc dominates both houses. The reason the controversial bills have been generating domestic protests and concerns abroad, including in China and the Republic of Korea, is that once adopted, the legislation will allow the SDF to engage in armed conflict overseas, even if Japan is not under attack [...] Only by sending positive signals that it is on the path of peaceful development can Japan find itself secure.”

• **July 16, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Commentary: High-level interaction to boost political trust between China, Vietnam** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China and Vietnam will see a fresh impetus injected into bilateral ties as frequent high-level exchanges of visits will further boost political trust. Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli kicked off an official visit to Vietnam on Thursday at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [...] The latest stroke of top-level diplomacy between Beijing and Hanoi sends out a clear message that frequent exchanges and deepened understanding will definitely cement the development of China-Vietnam relations.”

• **July 17, 2015 – *China Daily*: Security Bills Signal Offensive Change** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “Abe’s ambition to cultivate a more “aggressive” Japan has also invoked deep concerns among its neighbors, China and South Korea included, and will only undermine efforts to repair ties. Abe should also be reminded that his security bills are unpopular among his own countrymen. The majority of Japanese do not want to see Japan being dragged into conflicts around the globe, which means a growing defense budget and more pressure on the Japanese economy.”





• **July 17, 2015 – Defense Ministry: Japan's Security Bills Complicates Regional Security Situation** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: "The new security bills are essentially war bills in peace clothing, marking the important transition of Japan from 'exclusive defense' to 'active attack' [...] Owing to historical reasons, Japan's neighbors in Asia and international community are paying high attention to the adjustment of Japan's security policies, and China urges Japan to draw lessons from history, adhere to the path of peaceful development and act prudently in the field of military security, the office pointed out, emphasizing that China will firmly safeguard territorial sovereignty and security interests and pay close attention to Japan's next move."

• **July 20, 2015 – People's Daily: Radical 'One Belt, One Road' Could Revitalize Trade in Taiwan and Hong Kong** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Hong Kong hasn't found a sustainable development path that tallies with its own situation. It is losing its advantages. Plagued by divided politics and an unsuccessful economic transformation, the Hong Kong public is looking for opportunities that the "One Belt, One Road" initiative can bring to the city. Hong Kong hopes the AIB could establish a branch in the city. With abundant talent and experience in finance and free trade, Hong Kong hopes to use the "One Belt, One Road" initiative to revitalize the city."

• **July 21, 2015 – People's Daily: Mitsubishi Materials' Apology to Forced Laborers Should Not Be Selective** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "It is a question for the Japanese government and Mitsubishi Materials if there are any differences between Chinese and U.S. forced laborers regarding the issue of apology? If the answer is no, the government here and the company should swiftly offer the same apology to its Asian victims. It is for Japan's interests to mend ties with its closest neighbors, not only on the forced labor issue, but also on other historical issues that prevent reconciliation."

• **July 21, 2015 – People's Daily: Top-level Visits to Southeast Asia to Boost China's Belt and Road initiative** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "In a bid to achieve the goal, the construction of infrastructure and enhancing connectivity in the bloc are essential steps. While the Belt and Road initiative meets the demands of ASEAN countries and will definitely fuel the bloc's development strategy [...] Just as Chinese President Xi Jinping has said, the Belt and Road initiative will not be a solo for China but a real chorus comprising all countries along the routes. And that is the reason why Chinese leaders would like to spare no efforts to push forward the program in order to achieve common prosperity."



• **July 21, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on Japan's Issuance of Defense of Japan 2015** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "The new defense white paper of Japan once again ignores facts, makes irresponsible remarks on China's normal military growth and maritime activities, deliberately plays up the "China threat" and stirs up tensions. China is strongly dissatisfied with and opposed to this [...] China is committed to a path of peaceful development and national defense policy that is defensive in nature. China's strategic intentions are transparent. China's development of defense capacity is justified and poses no threat to any other country. China is devoted to promoting China-Japan friendship and developing bilateral ties based on the four political documents signed by China and Japan. The Japanese side must stop misleading the Japanese people or installing barriers for the improvement of bilateral ties."

• **July 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on Japan Permitting a Visit by Li Denghui** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "Li Denghui is an obstinate propagandist of the "Taiwan independence". In disregard of China's solemn representations, the Japanese side allowed Li Denghui to visit Japan and provided convenience for his "Taiwan independence" activities in Japan. China hereby expresses deep concern and strong dissatisfaction about this."

• **July 26, 2015 – Xinhua: China Voice: Self-deception Leads Japan to Nowhere** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: "The increasingly strident nationalist leader's words and deeds are putting peace and stability in East Asia as well as the international post-war order in jeopardy. Right-wing politicians in Japan, who owe a heartfelt apology to Asian neighbors victimized by the oriental fascist country's brutal aggression and colonial rule during WWII, should learn from history and think twice before deceiving themselves into believing historical revisionism could fool the world while not heeding warnings from its neighbors."

• **July 30, 2015 – China Daily: Abe's mudslinging only sticks to him** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: "To bolster his political life as well as his plummeting public support, Abe is desperate to force the bills through the upper house of the parliament. China-bashing is just a cover he is employing to sell his ultra-right ideology. However, the bills have drawn continued domestic protests, and the mud he is throwing at China is not sticking; instead, it is further eroding his own credibility."



**Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula:** U.S. Renews Sanctions on North Korea, Still Waiting for North Korea to Come to the Table; China Holds Track 1.5 Dialogue with South Korea

United States	China
<p>• <b>July 7, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)            Quote: “Q: Recently, President Obama made a decision to extending one more years for the sanctions against North Korea. Does the United States have any additional sanctions toward North Korea except existing sanctions?”</p> <p>A: I’m not aware of any new sanctions. I’m not prepared to talk to any new sanctions here today.</p> <p>Q: You don’t know about President extended one more years of sanctions against North Korea?</p> <p>A: Extension.</p> <p>Q: Yes.</p> <p>A: But that doesn’t mean new. I have nothing to announce today with respect to new sanctions.”</p> <p>• <b>July 10, 2015 – Remarks by Deputy Spokesperson Mark C. Toner at the Daily Press Briefing</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)            Quote: “ Q: The South Korean foreign minister yesterday mentioned that 17 people already were executed under the Kim Jong-un leadership. And it’s another kind of remark to show how serious the human rights abuse there. So how will the U.S. deal with the human rights abuse in North Korea? Kind of – do you have the option to issue the new sanction against North Korea on the basis of human rights?”</p> <p>A: Well, absolutely, we agree with the assessment that human rights in North Korea remain dismal. We do have sanctions already in place to address those challenges. I don’t have anything, as I said, new to announce today or even really with regard to what we’re looking at in addition except to say that we continue to try to shine a light on the problem.”</p>	<p>• <b>July 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference</b> (<a href="#">Ministry of Foreign Affairs</a>)            Quote: “The first Track 1.5 dialogue between China and the ROK will be held in Zhuhai on July 7. Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao and Deputy Minister Kim Hong-kyun of the ROK Foreign Ministry will lead delegations to the dialogue, and experts from the two countries will address the dialogue. The two sides will discuss how to make China and the ROK partners for common development, regional peace, revival of Asia and world prosperity in areas of diplomacy, security, economy, culture, academics and public opinion. Views will also be exchanged on international and regional issues of common interest. The China-ROK Track 1.5 mechanism, which has been embodied in the China-ROK Joint Statement, is an important consensus reached during President Xi Jinping's visit to the ROK last July when he met with President Park Geun-hye. This mechanism well complements the existing bilateral exchange and cooperation mechanisms at various levels, and is sure to strongly advance the development of China-ROK ties.”</p> <p>• <b>July 23, 2015 – People’s Daily: US snub worsens North Korea nuclear issue</b> (<a href="#">People’s Daily</a>)            Quote: “Rather than being indifferent to Pyongyang, the U.S. should take actions to restore talks with the nation, particularly to restore humanitarian aid to Pyongyang. This will help the restoration of the Six-Party talks and the early settlement of the North Korea nuclear problem.”</p>



• **July 13, 2014 – Ambassador Catherine Russell To Travel to Asia and Africa** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Ambassador Russell will accompany Dr. Jill Biden on a trip to the Republic of Korea, Vietnam, and Laos from July 16 – 22 to focus on a range of issues related to women and girls, including women’s economic empowerment and girls’ education.”

• **July 16, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary of State John Kerry** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Does the U.S. have any plan to resumption of Six-Party Talks?”

A: We have always said – I don’t have any plans, specifically agenda items or schedule, to announce today. So the short answer to your question is no, but we’ve always said, as Under Secretary Sherman said to you just a few minutes ago, that resumption of the Six-Party Talks is important and we still favor that. The onus is on North Korea. They have yet to show any desire to return to that forum to discuss the verifiable denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.”

• **July 17, 2015 – Written Q&A with Dr. Jill Biden in Vogue Korea** ([White House](#))

Quote: “Q: This is the first time a Second Lady from the U.S. has visited the Republic of Korea. We are very curious about the reasons for your visit. Is there a special purpose or goal for your visit?”

A: The United States and Republic of Korea have a very close and strong relationship. The purpose of my visit is to build upon our joint efforts to expand economic opportunities for women in Asia and to give girls around the world an equal shot in the classroom. Women and girls in Republic of Korea have made tremendous strides over the past few decades, but I know they still encounter many difficulties, just as women do in many countries, including the United States. When women are unable to fully participate in the workforce, it impacts not only their lives, but their families, their communities, and the economy. During my visit I hope to follow up with the participants from the Republic of Korea who attended the White House Summit on Working Families, learn more about how women and girls contribute to their country, and discuss more ways that we can improve quality education for girls and economic opportunities for women.”

• **July 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang’s Remarks on DPRK Top Leader Kim Jong-Un Paying Tribute to Martyrs and Veterans of Chinese People’s Volunteer Army** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: According to the DPRK media reports, top leader Kim Jong-un attended and addressed the fourth National Conference of War Veterans held in Pyongyang on July 25, paying tribute to martyrs and veterans of the Chinese People’s Volunteer Army. On July 27, Kim Jong-un also laid a wreath in his own name to the martyrs’ cemetery of the Chinese People’s Volunteers in Huicang. How does China comment on this?”

A: July 27 of this year marks the 62th anniversary of the armistice of the Korean war. The historic contribution made by the Chinese People’s Volunteer Army to maintaining peace and China-DPRK friendship will leave an indelible mark in history.”



• **July 23, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Supporters of North Korea’s Ocean Maritime Management Company and Updates Sanctions List** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “The U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) today designated one individual and one company, and identified as blocked property a vessel in which the company has an interest. The individual and the company designated today are linked to Ocean Maritime Management Company (OMMC), a North Korean shipping company that OFAC had previously designated. Today’s designations were made pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13551, which blocks the property of persons who, among other things, have attempted to import arms or related material into the DPRK or have provided support for such activities or to other persons designated under this E.O. As a result of today’s actions, any property or interests in property of the designated persons that are or come within U.S. jurisdiction must be frozen. Also, transactions by U.S. persons or within the United States involving the property of designated persons, including the identified vessel, are generally prohibited.”

• **July 27, 2015 – Remarks in Seoul, Republic of Korea** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Do you think there is a fresh momentum to deal with the North Korean issue because of the Iran nuclear deal?

A: I think that is a question that is ultimately best directed towards the DPRK. Again, the Iran deal demonstrates the value and the possibilities that negotiations bring. It demonstrates again our willingness when we have a willing counterpart. It demonstrates our flexibility when the DPRK makes the decision that it wants to choose a different path. So that question is really one for Pyongyang more than it is for us, because we have always stood ready to engage in dialogue on this issue.”



**Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa:** U.S. Focuses on Selling Iranian Nuclear Deal to Domestic Audience and Allies; China Applauds Iranian Nuclear Deal and Urges Western Powers to Hold Up Their End of the Bargain

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>July 2, 2015 – The United States Urges Dialogue, Announces Additional Suspension of Assistance</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “Due to the precarious political and security situation in Burundi and the Government of Burundi’s unwillingness to engage in good faith efforts to negotiate a solution, the United States has today suspended several security assistance programs on which it has cooperated with Burundi. In response to the abuses committed by members of the police during political protests, we are suspending all International Law Enforcement Academy and Anti-Terrorism Assistance training that we provide to Burundian law enforcement agencies.”</p> </li> <li> <p><b>July 2, 2015 – Concern about the Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “In light of the critical humanitarian situation facing the Yemeni people, we again join the United Nations and the international community in calling for an immediate humanitarian pause, to be enacted as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon suggested in his July 1 statement until the end of the holy month of Ramadan and the Eid al-Fitr celebration. A pause, along with commensurate disengagement of armed forces in all areas including Aden, Taiz, and Marib, would allow international aid organizations to deliver urgently needed food, medicine, and fuel to citizens throughout Yemen. It would also allow for the delivery of vital commercial goods on which Yemen depends.”</p> </li> <li> <p><b>July 9, 2015 – Updating the EU/P5+1 Ongoing Negotiations With Iran</b> (<a href="#">State Department</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “If, in the end, we are able to reach a deal, it has to be one that can withstand the test of time. It is not a test of a matter of days or weeks or months. It’s a test for decades. That’s our goal here. And the simple fact is that despite all of the progress that we have made – and it’s real – some of the tough issues remain unresolved. We know that difficult decisions don’t become easier over time, and one way or the other those decisions must be taken very soon.”</p> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>July 7, 2014 – China Daily: Turkey’s Twisted Facts</b> (<a href="#">China Daily</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “Last week, the Turkish government said without verifying the facts that it was concerned about China’s treatment of Muslims. This also constitutes interference in China’s internal affairs, and it has strained bilateral ties.”</p> </li> <li> <p><b>July 15, 2015 – China Daily: Iran Deal Shows Diplomacy Can Work if Given a Chance</b> (<a href="#">China Daily</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “It is heartening to see Iran and P5+1 countries - the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China plus Germany - have finally reached a comprehensive nuclear deal. The parties concerned have been engaged in the latest round of talks over the past 20-plus months and they should be applauded for their strong political will and the spirit of diplomacy, which have resolved the issue peacefully.”</p> </li> <li> <p><b>July 15, 2015 – People’s Daily: Chinese FM Urges Parties Involved to Honor Nuke Deal Promises</b> (<a href="#">People’s Daily</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday urged all parties involved in the Iranian nuclear deal to honor the promises they made in the landmark agreement [...] “There are lots of work to be done when it comes to the implementation of the comprehensive agreement, and China will continue to take a responsible attitude and make new contributions in the following process,” Wang said.”</p> </li> <li> <p><b>July 20, 2015 – People’s Daily : S. African Deputy President’s Visit to China Cements Bilateral Ties</b> (<a href="#">People’s Daily</a>)</p> <p>Quote: “South African Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa said on Sunday that his recent official visit to China has successfully cemented bilateral ties [...] In a statement released by the Presidency, Ramaphosa said the visit has created positive partnership prospects for the future.”</p> </li> </ul>



• **July 13, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “Q: The Wall Street Journal is reporting that you are coordinating with North African countries to have airbases to be used to launch drones against ISIS in Libya. Can you kind of go into some details about which countries are you coordinating with? And is this within the policy of the administration like we did in Yemen, to target al Qaeda using drones only?”

A: Let me start by saying that the United States coordinates closely with countries throughout North Africa and Europe who also share our concerns about the extremist threat that emanates from Libya. [...] Now, you’ll note that the United States recently entered into this Major Non-NATO Ally agreement with Tunisia. That’s an indication of the ramped-up security coordination between the United States and Tunisia. The United States has a longstanding security relationship with Egypt, and there is additional military assistance that was recently provided to Egypt as they confront some of the security challenges in their country as well. [...] The last thing I’ll say about this -- and I probably should have said this first -- but our primary effort with respect to Libya remains focused on the political negotiations.”

• **July 14, 2015 – Press Availability on Nuclear Deal With Iran** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “This moment has been a long time coming, and we have worked very hard to get here. A resolution to this type of challenge never comes easily – not when the stakes are so high, not when the issues are so technical, and not when each decision affects global and regional security so directly. The fact is that the agreement we’ve reached, fully implemented, will bring insight and accountability to Iran’s nuclear program – not for a small number of years but for the lifetime of that program. This is the good deal that we have sought.”

• **July 14, 2015 – Interview With Margaret Brennan of CBS** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Do you think there’s more opportunity to work with Iran?”

A: I think it’s way too early to predict. This is a nuclear deal. What we did here is an effort to stop them from having a nuclear weapon, and President Obama is the only president who has actually rolled back their program for whatever period of time. I believe Israel and the region are safer with an Iran that does not have a nuclear weapon, and we believe we have long-term insight to their program and accountability and will way into the future, as long as it’s an issue, prevent Iran from being able to have a nuclear weapon.”

• **July 21, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Diplomacy Still Crucial in Process of Iran Nuclear Deal Implementation** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Diplomacy is even more necessary when the United States and Iran, the two major players involved in the long-standing game, do not have diplomatic relations and still lack mutual trust. It was noted that at the open council meeting, just moments after the adoption of the new resolution, the United States accused Iran of supporting terror proxies and Iran fought back by rejecting the charge, blaming Washington for instability in the Middle East.”

• **July 21, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Iran confident in future of nuclear deal** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “GT: How do you evaluate China’s role in the prolonged negotiations between P5+1 and Iran?”

Khaji: As a major global player, China played a significant role in the process and it conforms to its position as a rising power. Besides, the long-term historical friendship between Iran and China leads us to believe that China could be a prominent and constructive party in the talks, so when the nuclear disputes were going on, we insisted that China should be added to the negotiating table. China has served as an important force to advance the talks at different stages. It worked as a liaison that has successfully bridged the gaps, neutralized misunderstandings and helped alleviate concerns during the negotiations. For example, China’s initiative to modify Iran’s Arak heavy water reactor was a major help that soothed other negotiators’ concern. Therefore, we really appreciate China’s role.”

• **July 27, 2015 – *People’s Daily*: Piracy-Free Oceans - Myth or Reality?** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “This demands that the international community continue to help fight piracy in the two regions. Both regions welcome financial and technical support, and training assistance. Britain, France and the U.S. hold irregular patrols in the Gulf of Guinea. In May-June last year, a Chinese naval task force held military exercises with Cameroon and Nigeria, the first time that the Chinese navy appeared in the west coast of Africa. Such patrols and exercises should be encouraged and held more regularly.”



• **July 14, 2015 – Interview With James Robbins of BBC** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Critics of the deal, particularly in Israel and Saudi Arabia, are convinced the world is actually much more dangerous as a consequence of your deal with --

A: Well, Saudi Arabia has not made up its mind yet. Israel has been opposed to this from day one, and Prime Minister Netanyahu was opposed to the interim agreement, which, by the way, worked and which he subsequently said, “Oh, you should continue that.” So I think the verdict’s out on that. But with respect to Saudi Arabia, no, they simply said that if Iran continues to do the things it’s doing and doesn’t change and live up to this, it could be – could be – but we believe that they’re going to undertake these steps, because if they don’t, they don’t get any sanctions relief. The only way to get economic relief is implement this agreement. And with the implementation of the agreement, absolutely the region will be safer, and I think we’ll prove that.”

• **July 14, 2015 – Interview With Christiane Amanpour of CNN** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: Final question: Is this a strategic realignment? You talked about Red China, you talked about the Soviet Union. You seem, this Administration, to be saying this is more than about a nuclear deal or potentially it could redefine the balance of power in your relations in the Middle East.

A: Well, it has the possibility of doing that, and you heard President Rouhani suggest that and you heard Foreign Minister Zarif suggest that. It would be stupid diplomatically – it would be diplomatic malfeasance and – if you ignored exploring the possibility. Now, we haven’t done that yet. We exclusively negotiated a nuclear deal because we knew that if we got into the other issues, you would never get to the nuclear deal.”

• **July 15, 2015 – Press Conference by the President** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “But the bottom line is this: This nuclear deal meets the national security interests of the United States and our allies. It prevents the most serious threat -- Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon, which would only make the other problems that Iran may cause even worse. That’s why this deal makes our country, and the world, safer and more secure. It’s why the alternative -- no limits on Iran’s nuclear program, no inspections, an Iran that’s closer to a nuclear weapon, the risk of a regional nuclear arms race and a greater risk of war -- all that would endanger our security. That’s the choice that we face. If we don’t choose wisely, I believe future generations will judge us harshly for letting this moment slip away. ”





• **July 17, 2015 - Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House](#))

Quote: "Q: Okay. And then the outreach [over the Iran nuclear deal] that you've been doing with members of Congress here – even some Democrats have expressed skepticism. Is the White House's stance that if they were to vote and then possibly even override a veto to keep congressional sanctions in place, would the U.S. then be in violation of the deal, or would the deal break apart? Or what are you conveying to members of Congress that would be the biggest problem if that were to happen?"

A: Well, look, the fact is, if the United States Congress were to successfully kill this agreement, it would have a terrible impact on the standing of the United States in the world. This is an agreement not just between the United States and Iran; this is an agreement between the United States, Russia, China, Germany, the U.K., and France, and Iran. And this is an agreement that is enthusiastically supported by, as the President said, 99 percent of the international community. And for the United States, because of a congressional action, to isolate our country on such an important issue would be devastating to our standing in the world. It also would have some very practical consequences."

• **July 19, 2015 – Face the Nation Transcripts July 19, 2015: Kerry, Moniz, Netanyahu** ([Face the Nation](#))

Quote: "Q: Secretary Kerry, you're allowing as a part of this deal a terrorist nation to get both conventional arms and ballistic missiles. Why is that a good idea and why is that a part of this?"

A: Actually, we're not. There is a limit on their ability to do so. Under the arms embargo, arms control, there will be limit of five years, and under the missile, in eight years, and the reason that we're only able to limit them to the five and eight, which is quite extraordinary that we got that, was that three of the nations negotiating thought they shouldn't have any and were ready to hold out to do that. And we said under no circumstances. We have to have those. And they add on to additional mechanisms that we have to hold them accountable on arms and missiles. We have the missile control technology regime. We have other missile restraints on them. We also have other U.N. resolutions that prevent them from moving arms to the Houthi, prevents them from moving arms to the Shia, prevents them from -- to the Shia militia in Iraq, prevents them from moving arms to Hezbollah. So, we have an ability way beyond, nothing to do with this agreement, to continue to enforce those issues."



• **July 19, 2015 – Media Availability with Secretary Carter En Route to Tel Aviv, Israel** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: I’m wondering, do you expect any change in Iran’s behavior following the deal and its support for proxies? And do you expect Iran to spend more on its military in the coming months and years?”

A: Well, neither the deal or everything else we’re doing to advance our military strategy in the region assumes anything about Iranian behavior. I think Secretary Kerry and Secretary Moniz have explained the ways in which the nuclear deal will be verified. It’s not based upon trust or a prediction. And likewise, as I said earlier, there is nothing in those hundred pages that places any limitations upon the United States and what it does to defend its interests, secure its strategy in Middle East region, or defend its friends and allies, including Israel. So nothing we do is based upon assumptions about the future.”

• **July 19, 2015 – Interview With Jonathan Karl of ABC This Week** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: This deal is going before the UN Security Council on Monday. You’ve heard some harsh criticism about that from Congress. Bob Corker, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, said this is an affront to the American people. Ben Cardin, the top Democrat on the committee, said this is presumptuous to go to the UN before Congress. Why are you going to the UN before you’re going to the U.S. Congress with this deal?”

A: Well, we’re not. What we did was negotiate with our P5+1 partners, who are not subject to the Congress, that it cannot be implemented until after Congress has had a chance to vote.

Q: But the bottom line is the UN is going to vote on this before a Congress is going to vote on this.

A: Well, they have a right to do that. Honestly, it’s presumptuous of some people to suspect that France, Russia, China, Germany, Britain, ought to do what the Congress tells them to do. They have a right to have a vote. But we prevailed on them to delay the implementation of that vote out of respect for our Congress so we wouldn’t be jamming them. ”



• **July 19, 2015 – Interview With John Dickerson of CBS Face the Nation** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q: But how – you said they [Iran] were an enemy. What are they now?”

A: Well, I said they’ve been an enemy. Yeah, I mean, they’re still – we’re still adversaries. We are not allies and friends by any means, and this agreement does only one thing: It – and you heard the ayatollah just in the last days proclaiming the continued enmity with the United States. So there are no illusions about that. What we know, however, is that an Iran without a nuclear weapon is a very different country than Iran with one, and that a Middle East without a nuclear weapon is a safer Middle East. So we believe that Israel, we believe the region, will ultimately be much safer because of this deal. Now, if we don’t do this deal, if Congress says no to this deal, then there will be no restraints on Iran. There will be no sanctions left. Our friends in this effort will desert us. We will be viewed as having killed the opportunity to stop them from having a weapon. They will begin to enrich again and the greater likelihood is what the President said the other day: You’ll have a war.”

• **July 20, 2015 – Joint Press Conference with Secretary Carter and Minister of Defense Ya’alon in Tel Aviv, Israel** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Q: I would like to ask both of you—Secretary Carter, you have mentioned the— the contingency planning, notably for Syria. I would like to—to know if you could give us a sense of what is— what are the different scenarios or what are this—what is this contingency planning, particularly if you think there is a risk that after Assad’s regime fall, there is a risk of Hezbollah taking over the border, the Syrian border with Israel [...]

A: Well, we did discuss events in Syria. I mean, obviously, that’s a great concern to both of our countries, and it’s not confined, although it certainly includes, the fate of the Assad regime. Syria is, at this time, overrun by lots of different groups, Hezbollah being one of them. And there are victims in Syria of all kinds. And that’s a concern that we and Israel fully share. We did discuss that in some detail today, and even though were up on the border with Lebanon, all you have to do is cast your eye a little bit to the east, and you see the border with Syria. So Israel finds itself right up against this tumult to its north and its east, and that’s why it’s so important for us to remain aligned both in terms of our capabilities and in terms of our plans and intelligence and other information that allows us to protect ourselves and one another, which is what our alliance calls for us to do.”



• **July 21, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson of Secretary Lew’s Meeting with Nigeria President Muhammadu Buhari** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Jacob J. Lew met today with Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, part of the President’s first official visit to the United States since assuming office. The Secretary underscored the importance of the recent steps taken by the Nigerian government to increase transparency in the oil and gas sector and to combat corruption. Secretary Lew discussed the importance of implementing key reforms to tackle Nigeria’s pressing economic challenges and support economic growth. Secretary Lew also highlighted ways in which the U.S. Treasury Department could support Nigeria’s economic reform program.”

• **July 21, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Hizballah Leaders, Military Officials, And An Associate In Lebanon** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “The U.S. Department of the Treasury today imposed sanctions against a set of key Hizballah leaders, military officials, and an associate in Lebanon, further exposing and targeting Hizballah’s active support to the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and Hizballah’s terrorist activities. Today, Treasury designated Mustafa Badr Al Din, Fu’ad Shukr, and Ibrahim Aqil pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13582 for acting for or on behalf of Hizballah. Treasury today also imposed sanctions against Hizballah facilitator Abd Al Nur Shalan pursuant to E.O. 13224 for acting for or on behalf of Hizballah. As a result of today’s action, all assets of these four individuals that are in the United States or in the possession or control of U.S. persons are frozen, and U.S. persons are generally prohibited from engaging in transactions with them.”

• **July 22, 2015 – Media Availability With Secretary Carter in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “I say a old relationship with new challenges. Of course, the two new challenges that preoccupy both the United States and Saudi Arabia today are first of all Iran, and its malign activities in the region, and potential for aggression number one. And number two, ISIL and other forms of violent extremism in the region. And we discussed both of those as well as a number of regional issues of concern to all of us: Yemen, Syria, Iraq, and so forth [...] we can both continue our conversations on these things which we do on the phone periodically and by correspondence periodically, and have now a number of times since I took office. But it’ll be nice to do that in person. And I extended an invitation also to travel to some facility of the United States, other military facility, get us out of Washington, and get a chance to be together.”



• **July 24, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary Carter at a Troop Event in Erbil, Iraq** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “Obviously, we have to beat ISIL. You (American soldiers in the troop he visited) will beat ISIL. And we’re going to beat ISIL because we represent civilization, and we always will. And we are the many and they are the few. We will win [...] And the -- here in Kurdistan is the -- KRG area and the Peshmerga is the model of what we’re trying to do -- achieve throughout the AOR when it comes to ISIL. So you guys are in a sense the pathfinders for all of us. And that, we admire you for as well. Because what you learn here and the tradecraft that you develop, the ability you have to work together, the ability you have to work with your partners here, that’s something that’s going to benefit all of us and also benefit all of the other forces that are building themselves up here in Iraq and Syria.”

• **July 24, 2015 – Discussion at the Council on Foreign Relations on Iran** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “This is a question of what happens now, tomorrow, if you don’t accept this deal, because Iran will go right back to its enriching. They’ve made that clear because they think they have a right. They are an NPT country. Unlike North Korea, they have not pulled out of the NPT. Unlike North Korea, they haven’t exploded any nuclear device and the supreme leader of Iran has said we’re not going to seek a nuclear weapon.”

• **July 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Kenyatta of Kenya in a Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “ Now that we’ve renewed the African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, for another 10 years, I discussed with President Kenyatta how we can expand our economic cooperation. And we’re especially focused on infrastructure and energy -- two keys to economic growth. Our Power Africa initiative is supporting Kenya’s goal of achieving its national energy needs -- electricity for Kenyans -- by 2030. And this includes innovations that bring power to rural Kenyans who are off the grid, as I saw earlier today at the Global Entrepreneurship Summit.”



• **July 26, 2015 - Remarks by Press Secretary Josh Earnest and Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes** ([White House](#))

Quote: "You can look at China as a competitor. I would certainly say in Africa, if you look at a lot of the infrastructure that's been created (audio drop) for example, in Nigeria, South Africa, we're working hard at supplier development. This comes back to the job multipliers that I talked about. We're doing a lot on kind of training and health care, for example, that's going to get directly at some of the development objectives that countries have. And these are kind of long and lasting partnerships that U.S. companies can have that are really going to enable us to participate in the growth [...] But if you're not here, you're not competing. So one of our messages back – and again, we appreciate the entrepreneurship summit and President Obama's focus on Africa over these past years is a message to get more American companies here. Because once you are here, you start to see huge opportunities that can be developed. And then you're competing with China in a different way, because you're here and you're present."

• **July 27, 2015 – FACT SHEET: U.S. Support for Peace, Security, and Countering Violent Extremism in Africa** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: "Through the new fiscal year 2015-2016 Counterterrorism Partnerships Fund (CTPF), the United States intends to work with Congress to provide approximately \$465 million in new training, equipment, capacity building, and enabling assistance to partners in Africa. This funding will support counterterrorism, security and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) initiatives throughout Africa."

• **July 28, 2015 – Readout of the President's Call with Chinese President Xi Jinping** ([White House](#))

Quote: "The President spoke to Chinese President Xi Jinping on July 20 to express appreciation for the role China played in reaching an historic, long-term comprehensive nuclear deal between the P5+1 and Iran that verifiably ensures Iran's nuclear program is exclusively peaceful going forward."

• **July 28, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama to the People of Africa** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: "As the United States continues to provide billions of dollars in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and as your countries take greater ownership of health programs, we're moving toward a historic accomplishment -- the first AIDS-free generation. And if the world learned anything from Ebola, it's that the best way to prevent epidemics is to build strong public health systems that stop diseases from spreading in the first place. So America is proud to partner with the AU and African countries in this mission."



• **July 28, 2015 – Iran Nuclear Agreement: The Administration's Case** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "Now to be clear, if Congress rejects what was agreed to in Vienna, you will not only be rejecting every one of the restrictions that we put in place – and by the way, nobody's counting the two years that Iran has already complied with the interim agreement, and by the way complied completely and totally, so that we've already rolled their program back. We've reduced their 20 percent enriched uranium to zero. That's already been accomplished. But if this is rejected, we go back to their ability to move down that road. You'll not only be giving Iran a free pass to double the pace of its uranium enrichment, to build a heavy water reactor, to install new and more efficient centrifuges, but they will do it all without the unprecedented inspection and transparency measures that we have secured. Everything that we have tried to prevent will now happen."

• **July 31, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing with Brigadier General Kevin J. Killea, chief of staff, Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve via DVIDS from Southwest Asia on Operation Inherent Resolve** ([Department of Defense](#))

Quote: "My game plan will be to briefly touch on the coalition's overall efforts to degrade and defeat ISIL across the combined joint operational area, and then I'd like to focus on operations in and around Ramadi [...] Overall, the message I would provide to you is that momentum is a better indicator of success than speed, and the ISF have momentum in Ramadi."

• **July 31, 2015 – Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Trip to Cairo and Doha** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "I think, as you know, there was a lot of discussion about the Iran negotiations at the summit with the understanding that the Secretary would get everybody together again to have a more detailed conversation once the deal was done. I think that you've seen the public reactions of several of the governments, most recently the Saudi foreign minister, Adel Al-Jubeir, spoke publicly about the fact that the Government of Saudi Arabia was satisfied that it was a good agreement. This is an opportunity, really, for the Secretary to do a deep dive with the GCC foreign ministers to try to respond to any remaining questions that they might have and hopefully to satisfy them and ensure that they're supporting our effort going forward."



**Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes:** U.S. Continues to the Easing of Tensions in the South China Sea; China Refuses Filipino Calls for Arbitration over South China Sea Dispute and Ignores Japanese Demands that it Halt Oil Exploration Efforts

United States	China
<p>• <b>July 2, 2015 - Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing (State Department)</b>            Quote: "Q: On the South China Sea, have you seen the report put out by CSIS that China is near completion of an airstrip on one of the reefs? And do you have a reaction to that?"</p> <p>A: Yeah, I'm aware of that report. I'd say the reaction is exactly the same as it has been – that we don't find reclamation activities, and certainly don't find the militarization of those outputs, to be helpful to regional security and stability; in fact, quite the contrary. And we're going to continue to impress upon China as we do with all claimants that our interest is in lowering the tensions. We remain committed to upholding international law, including the freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, and the peaceful management and resolution of disputes."</p> <p>• <b>July 7, Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing (State Department)</b>            Quote: "Q: I have two questions on China. Philippines sent their South China Sea case to the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and the hearing has started. The question is: Isn't seeking this kind of legal action against – this kind of legal action against what the U.S. call to use diplomatic means and dialogue to solve the problem?"</p> <p>A: Well, I would let the Philippine Government speak to the actions they're taking. Our position has not changed. We're not taking a position on these claims. We do take a position on the use of force or undue pressure to exert these claims, or to change the status quo in that regard. And we want all parties to work towards resolving these claims, issues, in a peaceful, diplomatic, legal way. I'll let the Government of the Philippines speak to their actions. I wouldn't do that."</p> <p>• <b>July 21, 2015 – Press Gaggle en route Pittsburgh, PA (White House, Press Briefings)</b>            Quote: "As it relates to our policy, we have indicated that it is our view that we need to be able to protect freedom of movement and navigation in the South China Sea, and that the territorial disputes that exist in that region of the world should be resolved with the interest of all the countries reflected, and that it is possible to resolve those tensions diplomatically. And we are counting on all the countries in the region to participate in that effort."</p>	<p>• <b>July 2, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>            Quote: "China has made it pretty clear of not accepting nor participating in the South China Sea arbitration unilaterally initiated by the Philippines. What the Philippines does is an obvious political provocation under the cloak of law. By negating China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, the Philippines attempts to attain more illegal interests for itself and force China to make compromise on relevant issue. This is impractical and will lead nowhere. We once again urge the Philippine side to discard illusions, meet China halfway and come back to the right track of resolving relevant disputes through negotiation and consultation."</p> <p>• <b>July 4, 2015 –People's Daily : China Urges Japan to Stop Provoking Tensions in South China Sea (People's Daily)</b>            Quote: ""We again urge Japan to draw lessons from history and to be cautious with its words and actions on issues concerning military security," said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying at a routine press briefing [...] Japan is not a party to the disputes in the South China Sea, said Hua. By defaming China and creating tensions in the area, Tokyo aims to create a pretext for adopting a new package of security bills which will significantly expand the scope of overseas operations by the country's self-defense forces."</p> <p>• <b>July 6, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)</b>            Quote: "The 14th joint working group meeting on implementing the DOC was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from July 1 to 3. The meeting aims to fully and effectively implement the DOC, and registers positive progress on moving forward maritime pragmatic cooperation and consultations on the code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC) as well as implementing the early harvest. The meeting drew up the Second List of Commonalities of the COC consultations and concept documents on the Terms of Reference of the Eminent Persons and Experts Group (EPEG) and the senior officials' hotline platform in response to maritime emergencies among ministries of foreign affairs of China and ASEAN member states, and decided to put them under deliberation in the senior officials' meeting to be held late this month."</p>





• **July 22, 2015 – Remarks by Spokesperson John Kirby at the Daily Press Briefing (State Department)**

Quote: “Q: In 2008, Japan and China created a bilateral agreement agreeing not to – agreeing to jointly develop gas fields. Does the U.S. Government have any comment on the breach of that bilateral agreement?”

A: Well, the question presupposes there’s been a breach. I haven’t seen the report that you’re referring to, so I’m not in a position to answer that specific question. As I said, we want competing claims, whatever they may be, to be worked out between the parties and to be done so peacefully. We’re not going to take a position on competing claims, and I don’t suspect that we would do in this case either.”

• **July 30, 2015 – Treasury Sanctions Individuals and Entities Involved In Sanctions Evasion Related To Russia and Ukraine (Department of the Treasury)**

Quote: “OFAC designated 13 individuals and entities that have supported serious and sustained evasion of existing sanctions, two entities that operate in the arms or related materiel sector of the Russian Federation, four former Ukrainian government officials or close associates for being complicit in the misappropriation of public assets and/or undermining of democratic processes or institutions in Ukraine as well as an entity owned or controlled by, or acting for or on behalf of, one of the designated individuals, five Crimean port operators, and one Crimean ferry operator.”

• **July 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “China has, on many occasions, expounded its position of neither accepting nor participating in the arbitral proceeding unilaterally initiated by the Philippines in breach of the agreement that has been repeatedly reaffirmed with China as well as the Philippines’ undertakings in the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). China opposes any moves by the Philippines to initiate and push forward the arbitral proceeding. China’s position has been clearly stated in the Position Paper of the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Matter of Jurisdiction in the South China Sea Arbitration Initiated by the Republic of the Philippines released in last December.”

• **July 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Regular Press Conference on July 8, 2015 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “China’s position and proposition on the East China Sea and the South China Sea is consistent and clear. We oppose Japan’s groundless accusations against China. Recent days have witnessed a series of negative developments in Japan’s military and security fields, which are a cause for concern. We have every reason to be uneasy about and suspicious of Japan’s policies and development trajectory. We hope Japan will make a correct assessment of the situation, draw lessons from history, stay committed to the path of peaceful development and play a constructive role in maintaining regional peace and stability.”

• **July 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying’s Remarks on the Philippines’ Reinforcing a Military Vessel Illegally “Grounded” on China’s Ren’ai Jiao (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

Quote: “China has indisputable sovereignty over the Nansha Islands, which include the Ren’ai Jiao, and the adjacent waters. China hereby strongly protests and firmly opposes to the Philippines’ reinforcement of a military vessel illegally “grounded” on the Ren’ai Jiao [...] It must be pointed out that on one hand, the Philippines promised to tow away the illegally “grounded” vessel on many occasions, yet on the other hand, it schemes to permanently occupy the Ren’ai Jiao by reinforcing the vessel. The Philippines’ breach of its own promise to the international community discloses its hypocrisy and duplicity, and stands as another example that the Philippines is the real trouble-maker and rule-breaker in the region. The Chinese side is resolute in safeguarding territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests. China once again urges the Philippines to immediately stop all illegal activities that infringe upon China’s sovereignty and maritime rights, and honor its commitment of towing away the vessel. China reserves the right to take further actions.”



• **July 17, 2015 – *Xinhua*: Time for Manila to End Farce of Arbitration on South China Sea** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “Manila's attempt to seek international arbitration over its territorial spats with China in the South China Sea is futile and doomed to fail as the case itself is untenable. The Philippines filed an arbitration case at The Hague in early 2013 and the hearing on jurisdiction and admissibility was concluded on Monday. However, the unilateral move employed by Manila as a clumsy tactic to encroach on the Chinese territory in the South China Sea, is no more than a pipe dream. It is obvious that Manila has pinned its hope on the international and multilateral forces to woo sympathy for its groundless claim over the South China Sea.”

• **July 21, 2015 – *People's Daily*: Swift's South China Sea Flight Can Only Fool Manila** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “During his visit to the Philippines Saturday, Scott Swift, newly appointed U.S. commander of the Pacific Fleet, joined a surveillance mission on board a P-8A Poseidon plane to observe the aircraft's full range of capabilities in the South China Sea [...] It is understandable that the U.S. hopes to maintain its clout in the area and the Philippines wants to counter China by roping in the U.S. But they need to mind the boundaries. The Philippines needs to be cautious in the area, as China has been.”

• **July 21, 2015 – *People's Daily*: Philippines' illegal occupation of Ren'ai Reef must be ended with determination** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “The Philippines is misleading the international community by confusing a sovereign and territorial issue into an issue of sea rights. The nature of the South China Sea disputes lies in which side owns the jurisdiction and sovereignty over certain islands and reefs, but Manila sticks to an arbitration by the international tribunal, which has been clearly stated to have no jurisdiction over territorial disputes.”

• **July 22, 2015 – Chinese military voices stern concern over Japan's new defense whitepaper** ([Ministry of National Defence](#))

Quote: “China's military has unswerving resolution and willingness to safeguard national territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests. The Chinese side will continue to conduct reasonable, legitimate and rightful activities in the related waters and air space.”



• **July 23, 2015 – *People's Daily*: Sophisticated Diplomacy Needed to Tackle Challenges in South China Sea** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "China has succeeded in its land reclamation projects on the Nansha Islands. This is an outcome of China's diplomatic specialization. It is reasonable and legitimate. The U.S. and the Philippines can do nothing about it despite voicing objections. The South China Sea should be an area where Chinese society can find confidence after experiencing long-time sufferings and setbacks. A big country not only owns its strength, but also has a broad mindset and wisdom to count its losses and gains."

• **July 24, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Lu Kang's Remarks on the U.S. Statement about Issues Relating to the Arbitration Unilaterally Initiated by the Philippines** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "China's position of neither accepting nor participating in the arbitration unilaterally initiated by the Philippines remains unchanged. By doing so, the Philippines breached its repeatedly affirmed consensus with China and its undertakings in the *Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea* (DOC) [...] Attempting to push forward the arbitration unilaterally initiated by the Philippines, the U.S. side just acts like an "arbitrator outside the tribunal", designating the direction for the arbitral tribunal established at the request of the Philippines. This is inconsistent with the position the U.S. side claims to uphold on issues concerning the South China Sea disputes. Being not a party concerned to the South China Sea issue, the U.S. side should live up to its pledge of not taking sides and refrain from actions that go against regional peace and stability."

• **July 27, 2015 – China's Oil and Gas Development in the East China Sea is Justified and Legitimate** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "On 22 July 2015, Japan released a document on its Foreign Ministry's website on China's oil and gas development in the East China Sea, and demanded that China halt its oil and gas development activities in the waters west to Japan's unilaterally-claimed median line in the East China Sea. There are no grounds whatsoever for Japan's demand, and China's oil and gas development in the East China Sea is fully justified and legitimate."



• **July 30, 2015 – Defense Ministry Spokesperson Yang Yujun's regular press conference on July 30, 2015 (Ministry of National Defense)**

Quote: " Here I want to again emphasize the following points: first, the Chinese side has introduced the purpose and function of the construction on the islands and reefs of the South China Sea for several times and the construction work will help the Chinese side better perform its international responsibilities and duties and will help to promote the safety of navigation in this area. And such work also meets very strict environment protection standards and requirements. The U.S. side disregards and distorts the fact, and plays up "China's military threat" to sow discords between China and China's maritime neighbors in the South China Sea. We firmly oppose such actions. Secondly, the U.S. side has remained silent on the massive construction activities conducted by some countries such as the Philippines on the illegally occupied Chinese islands and reefs. However, the U.S. made irresponsible accusations against China on the legal activities of China on its own territory. This is typical double standards. We ask the U.S. side to stop such seemingly just but actually hypocritical remarks. Thirdly, for a long time, the U.S. side has been sending ships and planes to conduct frequent close-in reconnaissance activities against China in the South China Sea region. And recently the U.S. has been further strengthening its military alliance in the region to increase its military presence and conducting frequent joint military exercises. The commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet even cruised over the South China Sea on a plane, creating tensions in the region and increasing the risk of unexpected incidents in the air space and maritime area of the region. The Chinese side expresses its serious concern on the U.S. activities to militarize the South China Sea region. And such actions taken by the U.S. side would inevitably arouse the question from others -- does the U.S. want nothing but chaos in the region? Fourthly, the Chinese side has always attached great importance to developing the relations between China and the U.S. and between the two militaries. The relevant people in the U.S. should be prudent and cautious in their remarks and actions, keep their promise of not choosing sides on the sovereignty issue of the South China Sea, and do more things that would help instead of harming the development of the state-to-state and mil-to-mil relations and also the peace and stability of the region. "



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