

Half Full or Half Empty?

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Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Barrack Obama met for their much hyped summit in Washington D.C. in September with a laundry list of items to discuss and likely had hoped to find common ground. This was possible on many issues including climate change, humanitarian relief, and people to people exchanges among several others. However, the two sides were still far apart on the two major issues that have caused cleavages to develop between the two powers as of late: cyber security and territorial disputes in the South China Sea. This reality can currently be interpreted in two ways: either one sees the glass as half full given the several agreements concluded between the two countries; or the glass is half empty with two critical issues keeping the two powers at odds. So, at least for the time being, the beauty of this relationship will be left to the eye of the beholder. In the following we have summarized key issue areas emphasized by the U.S. and China during September 2015.

Seeking Agreement on Cyber Security and Defense

Cyber security was the central issue of the month and commanded a great deal of attention during the summit. The U.S. constantly mentioned that it was aware of Chinese attempts of cyber espionage targeting U.S. companies and citizens for financial gain and that it stood firmly against it.¹ In response, China stated that they had also fallen victim to cyber threats, and that the U.S. should refrain from accusing China of cyber espionage, and further suggested that the two sides should instead cooperate to solve the issue.² During President Xi's visit to the U.S. at the end of the month, both sides agreed that they would commit to tackling the issue of domestic and transnational illegal cyber activity.³

Furthermore, both sides acknowledged the improvement of military relations. The Chinese mentioned that the two militaries had conducted frequent

¹ UCR September Issue 2015 – Military and Security Relations, Issue 3 pg. [17](#)

² Ibid, pg. [16](#)

³ Ibid, pg. [19](#)

high-level visits and maintained close communication on important, strategic and directional issues.⁴ At the same time, the U.S. acknowledged enhanced military relations by mentioning that the two sides had completed new annexes on air-to-air safety and crisis communication.⁵

Islamic State, the Syrian Civil War, and the Refugees Issue

The U.S. and China both showed concern over events in the Middle East, and more specifically with the fight against IS, the Syrian civil war, and the refugees leaving Syria because of it. Regarding the fight against IS and the Syrian Civil War, the U.S. was wary of Russian involvement in the region seemingly aimed at bolstering Assad's regime.⁶ The U.S. government also stressed the humanitarian aid being contributed to the refugees, and also pledged to increase the number of refugees taken from the region to a minimum of 10,000 people in the next fiscal year.⁷ At the beginning of the month, China criticized U.S.-led coalition policies in the Middle East and stressed the need for the U.S. to take responsibility for solving both the IS and the refugee problems that it says were a result of the U.S. led coalition actions in the Middle East.⁸ Toward the end of the month, China began to express more willingness to become involved in efforts to stabilize Syria, but proposed a stronger focus on political solutions and the will of the Syrian people, rather than military intervention.⁹ The U.S. and China were able to cooperate successfully on the Iran nuclear agreement and continued cooperation on these other pressing issues in the Middle East would be a move welcomed by many.

⁴ Ibid, pg. [17](#)

⁵ Ibid, pg. [19](#)

⁶ Ibid, pg. [36](#)

⁷ UCR September Issue 2015 – Middle East and Africa Issues, Issue 8 pg. [36](#)

⁸ Ibid, pg. [32](#)

⁹ Ibid, pg. [34](#)



Tensions Between U.S. and China over South China Sea

President Obama conveyed to President Xi his concern over land reclamation, construction, and militarization of South China sea areas at the U.S.-China summit.¹⁰ President Obama reiterated the U.S. position that it will not try to adjudicate claims, it has an interest in upholding the basic principles of freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce, and it prefers disputes to be resolved through international law.¹¹ On the contrary, China continued to assert that, based on the historical and jurisprudential evidence, China's construction on the Nansha Islands is legitimate, signifying that little progress had been made on the issue during the summit.¹²

Cooperation in Denuclearization of Korean Peninsula

The U.S. and China reaffirmed joint efforts to realize denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula.¹³ The U.S. will not recognize North Korea as a nuclear weapon state, and is seeking the help of China, Russia, South Korea, and Japan in counteracting North Korea's violation of the UN Security Council resolutions.¹⁴ China revealed their devotion to not only denuclearization but also maintaining peace on the Peninsula.¹⁵ The U.S. also acknowledged moves by the ROK government to improve relations with China and called close ties between the two countries "important to the region."¹⁶

¹⁰ UCR September Issue 2015 – Sovereignty and Territorial Issues, Issue 9 pg. [44](#)

¹¹ Ibid, pg. [44](#)

¹² Ibid, pg. [44](#)

¹³ UCR September Issue 2015 – Korean Peninsula, Issue 7 pg. [29, 31](#)

¹⁴ Ibid, pg. [30](#)

¹⁵ Ibid, pg. [29](#)

¹⁶ Ibid, pg. [30](#)

Reactions to the Japan Security Bill and Renewed U.S.-India Partnership

While the U.S. welcomed Japan's ongoing efforts to play a more active role in regional security through its new security bill,¹⁷ the Chinese media called the new legislation "a victory for just a few people but a seed of disaster for millions more."¹⁸ China was also critical of Japan's decision to receive Tsai Ing-wen, chairperson of the Taiwanese Democratic Progressive Party and likely next President of Taiwan.¹⁹ Elsewhere in Asia, the U.S. and Japan held the inaugural U.S.-India-Japan Trilateral Ministerial with the foreign affairs secretaries of each country in attendance²⁰ and separately the U.S. and India held the first Strategic and Commercial Dialogue between the two countries signifying increased cooperation between the two countries.²¹

¹⁷ UCR September Issue 2015 – Asia Pacific Issues, Issue 6 pg. [25](#)

¹⁸ Ibid, pg. [25](#)

¹⁹ Ibid, pg. [26](#)

²⁰ Ibid, pg. [28](#)

²¹ Ibid, pg. [27](#)



Time Period: September 1 ~ September 30, 2015

1. U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: Run-up to and Outcomes of U.S.-China Bilateral Summit in Washington D.C.

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 3, 2015 – Remarks by the Vice President at the Eizenstat Lecture • September 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • September 16, 2015 – Remarks at the Christian Science Monitor Roundtable Lunch • September 16, 2015 – Remarks by the President to the Business Roundtable • September 22, 2015 – Preview of the State Visit of People's Republic of China President Xi Jinping • September 24, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 25, 2015 – Secretary Kerry Co-hosts a Lunch for Chinese President Xi Jinping Along With Vice President Joe Biden • September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People's Republic of China in Joint Press Conference • September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping's State Visit to the United States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 1, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference • September 7, 2015 – President Xi's US visit: Four steps Obama can take to improve relations • September 9, 2015 – Commentary: Win-win cooperation benefits Chinese and American people • September 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • September 14, 2015 – Mistrust not in the interests of US, China and the world • September 15, 2015 – China and U.S. to enhance strategic mutual trust • September 16, 2015 – For China-US Friendly Cooperation, For Global Peace and Development • September 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • September 24, 2015 – Spotlight: Xi's remarks on China-U.S. local-level cooperation resonate with U.S. officials, experts • September 27, 2015 – The US needs to reciprocate China's goodwill • September 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference

2. Economic Relations: U.S. Urges China to Open Up Economy More to Foreign Investment and Promote Domestic Consumption; China Argues for Continued Role of Party Intervention in the Economy and States Its Economy is Open to the World

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 4, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson of Secretary Lew's Meeting with Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei at the G-20 in Ankara, Turkey • September 11, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson on a Call Between Secretary Jacob J. Lew and Chinese vice Premier Wang Yang • September 21, 2015 – Lew Op-Ed : China Must Stick To the Path of Economic Reform • September 22, 2015 – Conference Call to Preview the Visit of President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China • September 24, 2015 – Interview With Beijing TV's Yang Lan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 07, 2015 – Launch the final review on the countervailing measures against the imported chicken from the United States • September 11, 2015 – Tales of economic doom greatly exaggerated • September 15, 2015 – China Voice: Party leadership is "safety valve" for SOEs • September 16, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce on • September 23, 2015 – Double down on opening-up • September 26, 2015 – Full Text : Outcome list of President Xi Jinping's state visit to the United States • September 28, 2015 – Commentary: The Prospect of Chinese Economy Is Still



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference • September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : U.S.-China Economic Relations • September 29, 2015 – Remarks by Assistant Secretary Karen Dynaa at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling 50th Annual Leaders’ Conference 	Bright
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3. Military and Security Relations: The U.S. Continues to Accuse China of Making Cyber Attacks while China Continues to Deny the Allegations; Chinese Navy Conducts Operations in Bering Sea; Agreement on Air-to-Air Safety and Communications

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 2, 2015 – Chinese Navy Ships off Alaska Coast Highlights Need To Avoid 'Miscalculations,' General Says • September 3, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room • September 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest • September 15, 2015 – Remarks of Counselor to the Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions, Anjan Mukherjee, at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions’ (NAFCU) Congressional Caucus • September 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • September 16, 2015 – Remarks by the President to the Business Roundtable • September 21, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • September 22, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room • September 24, 2015 – Interview With Beijing TV’s Yang Lan • September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference • September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping’s State Visit to the United States • September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping’s State Visit to the United States 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference • September 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference • September 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference • September 15, 2015 – Sino-U.S. cyber cooperation a much-desired breakthrough • September 21, 2015 – China’s Position Paper on the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations • September 24, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference • September 24, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference • September 26, 2015 – Full Text : Outcome list of President Xi Jinping’s state visit to the United States • September 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference • September 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference • September 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference



4. Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Puts Spotlight on Imprisoned Human Rights Activists Including 3 Chinese Women; China Questions U.S. Human Rights Record in Middle East and Highlights Own Push for Gender Equality

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 1, 2015 – Remarks at the FreeThe20 Campaign Launch • September 22, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 22, 2015 – Conference Call to Preview the Visit of President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China • September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference • September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping’s State Visit to the United States • September 26, 2015 – Remarks at the Internet Freedom Technology Showcase: The Future of Human Rights Online, City University of New York Graduate Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 08, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador Wang Min of the Permanent Mission of China under Agenda Item 1 at the Second Regular Session of UNICEF Executive Board • September 9, 2015 – Refugee crisis diminishes US leadership • September 17, 2015 – Rights forum underscores China’s commitment to peace • September 21, 2015 – China’s Position Paper on the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations • September 28, 2015 – Xi Jinping Attends and Addresses Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, Stressing to Promote Women’s All-round Development and Jointly Construct and Share Wonderful World

5. Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S.-China Climate Leaders Summit Held; Presidents of Both Countries Release Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 1, 2015 – Remarks by the President at the GLACIER Conference -- Anchorage, AK • September 15, 2015 – Fact Sheet: U.S. – China Climate Leaders Summit • September 18, 2015 – Interview With Jon Snow of Channel 4 • September 25, 2015 – Secretary Kerry Co-hosts a Lunch for Chinese President Xi Jinping Along With Vice President Joe Biden • September 25, 2015 – Regarding the U.S.-China Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change • September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference • September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping’s State Visit to the United States • September 29, 2015 – Remarks at the Major Economies Forum Ministerial 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 21, 2015 – China’s Position Paper on the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations • September 25, 2015 – Ambassador Liu Jieyi Giving an Interview to Chinese Media on President Xi Jinping’s Attendance at the UN Summits • September 26, 2015 – Full Text : Outcome list of President Xi Jinping’s state visit to the United States • September 28, 2015 – Xi Jinping Attends Leaders Working Lunch on Climate Change of UN • September 29, 2015 – Climate Creates Chances across Pacific



6. Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Strengthens Ties Through Agreements with Japan and India; China Reacts to Passage of New Security Bill in Japan

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 3, 2015 – Remarks by the Vice President at the Eizenstat Lecture • September 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 17, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 22, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 22, 2015 – Remarks at the Joint Strategic and Commercial Dialogue Opening Plenary • September 22, 2015 – U.S.-India Cooperation, Aligned Across the Globe • September 22, 2015 – U.S.-India Cooperation, Aligned Across the Globe • September 22, 2015 – Joint Statement on the First U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue • September 22, 2015 – U.S.-India Commercial, Trade, and Economic Cooperation • September 24, 2015 – Resolution on Sri Lanka at the 30th Session of the UN Human Rights Council • September 24, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 28, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary Carter and Minister Kishida at a Signing Ceremony at the Pentagon • September 29, 2015 – Inaugural U.S.-India-Japan Trilateral Ministerial • September 30, 2015 – Remarks With Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman at the U.S.-ASEAN Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 1, 2015 – India should rethink its oil exploration plans • September 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • September 15, 2015 – FTA would benefit Australia • September 18, 2015 – Commentary: Japan's war bills: victory for few, seed of disaster for millions more • September 19, 2015 – Commentary : Japan's war bills bury seed of disaster in Asia • September 20, 2015 – Japan's new security bills betrayal to its own people • September 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference

7. Korean Peninsula Issues: U.S. Takes Note of Many Meetings Between ROK and China; Both Countries Urge North Korea to Denuclearize

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 14, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • September 15, 2015 – Northeast Asian Dynamism and the U.S.-R.O.K. Alliance: Past, Present, Future • September 16, 2015 – Press Availability With South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane • September 16, 2015 – Press Availability With South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane • September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People's Republic of China in Joint Press Conference 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • September 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • September 19, 2015 – Review the Spirit of September 19 Joint Statement and Uphold Peace and Stability of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia



8. Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S. Domestic Argument Over Iran Nuclear Deal Continues and U.S. Reacts to the Beginning of Russian Involvement in Syria; Chinese Media Blames the U.S. and West for European Refugee Crisis and Rise of ISIL

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 2, 2015– Remarks on Nuclear Agreement With Iran • September 2, 2015– Interview on MSNBC's Morning Joe • September 2, 2015 – Interview With Christiane Amanpour of CNN International • September 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 3, 2015 – Remarks by the Vice President at the Eizenstat Lecture • September 9, 2015 – Remarks Following Meeting With Senator Durbin • September 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 9, 2015 – Remarks to the Afghan Diplomat Training Program • September 10, 2015 – Senate Vote on the Iran Deal • September 11, 2015 – Statement by the President • September 15, 2015 – Readout of Secretary Kerry's Call With Foreign Minister Lavrov • September 16, 2015 – Remarks With South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane • September 16, 2015 – Press Availability With South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane • September 16, 2015 – Press Availability With South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane • September 16, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • September 17, 2015 – Background Briefing on the JCPOA Implementation • September 17, 2015 – Background Briefing on the JCPOA Implementation • September 17, 2015 – Statement by the National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice on the Situation in Burkina Faso • September 18, 2015 – Interview With Jon Snow of Channel 4 • September 18, 2015 – Joint Statement on Libya by the Governments of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States • September 19, 2015 – Remarks With British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond After Their Meeting • September 21, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 22, 2015 – On the Finalization of the Libyan Political Dialogue • September 22, 2015 – Joint Press Conference with Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, and Indian Minister of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 8, 2015 – Commentary : U.S. has responsibility in European refugee problem • September 9, 2015 –US has unshirkable role in addressing refugee crisis • September 9, 2015 – Commentary : European refugee crisis bitter fruit of Western hegemony, interventionism • September 11, 2015 – Concerted efforts to defeat IS • September 11, 2015 – Commentary : Time for U.S. to change anti-terrorism policy • September 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • September 26, 2015 – Full Text : Outcome list of President Xi Jinping's state visit to the United States • September 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • September 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference • September 30, 2015 – Commentary : EU, U.S. need to collaborate to eliminate root causes of refugee crisis



<p>State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 24, 2015 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Ned Price on U.S. Support for the Countries Fighting Boko Haram • September 25, 2015 – Remarks at the 14th Ministerial Conference, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) • September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference • September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping’s State Visit to the United States • September 26, 2015 – Remarks at the High-Level Event on Afghanistan • September 26, 2015 – Co-chairs' Statement of the High-level Event on Afghanistan's Peaceful Development and Regional Cooperation • September 27, 2015 – Remarks With Turkish Foreign Minister Feridun Sinirlioglu At Global Counterterrorism Forum Ministerial • September 29, 2015 – Interview With Nicolle Wallace, Mike Barnicle, Mark Halperin, Richard Haass, and Katty Kay of MSNBC's Morning Joe • September 29, 2015 – Interview With Greta Van Susteren of Fox News • September 30, 2015 – Remarks With Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov • September 30, 2015 – Joint Communiqué Following the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the GCC-U.S. Strategic Cooperation Forum 	
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9. Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Continues to Assert its View that the Seas Around China’s Reclaimed Islands Are International Waters; China Continues to Exert Its Territorial Claims in the East and South China Seas

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 18, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest • September 22, 2015 – Conference Call to Preview the Visit of President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China • September 24, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing • September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference • September 27, 2015 – Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry's Meeting With Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov • September 28, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama to the United Nations General Assembly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 17, 2015 – Time for Abe to stop leading Japan astray • September 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference on September 18, 2015 • September 24, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference • September 24, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference • September 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference



Issue 1 – U.S. – China Bilateral Relations: Run-up to and Outcomes of U.S.-China Bilateral Summit in Washington D.C.

United States	China
<p>• September 3, 2015 – Remarks by the Vice President at the Eizenstat Lecture (White House, Speeches and Remarks) Quote: “Managing our relationship with China is maybe the single-most important relationship that will shape the course of the 21st century. [...] But as the President and I have made clear, it’s important for China to be, not only a responsible stakeholder in the international community, but a responsible competitor, as well. And if they are not, we will respond.”</p> <p>• September 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefings) Quote: “There are some areas where we’re able to cooperate effectively with the Chinese to advance the interests of the citizens of both countries. And whether it’s the climate announcement that you’ve just cited (U.S. – China Climate Leaders Declaration) or trying to build international consensus around confronting Iran of their nuclear program – you’ll recall that China was a constructive partner in the P5+1 efforts; we even have some effective cooperation with China when it comes to containing the threat that is posed by North Korea and trying to de-nuclearize the Korean Peninsula. So there are a variety of areas where we can work effectively with the Chinese to advance the interests of the American people but also the Chinese people. But that certainly in no way diminishes the significance of the concerns that we do have with some of China’s policy decisions. And whether that is their activity in cyberspace or the concerns that we have about their lack of respect for basic human rights.”</p> <p>• September 16, 2015 – Remarks at the Christian Science Monitor Roundtable Lunch (Mission to the United Nations) Quote: “This is a very complex relationship. I mean, every day, whether it’s on South Sudan or an anti-ISIL foreign terrorist fighter measure in New York or the peacekeeping summit where China has dramatically expanded its contributions to peacekeeping just over the last five years, we are working with China on issues that are very much in the U.S. national interest.”</p>	<p>• September 1, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hua Chunying's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “Decades of development of China-US relations proves that despite various voices and disturbances that may occur from time to time, bilateral relations keep moving forward. The two heads of state have reached important consensus on building a new type of major-country relations. This fully showcases that people in China and the US expect bilateral relations to develop and improve, and a steady China-US relationship serves the interests of the two countries and the world at large. It is hoped that the two sides can work towards the goal together, make more constructive remarks, do more constructive deeds, make greater efforts to manage and handle differences in a constructive way, expand common ground and narrow differences. I believe that is what we should do as two major countries for the world and the people.”</p> <p>• September 7, 2015 – President Xi’s US visit: Four steps Obama can take to improve relations (People's Daily) Quote: “First, Obama should stop treating China as an adversary of the US. To that end, he should order the military to stop surveillance flights off the coast of China [...] Second, Obama should offer to help Xi’s anti-corruption campaign by making it difficult for corrupt Chinese officials to hide in the US. [...] Third, Obama should take the opportunity to reverse his awful and awkward position relative to Xi’s pet projects: the AIB and the Belt and Road Initiative, and pledge support and willingness to work with China in Asia. [...] a proposal to work together to resolve the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.”</p> <p>• September 9, 2015 – Commentary: Win-win cooperation benefits Chinese and American people (People's Daily) Quote: “Although frictions and differences sometimes occur in the cooperation between the two countries, it is undeniable that the width and depth of the cooperation in all fields have exceeded any time in history. The healthy and stable developments of Sino-US relationship will continue to push forward the realization of the Chinese dream, American dream and dreams of all nations.”</p>



• **September 16, 2015 – Remarks by the President to the Business Roundtable** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “What I’ve consistently communicated [...] is our goal is to have them (China) as a partner in helping to maintain a set of international rules and norms that benefit everybody; that in fact, we’re what facilitated China’s rise. They were essentially riding on our backs for the last 30 years because we were underwriting peace, security, the free flow of commerce, international rules in the financial sector. And as they’ve matured, what we’ve said to them is, with power comes responsibility, so now you’ve got to step up. You can’t act as if you are a third-world country and pursue protectionist policies, or engage in dumping, or not protect intellectual property at a time when we’re now – when you’re now the second and, eventually, probably the first-largest economy in the world.”

• **September 22, 2015 – Preview of the State Visit of People's Republic of China President Xi Jinping** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “As my boss, National Security Advisor Susan Rice, said in her important speech on China yesterday at George Washington University, ‘Pursuing a productive relationship with China is a critical element of our larger strategy for the Asia Pacific.’ [...] Our strategy vis-a-vis China is, of course, another key pillar of our strategy for the Asia Pacific region. At the same time that we are deepening our relationships across the region, we also are maintaining a high tempo of senior-level engagement with China. [...] While we’ll continue to engage China to contribute more to addressing global challenges, we also will not lose sight of the trend lines of our cooperation.”

• **September 24, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “But the relationship with China is important, and we want to see the peaceful rise of a productive, constructive China. Nothing’s changed about that. Obviously, there’s areas where we don’t agree and we don’t see eye to eye on, and we’re going to continue to be just as forthright and candid about those as we have been. Likewise, there are areas where we already are cooperating with China – on climate change, on maritime security in some aspects, on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. There are plenty of areas where we can cooperate too.”

• **September 10, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “Q: The Pew Research Center released the result of a poll on September 9 which showed that some Americans' view of China is not that favorable. What is China's comment on that?”

A: The overall China-US relationship is stable. The two sides are making joint efforts to build a new type of major-country relationship in accordance with the important consensus reached by leaders of the two countries. It is only natural that the two sides do not see eye to eye on some issues, due to differences in history, culture, social systems and development stages. However, the shared interests between China and the US far outweigh differences, and dialogue and cooperation remain the mainstream of the bilateral relationship. China follows a path of peaceful development. The development of China means significant opportunities to the US, and mutual benefit characterizes China-US business ties. We are ready to step up communication between the two peoples, promote mutual understanding and trust and build up public support for the development of China-US relations.”

• **September 14, 2015 – Mistrust not in the interests of US, China and the world** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “The dropping of charges against Chinese-American Xiaoxing Xi by the US Justice Department on Friday is hopefully the end of his particular tribulations, but it will not be the end of the political climate under which quite a number of scientists or people in other key areas with connections with China will be closely watched, simply because of the United States’ paranoia about China [...] It is not in the interests of either country and neither is it in the interest of the entire world for the US and China to be always on high alert against each other. It is no exaggeration to say that the future of the world hinges upon the building of real trust between both countries.”

• **September 15, 2015 – China and U.S. to enhance strategic mutual trust** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: “To sum up, joint efforts of both sides is the decisive factor in building Sino-U.S. new-type major-country relations despite the bumpy and long road ahead. Bright prospects for both sides will not be possible without enhancing “strategic mutual trust.”



• **September 25, 2015 – Secretary Kerry Co-hosts a Lunch for Chinese President Xi Jinping Along With Vice President Joe Biden** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The question we face today is how China, the biggest developing country, and the United States, the biggest developed country, should work together to take our relations to the future. The answer, I believe, lies in making the right choices on two things of fundamental importance. First, China and the United States need to increase strategic mutual trust, seek peaceful coexistence, and prevent the so-called Thucydides Trap from locking the two major countries in conflict and confrontation. [...] Second, China and the United States need to work together to make the pie of cooperation bigger to better serve the interests of our two peoples and the wider international community. This requires that the two sides focus on shared interests and unlock the potential for cooperation.”

• **September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “And what I have said in the past to President Xi is, is that given China’s size, we recognize there’s still a lot of development to be done and a lot of poverty inside of China, but we can’t treat China as if it’s still a very poor, developing country, as it might have been 50 years ago. It is now a powerhouse. And that means it’s got responsibilities and expectations in terms of helping to uphold international rules that might not have existed before.”

• **September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping’s State Visit to the United States** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The United States and China announced two new initiatives to expand the dynamic and positive people-to-people interaction that is the foundation of our bilateral relationship: (1) A 2016 U.S.-China Tourism Year—a cooperative tourism initiative led by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the China National Tourism Administration to expand and shape travel between our countries[...] (2) A “One Million Strong” initiative led by the 100,000 Strong Foundation that aims to have one million American students studying Mandarin by 2020. “One Million Strong” goals include doubling the number of Mandarin language teachers in the United States through a major investment in teachers colleges; employing technological tools to engage students in underserved and underrepresented communities; and creating “100K Strong States,” a subnational consortium of U.S. governors committed to expanding Mandarin language-learning in their states.”

• **September 16, 2015 – For China-US Friendly Cooperation, For Global Peace and Development** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “First, President Xi’s visit will help enhance trust and reduce misgivings between China and the United States. [...] Secondly, President Xi’s visit will focus on cooperation between China and the United States. [...] Thirdly, President Xi’s visit will be a people-first visit. [...] Fourthly, President Xi’s visit will be future-oriented. [...] China will join other countries in exploring new visions for international relations. [...] China will work with other countries to lend new impetus to world peace. [...] China will work together with other countries to draw a new blueprint for global development.”

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

Quote: “ Under the coordination of the Fugitive Repatriation and Asset Recovery Office of the Central Anti-Corruption Coordination Group as well as the close cooperation of judicial, law enforcement and foreign affairs departments of China and the US, Yang Jinjun, a suspect of corruption and bribery who fled to the US 14 years ago, was repatriated to China on September 18. This is another important progress of the special task force on combating job-related crimes, pursuing fugitives and recovering illicit assets since the “sky net” campaign was carried out, and also the first time that the US repatriated to China personnel on the released list of 100 wanted fugitives.”

• **September 24, 2015 – Spotlight: Xi’s remarks on China-U.S. local-level cooperation resonate with U.S. officials, experts** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Max Sieben Baucus, U.S. ambassador to China, said the cooperation between the United States and China, two decisive powers in the world, will certainly have far-reaching impact on the whole world, thus the two sides need to continuously deepen and expand cooperation. [...] ‘There is no such thing as the so-called Thucydides trap in the world. But should major countries time and again make the mistakes of strategic miscalculation, they might create such traps for themselves,’ Xi said while talking about China-U.S. relations with U.S. local governments and friendly organizations.”



• **September 27, 2015 – The US needs to reciprocate China's goodwill** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "Despite the US' commanding lead in many fields such as the military, the gap between China and the US is narrowing with China's rapid rise. Besides, Washington and Beijing need to jointly deal with an array of new challenges such as climate change and cyber security, the significance and complexity of which is far greater than expected. [...] It's clear that China has tremendous goodwill in developing relations with the US, which merits recognition. However, establishing stable and positive China-US relations requires the efforts of both countries."

• **September 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: "President Xi Jinping has just wrapped up his successful state visit to the US which marks a milestone in the bilateral relationship. The two sides reaffirmed the direction of building a new model of major-country relationship between China and the US, boosted bilateral strategic mutual trust, expanded mutually beneficial cooperation for win-win results and improved friendship between the two peoples. We would like to push for greater progress of the new model of major-country relationship with the American side."



Issue 2 – Economic Relations: U.S. Urges China to Open Up Economy More to Foreign Investment and Promote Domestic Consumption; China Argues for Continued Role of Party Intervention in the Economy and States Its Economy is Open to the World

United States	China
<p>• September 4, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson of Secretary Lew’s Meeting with Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei at the G-20 in Ankara, Turkey (Department of the Treasury)</p> <p>Quote: “Secretary Lew and Minister Lou discussed the outlook for the Chinese economy and recent developments in financial markets. The Secretary noted that he has closely monitored China’s recent economic policy actions, including the recent shift in China’s exchange rate regime. Secretary Lew emphasized the importance of China accelerating its transition from export- and investment-led growth to a greater reliance on Chinese households and consumers, especially when global growth faces headwinds. He emphasized that continued progress on economic reform would result in a stronger, more stable, and more balanced Chinese and global economy, which is in China and America’s interests.”</p> <p>• September 11, 2015 – Readout from a Treasury Spokesperson on a Call Between Secretary Jacob J. Lew and Chinese vice Premier Wang Yang (Department of the Treasury)</p> <p>Quote: “Secretary Lew stated that the upcoming visit will serve as an important opportunity to make progress on issues vital to the U.S.-China economic relationship. The Secretary emphasized the importance of China demonstrating its commitment to reform by opening its economy further to foreign investment and by addressing trade barriers in areas such as technology and agriculture, which would unlock opportunities for American firms and workers, exports, and firms. He encouraged China to accelerate implementation of reforms, including fiscal reforms, that support greater domestic consumption and strong, sustainable, and balanced global growth.”</p> <p>• September 21, 2015 – Lew Op-Ed : China Must Stick To the Path of Economic Reform (Department of the Treasury)</p> <p>Quote: “While China’s financial markets remain domestically focused, a slowdown in its core economy raises concerns about spillover to other economies, particularly emerging economies. [...] Decisive progress on economic reform would result in a stronger, more stable and more balanced Chinese and global economy, which is in the interest of both countries. A firm commitment to that reform path by President Xi this week would demonstrate an important step in that direction.”</p>	<p>• September 07, 2015 – The Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce on September 7, 2015 (Ministry of Commerce)</p> <p>Quote: “August 28, the Ministry of Commerce released its Announcement No. 33, in 2015, and decided to start the final review on countervailing measures against the imported chicken from the United States from August 30. Before that, the Chinese chicken industry petitioned for a final review on the countervailing measures against the imported chicken from the United States on June 23, 2015, requesting to continue to implement the countervailing measures. After examination, the Ministry of Commerce decided to start the final review.”</p> <p>• September 11, 2015 – Tales of economic doom greatly exaggerated (People’s Daily)</p> <p>Quote: “China won’t collapse, nor will the US go downhill day by day. However, subconsciously, we have placed both countries in a rivalry, in which two models of development are meant to engage in a fight and show the world which one is better. In fact, these two different models cannot be simply generalized as “good” or “bad.” On most occasions, they can co-exist. However, until we realize this, we are approaching a dangerous zero-sum game.”</p> <p>• September 15, 2015 – China Voice: Party leadership is “safety valve” for SOEs (People’s Daily)</p> <p>Quote: “The leadership and supervision of the CPC (Communist Party of China) act as a “safety valve” to make sure enterprises, as well as the Chinese economy, stay on track. It should be noted that management and supervision by authorities should not turn into meddling in SOE (Stated Owned Enterprise) operations. Such concerns, however, can be answered by the CPC’s pledge to check the use of power and respect market forces in the economy.”</p>



• **September 22, 2015 – Conference Call to Preview the Visit of President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “It’s important that China demonstrate that its economic reforms are on track; that it will refrain from competitive devaluation ; and that it will implement pro-growth fiscal policies that accelerate the transition to consumer-led growth. [...] it’s important that China should share responsibility for sustaining the rules-based economic system. This system, which was put in place with a lot of work by the United States and other, has benefitted China and enabled its rise [...] And finally, [...] there are some irritants on the bilateral economic relationship that can be threatened by China’s policies that can be discriminatory and protectionist on technology, uneven enforcement of anti-monopoly law, and actions in the agricultural sphere where science-based approach is not yet fully in place.”

• **September 24, 2015 – Interview With Beijing TV’s Yang Lan** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I (Secretary Kerry) think that it would be a mistake for the world for China and the United States to engage in a kind of new cold war over China’s economy. [...] China will be the largest economy in the world. That doesn’t frighten us; we welcome that as long as everybody is playing by fair and sensible rules. [...] As long as China uses that power for good purposes and sensible purposes in terms of its regional influence and impact, there’s no reason to get into a confrontation which nobody benefits from [...]”

• **September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “With respect to our economic relationship, we agreed to step up our work toward a high-standard bilateral investment treaty that would help level the playing field for American companies. We’ve committed ourselves to a set of principles for trade in information technologies, including protection of innovation and intellectual property. President Xi discussed his commitment to accelerate market reforms, avoid devaluing China’s currency, and have China play a greater role in upholding the rules-based system that underpins the global economy – all of which are steps we very much support.”

• **September 16, 2015 – Regular Press Conference of the Ministry of Commerce** ([Ministry of Commerce](#))

Quote: “The market concentration ratio of the service trade import and export in China was relatively high. In the first half year, China Hong Kong, the United States, Japan, Korea and Australia were the top five service trade partners of China and the proportion of the import and export volume was 52.1% of the service import and export volume of the whole country in the same period. The top five export destinations were China’s Hong Kong, the United States, Korea, Japan and Singapore respectively, accounting for 55.6% of the national service export volume. The top five import sources were the United States, China Hong Kong, Japan, Australia and Canada respectively, accounting for 52.4% of the national service import volume.”

• **September 23, 2015 – Double down on opening-up** ([China Daily](#))

Quote: “By opening up its market wider to the outside world, China is set to further integrate into the world economy through trade and cross-border investment [...] It is hoped that China’s promise to make a negative list applicable across the country will make the two countries (the U.S. and China) agree to a treaty to facilitate and boost bilateral investment.”

• **September 26, 2015 – Full Text : Outcome list of President Xi Jinping’s state visit to the United States** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China and the United States recognize their shared interest in promoting a strong and open global economy, inclusive growth and sustainable development, and a stable international financial system, supported by the multilateral economic institutions founded at the end of World War II that have benefitted the peoples of both nations. ”

• **September 28, 2015 – Commentary: The Prospect of Chinese Economy Is Still Bright** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “China-U.S. economic and trade deals account for over two thirds on the list of all 49 deals President Xi Jinping sealed during his U.S. State Visit. [...] As two giant economies, China and the U.S. are tightly connected to each other. The trade and economy on high levels are bringing along unlimited business opportunities. [...] ‘The interests of China and the United States are deeply interconnected, and we have greater responsibilities for world peace and human progress,’ said President Xi at the joint press conference with President Obama in Washington, D.C.”



• **September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : U.S.-China Economic Relations** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The United States and China recognize their shared interest in promoting a strong and open global economy, inclusive growth and sustainable development, and a stable international financial system, supported by the multilateral economic institutions founded at the end of World War II that have benefited the peoples of both nations. Both countries recognize and value the substantial contributions that the international financial institutions have made to global growth, higher incomes, the alleviation of poverty, and the maintenance of financial stability since their establishment[...] Both countries are committed to supporting this international architecture and welcome the greater role of the G-20 in global economic governance to ensure an inclusive, resilient, and constantly improving international economic architecture to meet challenges now and in the future. In light of China’s increased share of global economic activity and increased capacity, the United States welcomes China playing a more active role in and taking on due responsibility for the international financial architecture, as well as expanded bilateral cooperation to address global economic challenges.”

• **September 29, 2015 – Remarks by Assistant Secretary Karen Dynaa at the National Foundation for Credit Counseling 50th Annual Leaders’ Conference** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote : “China is experiencing a marked slowdown—part cyclical but also structural—which is having substantial spillover effects to other countries that export raw materials or other items to China, including a number of countries in Asia and as well as in other parts of the world. We believe that with good policy choices, China and other countries can achieve strong economic growth. Currently, however, the weakness in other economies is weighing on demand for our exports. Our financial markets are also exposed to troubles abroad because many companies do business globally. As we saw just a few weeks ago, concerns about growth in China and elsewhere can quickly translate into equity market declines in the United States. ”



Issue 3 – Military and Security Relations: The U.S. Continues to Accuse China of Making Cyber Attacks while China Continues to Deny the Allegations; Chinese Navy Conducts Operations in Bering Sea; Agreement on Air-to-Air Safety and Communications

United States	China
<p>• September 2, 2015 – Chinese Navy Ships off Alaska Coast Highlights Need To Avoid 'Miscalculations,' General Says (Talk Shows) Quote: "With China sending five Navy ships into the Bering Sea north and west of Alaska for the first time ever, the nation's top military officer says the move highlights the need for both the U.S. and China to work to avoid 'miscalculations and interactions that could be unsafe at sea and in the air.' [...] General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the vessels operating in international waters close to Alaska indicate to him that China is "developing capabilities to expand their reach" as they continue to pursue economic interests."</p> <p>• September 3, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room (US Department of Defense) Quote: "I don't think we have a particular reaction to that news (China's troop cuts of about 300,000), other than it's basically in line with what the Chinese have said in the past about the size of their military going forward ... But from our perspective, we continue to watch and see the Chinese military as it tries to modernize and adjust to a changing world."</p> <p>• September 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing by the Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefings) Quote: "I know that there are a lot of military analysts who have taken a look at this situation and have observed that while China has signaled their intention to reduce the number of troops in the People's Liberation Army by about 300,000, there is, however, a corresponding increase in investment in equipment and technology that they believe would strengthen and enhance the capabilities of their military."</p>	<p>• September 7, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "The word "peace" was brought up 18 times in President Xi Jinping's address at the commemoration. He underlined that no matter how much stronger China may become, it will never seek hegemony or expansion, and will never inflict its past suffering on any other nation. He also solemnly announced that China will cut the number of its troops by 300,000. China has sent a resounding and unequivocal message, that is, peace does not come easily, and thus must be cherished and upheld. The stronger China grows, the stronger the force for world peace will be. The commemoration was given credit by foreign leaders present."</p> <p>• September 11, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "The Chinese government firmly opposes and cracks down on all forms of hacking activities in accordance with the law. China also falls victim to cyber attacks. As two major users of internet, China and the US have a wide range of shared interests in the field of cyber security, and face common challenges. The issue of cyber security shall become one area of cooperation rather than a source of friction between China and the US. Some people from the US should stop their unfounded accusations against the Chinese side and carry out dialogue and cooperation based on mutual respect and trust so as to jointly create a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyberspace. "</p> <p>• September 14, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei's Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: "Secretary Meng Jianzhu pointed out that China and the US are major Internet users. Against the backdrop of frequent occurrence of cyberspace incidents and continuous increase of threats to cyber security, strengthening mutual trust and cooperation in the cyber security field becomes even more important. Secretary Meng Jianzhu stressed that the Chinese side resolutely opposes cyber attack and cyber espionage. Whoever carries out cyber attack and cyber espionage in China violates the national law and will be held accountable by law. It serves the common interests of both sides and the international community to carry out dialogue and cooperation and jointly combat cyber crimes. "</p>



• **September 15, 2015 – Remarks of Counselor to the Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions, Anjan Mukherjee, at the National Association of Federal Credit Unions’ (NAFCU) Congressional Caucus** ([Department of the Treasury](#))

Quote: “Not to end on a down note but I would like to conclude with a question on risk. And this is perhaps the most important question to consider with regard to cybersecurity, one that subsumes the various other questions I’ve asked you to consider today: is cybersecurity fully embedded in your risk management regime? When this occurs, when cybersecurity is part of your institution’s DNA, rather than appended to existing controls in modular fashion, there is an institutional firewall created, a synergy between people, process and technology, that’s hard to crack. I am hopeful that when we all meet again next year around this time, you can all answer this question in the affirmative.”

• **September 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “We are not likely to spend time talking about our plan to implement sanctions (against Chinese entities suspected of cyber security violations) prior to their implementation. And the reason for that is we do not want to give those who may be the target of those sanctions the opportunity to plan – or carry out a strategy to evade those sanctions before they’re even implemented [...] And I think what we know about the tool of economic sanctions is that it can serve as a pretty effective deterrent, even if it hasn’t already been implemented ; that having this response tool in our arsenal can advance the interests of the United States. So we’ll obviously continue to monitor this situation, and I think there are a number of steps that the United States has taken, including engaging directly between the two Presidents, from President Obama to his counterpart (President Xi Jinping), raising significant concerns about China’s activity in cyberspace.”

• **September 16, 2015 – Remarks by the President to the Business Roundtable** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “We have repeatedly said to the Chinese government that we understand traditional intelligence-gathering functions that all states, including us, engage in. And we will do everything we can to stop you from getting state secrets or transcripts of a meeting that I’ve had, but we understand you’re going to be trying to do that. That is fundamentally different from your government or its proxies engaging directly in industrial espionage and stealing trade secrets, stealing proprietary information from companies. That we consider an act of aggression that has to stop.”

• **September 15, 2015 – Sino-U.S. cyber cooperation a much-desired breakthrough** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Despite disagreements over cyber threats, China and the United States have seen growing cooperation between internet technology companies, which analysts say will provide a solid foundation for better relations in electronic security.”

• **September 21, 2015 – China’s Position Paper on the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations** ([Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the UN](#))

Quote: “The world is experiencing a resurgence of terrorism. All parties must unite to combat it. We must address both the symptoms and the root causes of terrorism by taking multi-faceted and coordinated measures, and bring into full play the lead role of the UN and its Security Council. We must reject double standard and not link terrorism with any particular country, ethnicity or religion. The international community needs to adopt new approaches and measures in light of the new features and changes of international terrorism, step up information collecting and sharing, cut off channels for disseminating cyber-terrorism, cross-border flow of terrorists and terrorist financing, and work on deradicalization to eliminate terrorism at its source and squeeze its space.”

• **September 24, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “In recent years, with the personal care and promotion of both President Xi and President Obama, the China-U.S. military-to-military relations have had generally stable development. Since the beginning of this year, the two militaries have conducted frequent high-level visits and maintained close communication on important, strategic and directional issues. There has been growth in both width and depths of exchanges and cooperation between the two militaries, and there have been a lot of important achievements including several ‘first times.’”

• **September 24, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “According to the annual plan, the PLA naval ships continued to organize the training on the far seas after concluding the “Joint Sea - 2015 (II)” exercise with the Russian side. Early September, the ships sailed in the Bering Sea and entered western Pacific through the Tanaga Strait. It needs to be pointed out that, according to relevant international laws, the Tanaga Strait is a strait for international navigation. The military ships and aircraft of all countries enjoy the rights of transit passage.”



• **September 21, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “I would acknowledge upfront [...] that there are some areas where the U.S. and China are able to cooperate, but many other areas where we’re in direct competition. And when it comes to actions in cyberspace, we do continue to be, in particular, concerned about the government-sponsored, cyber-enabled theft of corporate secrets for financial gain. We’ve also seen activities in cyberspace that undermine core freedoms of individuals in cyberspace. We’ve also seen China take steps that violate the personal privacy of individuals. And we’ve also seen steps by the Chinese in cyberspace that discriminate against U.S. technology firms, some of whom were seeking to do business in China.”

• **September 22, 2015 – Department of Defense Press Briefing by Pentagon Press Secretary Peter Cook in the Pentagon Briefing Room** ([US Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “I can confirm for you that the department's reviewing a report that came in from PACOM regarding, as you said, a September 15th intercept of a U.S. RC-135 by an aircraft from the People's Republic of China. The incident in question happened in the Yellow Sea, approximately 80 miles east of the Shandong Peninsula, and one of the maneuvers conducted by the Chinese aircraft during this intercept was perceived as unsafe by the RC-135 air crew and at this point, right now, there's no indication this was a near collision, but the report that came back was that the plane operated in an unsafe fashion. And that's report that's come in here, and there's been no further determination at that time. It's still under review.”

• **September 24, 2015 – Interview With Beijing TV's Yang Lan** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “(Secretary Kerry) anticipate some positive steps with respect to cyber, and it’s positive for everybody. This is not a China-United States – shouldn’t be a China-United States bilateral issue. This is a global issue. Every country has an interest in making certain that people have a right to have access to the internet, that people have privacy protected, their freedom is protected, that they have the ability to do business and to know that people aren’t stealing their secrets or coming in and taking commercial advantage of people because they’ve violated internet privacy and rights.”

• **September 26, 2015 – Full Text : Outcome list of President Xi Jinping’s state visit to the United States** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China and the United States agree that timely responses should be provided to requests for information and assistance concerning malicious cyber activities. Further, both sides agree to cooperate, in a manner consistent with their respective national laws and relevant international obligations, with requests to investigate cybercrimes, collect electronic evidence, and mitigate malicious cyber activity emanating from their territory. Both sides also agree to provide updates on the status and results of those investigation to the other side, as appropriate. China and the United States agree that neither country's government will conduct or knowingly support cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information, with the intent of providing competitive advantages to companies or commercial sectors.”

• **September 28, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China and the US agree that timely responses should be provided to requests for information and assistance concerning malicious cyber activities. Further, both sides agree to cooperate, in a manner consistent with their respective national laws and relevant international obligations, with requests to investigate cybercrimes, collect electronic evidence, and mitigate malicious cyber activities emanating from their territory. Both sides also agree to provide updates on the status and results of those investigations to the other side, as appropriate. China and the US agree that neither country's government will conduct or knowingly support cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information, with the intent of providing competitive advantages to companies or commercial sectors.”



• **September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “We’ve agreed that neither the U.S. or the Chinese government will conduct or knowingly support cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information for commercial advantage. In addition, we’ll work together, and with other nations, to promote international rules of the road for appropriate conduct in cyberspace.”

• **September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping’s State Visit to the United States** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The United States and China commit to deepen their cooperation on nuclear security and to work together to make the Nuclear Security Summit hosted by President Obama next year a success. The two sides plan to hold an annual bilateral dialogue on nuclear security, with the first meeting of the dialogue to be held prior to the 2016 Nuclear Security Summit.”

• **September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping’s State Visit to the United States** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “Building on the two Memoranda of Understanding on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) signed by the United States and China in November 2014, the two sides completed new annexes on air-to-air safety and crisis communications[...] The United States and China agree that timely responses should be provided to requests for information and assistance concerning malicious cyber activities[...] The United States and China agree that neither country’s government will conduct or knowingly support cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information, with the intent of providing competitive advantages to companies or commercial sectors. Both sides are committed to making common effort to further identify and promote appropriate norms of state behavior in cyberspace within the international community[...] President Obama and President Xi decided to continue expanding law enforcement and anti-corruption cooperation, including by enhancing coordination and cooperation on criminal investigations, repatriation of fugitives, and asset recovery issues.”

• **September 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “On September 28, at the UN summit for its 70th anniversary, President Xi Jinping announced a range of major initiatives aimed at improving and strengthening UN peacekeeping operations. As President Xi said, China will join the new UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System, and has decided to take the lead in setting up a permanent peacekeeping police squad and build a peacekeeping standby force of 8,000 troops. China will give favorable consideration to future UN requests for more Chinese engineering, transport and medical staff. In the next five years, China will train 2,000 peacekeepers from other countries and carry out 10 de-mining assistance programs that will include training and equipment provisions. China will also provide US\$100 million worth of free military assistance to the African Union in the next five years to support the establishment of an African Standby Force and the African Capability for Immediate Response to Crisis. China will send the first peacekeeping helicopter squad to UN peacekeeping operations in Africa, and part of its pledge in the China-UN peace and development fund will be used to support UN peacekeeping operations. All these measures demonstrate that China is taking on greater international responsibility to safeguard international peace and security. They showcase China’s determination to maintain world peace and staunch support for UN peacekeeping operations.”

• **September 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Chinese government firmly opposes and cracks down on all forms of hacking activities in accordance with the law. Both China and the US are major internet users who have extensive shared interests and face common challenges in the field of cyber security. There was an in-depth discussion on the issue of cyber security during President Xi Jinping’s visit to the US, which produced important consensus. The two sides should work hard to implement the consensus, and move forward the bilateral relationship in a sound and steady manner.”



Issue 4 – Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues: U.S. Puts Spotlight on Imprisoned Human Rights Activists Including 3 Chinese Women; China Questions U.S. Human Rights Record in Middle East and Highlights Own Push for Gender Equality

United States	China
<p>• September 1, 2015 – Remarks at the FreeThe20 Campaign Launch (Mission to the United Nations) Quote: “Regarding China and Ethiopia, I think in fact what this (FreeThe20) campaign [...] really reflects the centrality of human rights to our relationship with these countries. We, with both China and Ethiopia [...] have incredibly productive and important business that we do together around collective security challenges and around a whole set of shared interests. At the same time, the human rights issues in countries, regardless of who they are and regardless of how productively we work with them in other realms, need to be raised [...] National Security Advisor Rice’s trip to China in advance of the Xi visit had human rights as one of the key agenda items.”</p> <p>• September 22, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “Sandy Phan-Gillis [...] she’s currently, as you noted, being detained by the ministry of state security in Nanning, Guangxi in southern China. The U.S. consulate in Guangzhou has been providing consular assistance to her since her arrest on March 20th. We, obviously, are monitoring this case very closely. We’ve been to visit her six times since her arrest, and we’ve raised her case with Chinese Government officials on multiple occasions at a very senior level. And in fact, my colleague at the White House just said that the White House had also raised it with the Chinese foreign ministry and have not received what we believe to be an adequate response about the charges against her. So we’re closely monitoring her situation. We’re obviously closely monitoring her health in particular. We’ve raised issues regarding her health with Chinese authorities when appropriate to make sure she’s receiving necessary care.”</p> <p>• September 22, 2015 – Conference Call to Preview the Visit of President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “In addition to the fact that we have very clear views about how states should behave in the way that they treat their peoples and the universal rights of their peoples that they should respect, I think increasingly we’ve been concerned about certain steps that China has taken domestically through various national security-related laws – draft NGO law – that really seem to be designed to further constrict the operations of civil society, and unfortunately seems designed to restrict the activities of many NGOs, universities, foundations and others who have contributed directly to China’s development and to the development of our bilateral relationship.”</p>	<p>• September 08, 2015 – Statement by Ambassador Wang Min of the Permanent Mission of China under Agenda Item 1 at the Second Regular Session of UNICEF Executive Board (Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the UN) Quote: “It is necessary to increase the input in program countries’ capacity building and put emphasis on both short-term humanitarian assistance and long-term development. Children and adolescents represent the future and hope of the world, but they bear the brunt of natural disasters and armed conflicts in many parts of the world. We hope that UNICEF can fully utilize its institutional strengths and effectively carry out short-term humanitarian assistance while bearing in mind the need for long-term development. It should follow the principle of country leadership and ownership of programs and respect their real needs and priority areas.”</p> <p>• September 9, 2015 – Refugee crisis diminishes US leadership (People’s Daily) Quote: “Since the Iraq War, Washington has lost quite a few points for stirring up or encouraging a series of conflicts. The US, as the world’s police, can no longer finish what it started, and has been constantly creating unfinished political projects. Its ability to give orders to the world will be severely affected. For one that heavily values its leadership, such a diminution will make it perturbed.”</p> <p>• September 17, 2015 – Rights forum underscores China’s commitment to peace (People’s Daily) Quote: “A rethinking of China’s human rights merits out of a forum in Beijing is based on the country’s adherence to the principal of peaceful development.”</p> <p>• September 21, 2015 – China’s Position Paper on the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations (Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the UN) Quote: “It is important to respect countries’ right to choose their own path of human rights development, place equal importance on both categories of human rights, engage in equal-footed and constructive dialogue and cooperation, approach human rights issues in a just and objective manner, and promote the healthy development of the human rights cause globally.”</p>



• **September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “I again affirmed America’s unwavering support for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people, including freedom of assembly and expression, freedom of the press and freedom of religion. And I expressed in candid terms our strong view that preventing journalists, lawyers, NGOs and civil society groups from operating freely, or closing churches and denying ethnic minorities equal treatment are all problematic, in our view, and actually prevent China and its people from realizing its full potential.”

• **September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping’s State Visit to the United States** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The United States and China signed a Memorandum of Understanding that establishes a framework for development cooperation to guide our future collaborative efforts. The MOU recognizes our shared objectives in ending extreme poverty and advancing global development through enhanced collaboration and communication under the principle of development raised, agreed, and led by recipient countries.”

• **September 26, 2015 – Remarks at the Internet Freedom Technology Showcase: The Future of Human Rights Online, City University of New York Graduate Center** ([Mission to the United Nations](#))

Quote: “There are, among the 20, three Chinese women, particularly given that China is hosting this (Beijing+20) conference, these are women that have a remarkable amount to contribute to their societies and we’ve been able, again, to use the technologies – social media and so forth – to lift up their face, but we’re also using old-fashioned photographs of these women and hanging them in the walls of the front of the U.S. Mission so that diplomats and dignitaries who walk to the Beijing+20 Conference tomorrow will get a glimpse of who’s missing and what’s missing.”

• **September 28, 2015 – Xi Jinping Attends and Addresses Global Leaders’ Meeting on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, Stressing to Promote Women’s All-round Development and Jointly Construct and Share Wonderful World** ([Permanent Mission of the People’s Republic of China to the UN](#))

Quote: “Xi Jinping put forward four propositions on promoting gender equality and women’s all-round development. First, promote women’s development in tandem with social and economic progress. We should set up scientific and reasonable development strategies, ensure that women equally share the achievements of development, and promote women’s participation in economic and social development. Second, protect women’s rights and interests actively. We should systematically incorporate protecting women’s rights and interests into laws and regulations, improve women’s capacity for their participation in political and economic activities, ensure basic public health services for women, ensure that school is affordable and safe for every girl, and develop vocational and life-long education tailored for women. Third, strive to build a harmonious and inclusive social culture, eliminate all forms of violence against women and dismiss outdated mentalities and customs inhibiting women’s development. Fourth, foster an international environment favorable for women’s development. We should stand firmly for the concept of peace, development and win-win cooperation, actively safeguard peace and conduct international development cooperation in the field of women so as to narrow the development gap among women in different countries.”



Issue 5 – Climate Change and Environmental Issues: U.S.-China Climate Leaders Summit Held; Presidents of Both Countries Release Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change

United States	China
<p>• September 1, 2015 – Remarks by the President at the GLACIER Conference -- Anchorage, AK (White House, Speeches and Remarks) Quote: “The United States will double the pace at which we cut our emissions, and China committed, for the first time, to limiting its emissions. Because the world’s two largest economies and two largest emitters came together, we’re now seeing other nations stepping up aggressively as well. And I’m determined to make sure American leadership continues to drive international action -- because we can’t do this alone. Even America and China together cannot do this alone. Even all the countries represented around here cannot do this alone. We have to do it together.”</p> <p>• September 15, 2015 – Fact Sheet: U.S. – China Climate Leaders Summit (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “The (U.S. – China Climate Leaders) Summit will feature several outcomes, including a U.S. – China Climate Leaders Declaration to be signed by a diverse set of U.S. cities and states [...] The Declaration is the first of its kind between multiple community leaders from the United States and China to take parallel steps to address climate change at the state and local level, and is a concrete statement of intent by city, state, and provincial leaders from the United States and China to implement ambitious, verifiable actions to address climate change and simultaneously to support and expand bilateral cooperation and dialogue.”</p> <p>• September 18, 2015 – Interview With Jon Snow of Channel 4 (State Department) Quote: “I went to China and negotiated with the Chinese, which we had never been able to do successfully, brought them to the table, the Chinese agreed to work with us on climate change. We have partnered significantly now for two years. President Obama went to Beijing, stood up with President Xi and announced a monumental agreement where China and the United States would take the lead in helping to push countries towards Paris and in announcing our emissions reductions. President Obama has implemented a national climate action plan, we are deeply involved in setting very strong standards and leading the effort now to help – together with France and others – get to Paris with an agreement that we hope will avoid the consequence of Copenhagen. And we’re all deeply committed to this.”</p>	<p>• September 21, 2015 – China's Position Paper on the 70th Anniversary of the United Nations (Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN) Quote: “Climate change is a challenge facing all mankind. This year is a critical year for climate change negotiations. Various parties have high expectations for the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. China is ready to work with other parties to reach a new agreement in Paris based on the principles of "common but differentiated responsibilities", equity and respective capabilities, and put in place a fair, equitable, cooperative and win-win global climate governance system. The UN needs to provide political guidance and build political will for this purpose.”</p> <p>• September 25, 2015 – Ambassador Liu Jieyi Giving an Interview to Chinese Media on President Xi Jinping's Attendance at the UN Summits (Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN) Quote: “ The Chinese Government takes climate change seriously. To address this issue is not only inherently required by the need of achieving sustainable development in China, but also part of our commitment to getting deeply involved in global governance, fostering a community of shared destiny for all, and promoting the common development of mankind. On 30 June this year, the Chinese Government submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the UNFCCC secretariat, which contains targets for China’s actions in mitigation, adaptation, peaking and other areas as well as China’s policy measures and implementation avenues to reach these targets. China’s INDCs speaks volumes of China’s responsible attitude and tremendous efforts on climate change. ”</p> <p>• September 26, 2015 – Full Text : Outcome list of President Xi Jinping’s state visit to the United States (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The two sides speak highly of the China-U.S. Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change issued during President Xi Jinping's state visit to the United States. Both sides will work together and with other countries to make the Paris Climate Change Conference a success. The two sides also reaffirm their determination to implement domestic climate policies, strengthen bilateral coordination and cooperation and promote sustainable development and the transition to green, low-carbon and climate-resilient economies.”</p>



• **September 25, 2015 – Secretary Kerry Co-hosts a Lunch for Chinese President Xi Jinping Along With Vice President Joe Biden** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "I'm very pleased to say that the joint statement that our leaders is releasing today is, again, a major step forward. It sets forth a common vision for the final agreement describing our aligned views on a number of key negotiating issues. This is heading into Paris for the Paris negotiations in December. And it demonstrates a strong momentum in both countries on domestic climate policy, including our clean power plan and China's commitment to green dispatch in their power sector. It breaks new ground on climate finance, to help the most vulnerable nations be able to transition to low carbon development and it helps to actually build resistance to climate impacts in many nations, with China today announcing a 3.1 billion climate finance commitment commensurate with the U.S. pledge to the Green Climate Fund."

• **September 25, 2015 – Regarding the U.S.-China Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change** ([State Department](#))

Quote: "Climate change is a defining challenge of our time, and it cannot be addressed without the United States and China working together. As the world's two largest economies and emitters, the United States and China have a critical role to play in tackling this challenge. Following the historic Joint Announcement on Climate Change made by President Obama and President Xi last November, today's Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change represents a significant step forward in U.S.-China leadership and cooperation on climate change."

• **September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People's Republic of China in Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: "Our two countries are also putting forward our common vision for the ambitious climate change agreements that we seek in Paris. When the world's two largest economies, energy consumers and carbon emitters come together like this, then there's no reason for other countries -- whether developed or developing -- to not do so as well. And so this is another major step towards the global agreement the world needs to reach in two months' time."

• **September 28, 2015 – Xi Jinping Attends Leaders Working Lunch on Climate Change of UN** ([Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the UN](#))

Quote: "Xi Jinping stressed that China has always responded actively to climate change in a responsible manner, regarded the task as an important opportunity to realize the transformation of the development pattern, and actively explored a low-carbon development path in line with China's national conditions. The Chinese government has fully integrated dealing with climate change into the overall strategy of national economic and social development. Last year, China's carbon dioxide emissions per unit of GDP dropped by 33.8 percent compared with that of 2005. In the future, China will further intensify control over greenhouse gas emissions, and try to achieve the target of reducing carbon intensity by 40 to 45 percent in 2020. China is willing to continue taking international responsibilities consistent with its own national conditions, development stage and capability. "

• **September 29, 2015 – Climate Creates Chances across Pacific** ([People's Daily](#))

Quote: "US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping have just issued a joint statement on climate change that sets out a common vision for the Paris climate agreement to be concluded this December, and which strengthens their respective national climate policies. [...] To strengthen climate action, global corporations depend on strong, harmonized policy signals in the countries where they have operations and supply chains, and this joint announcement by the leaders of the world's two biggest economies sends precisely the signals business needs to act on climate."



• **September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping’s State Visit to the United States** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The United States and China, recognizing the importance and urgency of combating wildlife trafficking, commit to take positive measures to address this global challenge. The United States and China commit to enact nearly complete bans on ivory import and export, including significant and timely restrictions on the import of ivory as hunting trophies, and to take significant and timely steps to halt the domestic commercial trade of ivory[...] The United States and China intend to pursue actively cooperation on polar and ocean matters, including projects related to ocean conservation and expanding joint polar research efforts, and will work together on the proposal to establish a Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Antarctica’s Ross Sea. The two sides also plan to support additional bilateral efforts in these fields, including ocean acidification monitoring and a partnership between the coastal cities of Xiamen and Weihai in China and San Francisco and New York in the United States to share best practices to reduce the flow of trash into the ocean.”

• **September 29, 2015 – Remarks at the Major Economies Forum Ministerial** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We have come a long way since last year. Last November, the United States and China, the two largest emitters in the world – I regret to say, but it’s a reality – who have historically been on very different sides of this fight. I went to the first COP in Rio in 1992 and I’ve been to many of them in between, including Kyoto, Buenos Aires, Copenhagen. And I – we struggled all the time with the hard lines drawn between developed and developing, and I think finally we’re in a new place. But one of the reasons that we’re getting to a new place is thanks to the decision by China and its leaders that they were going to step up and take a position of leadership. And so we broke new ground as our presidents came together to announce their respective emissions reductions commitments.”



Issue 6 – Asia Pacific Issues: U.S. Strengthens Ties Through Agreements with Japan and India; China Reacts to Passage of New Security Bill in Japan

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>● September 3, 2015 – Remarks by the Vice President at the Eizenstat Lecture (White House, Speeches and Remarks) Quote: “In Asia, we’re building on six decades of commitments underwriting the region’s security and stability by modernizing our alliance and expanding cooperation. America today has more peacetime military training and partnerships in the Asia Pacific than ever before. And by 2020, 60 percent of our naval assets and 60 percent of our air power will be stationed in the Pacific.”</p> <p>● September 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “We honor and respect the sacrifices made by many nations, including China, 70 years ago and we believe that all parties should take a reconciliatory approach to the end of World War II. Certainly, as the President noted in his statement, the United States relationship with Japan over the last 70 years has been a model of the power of reconciliation. So I guess, as I said or reiterated before, we certainly don’t question or challenge Beijing’s right or authority to host these kind of commemorative events (VOJ military parade), and we’ve consistently shared with our Chinese counterparts our desire to see these types of events highlight the themes of reconciliation and healing.”</p> <p>● September 17, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “The security legislation in question is a domestic matter for Japan. We welcome Japan’s ongoing efforts to strengthen the alliance and to play a more active role in regional and international security activities, as reflected in the new guidelines for U.S.-Japan defense cooperation that was – that were approved in April.”</p> <p>● September 22, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “Japan has demonstrated over the last 70 years that it has an abiding commitment to peace, democracy, and the rule of law. We would welcome or we do welcome Japan’s ongoing efforts to strengthen the alliance and play a more active role in regional security as well as international security issues and activities. So we believe this new security legislation and the recently revised guidelines for U.S.-Japan defense cooperation certainly support that.”</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>● September 1, 2015 – India should rethink its oil exploration plans (China Daily) Quote: “India’s intention to once again explore for oil in the disputed waters of the South China Sea is an unwise move, as it will further complicate the maritime disputes and do a disservice to maintaining the positive momentum that has been achieved in China-India ties [...] What’s more, the meddling of outside forces, such as the United States, in the maritime disputes in these waters has already disrupted regional efforts to resolve them peacefully.”</p> <p>● September 9, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “The Chinese side stands for the development of China-Japan relations based on the four political documents and in the spirit of regarding history as the mirror and looking to the future. We hope that the Japanese side will work together with the Chinese side to properly address issues in bilateral relations, and make concrete efforts for the improvement and development of bilateral relations. It is also hoped that Japan will stay on the path of peaceful development and play a constructive role in promoting regional peace, stability and development.”</p> <p>● September 15, 2015 – FTA would benefit Australia (China Daily) Quote: “Australians who oppose the China-Australia Free Trade Agreement should look at the larger picture of bilateral trade and the great impact it will have on China-Australia interaction and regional economic integration [...] The deal, signed between the two countries in June, is absolutely a win-win arrangement for both countries [...] At a time when both countries face an economic slowdown, the FTA deal will pave the way for bilateral trade to recalibrate from the traditional resource-heavy pattern to an array of new areas such as agriculture, animal husbandry and the service industry.”</p> <p>● September 18, 2015 – Commentary: Japan’s war bills: victory for few, seed of disaster for millions more (Xinhua) Quote: “Japan’s controversial security bills that the ruling bloc, led by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, is going all out to push through in the upper house of the parliament on Friday will be a victory for just a few people but a seed of disaster for millions more [...] Internationally, the unpopular move risks further fray [sic] already strained ties with neighbors, and could potentially wreck [sic] havoc on regional stability.”</p>



• **September 22, 2015 – Remarks at the Joint Strategic and Commercial Dialogue Opening Plenary** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We’re also working together in the Indian Ocean. Our joint naval exercise MALABAR continues to grow in complexity, and now includes Japan. We have agreed on a new 10-year defense framework and also on a shared strategic vision for the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean that stresses regional security, maritime law, peaceful resolution of disputes, and economic connectivity across the region. The United States is one of India’s largest defense suppliers, and we are partnering to develop and produce advanced defense systems, including through our aircraft carrier working group. And as we gather here today, our annual Army-to-Army exercise – the YUDH ABHYAS – is underway in Washington state.”

• **September 22, 2015 – U.S.-India Cooperation, Aligned Across the Globe** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States and India today announced a new Diplomacy Partnership between the Department of State and the Ministry of External Affairs with the goal of more closely aligning our strategic perspectives, diplomatic training, and engagements around the world. [...] The Diplomacy Partnership also will familiarize the two sides’ diplomatic corps with each other through site visits by institute staff and diplomats, and by the exchange of best practices in diplomatic training. As part of the Diplomacy Partnership, the United States and India will strengthen and expand their consultations on the full range of regional and functional diplomatic issues [...]”

• **September 22, 2015 – U.S.-India Cooperation, Aligned Across the Globe** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “ Ten years ago, defense trade between the United States and India was virtually non-existent. Over the last few years, the U.S. has signed more than \$10 billion in defense sales to India. [...] U.S. and Indian businesses have partnered on the co-development of defense equipment, establishing a base from which to launch new Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) co-development and co-production efforts in the future and expand the Indian defense industrial base. [...] The United States and India signed a renewed 10-year Defense Framework in June 2015. The new Framework provides avenues for high level strategic discussions, continued exchanges between armed forces of both countries, and strengthening capabilities.”

• **September 19, 2015 – Commentary : Japan’s war bills bury seed of disaster in Asia** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “The enactment of Japan’s controversial security bills on Saturday marked an overhaul of the country’s purely defensive defense posture and has buried a seed of disaster for both Japan and other countries in the region. The process during which the security bills go enacted is actually a perfect example of how irresponsible politicians can hijack public opinion for their own dangerous ambition [...] Internationally, the enactment collides with the trend of peace, development and cooperation, raising doubts from the international community on whether the country would abandon its defensive policy and peaceful development road. It would be a grave mockery of the post-WWII world order, especially in a year when the international community is marking the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII – the bloodiest war in human history.”

• **September 20, 2015 – Japan’s new security bills betrayal to its own people** ([People’s Daily](#))

Quote: “Japan’s new security bills not only broke Japan’s promise to the world after World War II, but also betrayed its own people, formerly protected by a pacifist constitution. [...] The Abe administration’s arbitrary behavior in forcing through the bills has undermined Japan’s democratic ideals. It was reprehensible and unpopular, and will face strong opposition from both the international community and the Japanese people.”

• **September 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “We are deeply concerned about and firmly opposed to Tsai Ing-wen’s visit to Japan. It is hoped that Japan would stick to the one-China principle, honor its commitment to China on the Taiwan Question, and leave no room for those who may spread the “Taiwan independence” ideas in whatever name and under whatever pretext.”



• **September 22, 2015 – Joint Statement on the First U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The Sides recognized that the India-U.S. partnership was a significant contributor to the peace, stability and prosperity in the Indian Ocean and Asia-Pacific regions and around the globe. [...] Recognizing the centrality of peacekeeping to the UN’s efforts for maintenance of international peace and security, the Sides committed to enhance cooperation in peacekeeping capacity building in third countries with a focus on training aspects for UN peacekeepers, especially in identified African countries.”

• **September 22, 2015 – U.S.-India Commercial, Trade, and Economic Cooperation** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States and India share a strong and growing commercial and economic relationship, driven by entrepreneurs and businesses in both countries. In January, President Obama and Prime Minister Modi decided to elevate the bilateral commercial and economic partnership by establishing the first-ever U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD) which was held today in Washington, DC. [...] The S&CD reflects the Obama Administration’s commitment to strengthen the economic engagement that lies at the center of our bilateral relationship. This engagement, which includes business, education, cultural, familial and people-to-people ties, has always been at the leading edge of the U.S.-India partnership, and continues to expand.”

• **September 24, 2015 – Resolution on Sri Lanka at the 30th Session of the UN Human Rights Council** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Today the United States, Sri Lanka, and our partners tabled a resolution at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva that represents a landmark shared recognition of the critical importance of truth, justice, reparations, and guarantees of non-recurrence in promoting reconciliation and ensuring an enduring peace and prosperity for all Sri Lankans.”

• **September 24, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The rebalance to the Asia Pacific region is very much alive and it exists on many levels. And I think you’re going to see that reflected in the discussions with President Xi here tomorrow. The military continues to add resources and capabilities and deepen partnerships in the Asia Pacific region. There are economic – we had the Strategic and Economic Dialogue with the Chinese here a month or so ago, and a wide-ranging discussion on economic progress that can be made in that bilateral relationship. The Secretary was out in the Asia Pacific just recently, meeting in Kuala Lumpur with ASEAN nations, very productive discussions.”



• **September 28, 2015 – Remarks by Secretary Carter and Minister Kishida at a Signing Ceremony at the Pentagon** ([US Department of Defense](#))

Quote: “I commend Prime Minister Abe for his leadership in securing the passage of the defense legislation earlier this month that will allow the United States and Japan to do more as an alliance, both in the region and beyond. America’s rebalance to the Asia-Pacific has always been about sustaining the progress of the region and promoting a regional security architecture where everybody wins. [...] As part of our rebalance, we’re also adapting our overall defense posture to be more flexible and more sustainable. [...] Today, Minister Kishida and I signed an important clarification to the U.S.-Japan Status of Forces Agreement that represents a big step forward in our alliance. The agreement continues the momentum that we have built up in recent years and reaffirms a commitment between our two countries to strengthen cooperation on environmental stewardship in relation to the U.S. Armed Forces. This agreement is a testament to the enduring strength of the U.S.-Japan alliance, and comes at a time when U.S. Armed Forces and Japan self-defense forces have found new opportunities to cooperate around the world and in frontiers such as space and cyberspace.”

• **September 29, 2015 – Inaugural U.S.-India-Japan Trilateral Ministerial** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The three Ministers highlighted the growing convergence of their respective countries’ interests in the Indo-Pacific region. They also underscored the importance of international law and peaceful settlement of disputes; freedom of navigation and overflight; and unimpeded lawful commerce, including in the South China Sea. [...] The three countries agreed to work together to maintain maritime security through greater collaboration. The United States and India welcome Japan’s participation in the 2015 MALABAR exercise.”

• **September 30, 2015 – Remarks With Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman at the U.S.-ASEAN Meeting** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “ASEAN is where it ought to be right now: at the very center of Asia Pacific’s multilateral architecture. [...] we are supporting ASEAN members as they work hard to preserve peace and stability in the South China Sea. Let me be clear: The United States will not accept restrictions on freedom of navigation and overflight or on other lawful uses of the sea. And it doesn’t matter whether a vessel is a large warship or a tiny, little fishing boat. The principle is very clear: The rights of all nations must be respected.”



Issue 7 – Korean Peninsula: U.S. Takes Note of Many Meetings Between ROK and China; Both Countries Urge North Korea to Denuclearize

United States	China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>● September 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “What we want to see is for North Korea to stop the destabilizing activities and to do the things that you would responsibly do [to] reduce tensions there on the peninsula. Our responsibilities, particularly militarily, are to our alliance with the Republic of Korea and to security and stability on the peninsula, and we’re focused on that. I know of no plans, offers, [or] proposals for humanitarian assistance (to North Korea). This is a regime that is completely, utterly closed off to the world and it – the onus is on them to do what’s right on the peninsula and for their people.”</p> <p>● September 14, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “There are multiple UN Security Council resolutions that require North Korea to suspend all activities related to their ballistic missile program and re-establish a moratorium on missile launches, stop conducting any launches using ballistic missile technology, and abandon its ballistic missile program in a complete, verifiable, and irreversible manner. So any satellite launch using ballistic missile technology would be a clear violation of those resolutions.”</p> <p>● September 15, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefings) Quote: “We’re aware of the reporting that indicates the readjustment in operation of the nuclear facilities at Yongbyon, including the 5-megawatt plutonium reactor and the uranium enrichment facility at Yongbyon. We will repeat our call that North Korea should refrain from irresponsible provocations that aggravate regional tensions, and should focus instead on fulfilling its international obligations and commitments [...] And we will work with our partners in the context of the Six-Party talks to try to return North Korea to a posture of fulfilling those commitments that they’ve made in the context of those conversations.”</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>● September 8, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “We [...] welcome the agreement between the DPRK and the ROK of holding family reunions. The Chinese side supports the two sides in improving relations through dialogue and consultation, promoting reconciliation and cooperation and making tangible efforts to safeguard peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula. ”</p> <p>● September 15, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “From September 18 to 19, the China Institute of International Studies will hold an international seminar at the Diaoyutai State Guest House on the 10th anniversary of the Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks signed on September 19, 2005. [...] China hopes that this commemoration would enable all parties to review the significance of the Joint Statement on September 19 and its role in pushing for the denuclearization process of the Peninsula, stick to the targets and principles established by the Joint Statement as before, strive to address the Korean nuclear issue through dialogue and consultation again, and restart the Six-Party Talks at an early date.”</p> <p>● September 19, 2015 – Review the Spirit of September 19 Joint Statement and Uphold Peace and Stability of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “ As the Chair of the Six-Party Talks, a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the most important neighbor of the Korean Peninsula, and a sincere friend and partner that hopes to see the people in both the North and the South of the Peninsula enjoy happiness, China has made devoted efforts and played its due role in promoting the denuclearization and maintaining peace on the Korean Peninsula. We are ready to work together with all other parties and the international community to make unremitting efforts and new contribution to this arduous and noble mission.”</p>



• **September 15, 2015 – Northeast Asian Dynamism and the U.S.-R.O.K. Alliance: Past, Present, Future** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Good relations between South Korea and China are also important to the region. We benefit in a number of ways from the strengthening of Korea-China ties over the last few years and will continue to state our support publicly. President Xi’s landmark visit to Seoul, and President Park’s meetings in Beijing, were both positive developments. Improved bilateral ties benefit the world economy. And cooperation on North Korea benefits regional security.”

• **September 16, 2015 – Press Availability With South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “With respect to the North Korea nuclear program and Iran, Iran made a fundamental decision that they wanted to change their direction, end their isolation with the world, and that that was more important than pursuing a nuclear weapons program. The North Korean Government has not made that decision, and the same policy about prevention of having a nuclear weapon – denuclearizing – remains the policy of the United States [...] Our position is clear: We will not accept a DPRK – North Korea – as a nuclear weapons state, just as we said that about Iran [...] And it was sanctions, broadly applied and accepted, that helped Iran to make an important decision. It may take more than sanctions with respect to North Korea because of its almost total absence of a legitimate economy, but nevertheless, we are talking with China, we are talking with Russia, we are talking with our friends in South Korea and Japan and elsewhere about how to proceed forward in a way that can find a peaceful and diplomatic resolution to North Korea’s violation of all of the UN Security Council resolutions which have been passed to affect its behavior.”

• **September 16, 2015 – Press Availability With South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “China, for instance, has taken serious steps in the last year, year and a half, since we engaged China on this subject (of North Korea) specifically to encourage them to do more, and they have. They’ve taken trade steps. There has been no meeting between North Korea and its high leadership and China. There have been four or five meetings between China and the South Korean president. So I think that there is a process by which additional pressure is being applied to the North. And obviously, I think we’ve already had discussions about the potential of what may have to now be done, if indeed the DPRK’s media reports and others prove to be true regarding their nuclear facilities at Yongbyon and the plutonium production reactor facility also near Yongbyon.”



• **September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “The United States and China have reaffirmed our commitment to the complete and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula in a peaceful manner. We demand the full implementation of all relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and we will not accept North Korea as a nuclear weapon state.”



Issue 8 – Middle East and Africa Issues: U.S. Domestic Argument Over Iran Nuclear Deal Continues and U.S. Reacts to the Beginning of Russian Involvement in Syria; Chinese Media Blames the U.S. and West for European Refugee Crisis and Rise of ISIL

United States	China
<p>• September 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “Q: To follow up from yesterday, as we all know, two Vice journalists are still arrested in Turkey. According to reports today, they are – they have been arrested because engaging in terror activity on behalf of ISIL in Turkey. Do you have any further comments since yesterday? Have you gotten any kind of reaction from Ankara on this?”</p> <p>A: No, I mean, I would only say that we’ve – just in light of the comments I gave yesterday, which I talked about the fact that we urge the Turkish authorities to ensure that their actions uphold universal democratic values, and that includes freedom of the press, due process, and access to media and information. We’ve made our views often and clearly to the Turkish Government.”</p> <p>• September 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “Q: But you will discourage any kind of more sanctions against individuals, individuals Iranians, or government agents, and so on.”</p> <p>A: Again, it depends on what you’re talking about. What we’ve said all along is that – and we’ve tried to separate the two baskets, if you will. We’ve been very clear about what this agreement is about. It’s about stopping Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. That said, we’re not ignoring the other basket of issues, which is the fact that Iran continues to be – play a nonconstructive or unconstructive role in the region. And we’re certainly going to keep pressure, whether it’s through sanctions or otherwise, on Iran to change its behavior in that regard.”</p> <p>• September 1, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “We support, certainly, the European Union’s efforts to develop a comprehensive approach to resolve these migration challenges. There’s no question that the very large number of extremely vulnerable asylum seekers coming to Europe poses a very serious and difficult challenge to the EU and the region and the nations in the region as a whole. Any solution must focus on saving and protecting lives and ensuring the human rights of all migrants are respected, as well as promoting orderly and humane migration policies. And so we would urge all the governments in the region to develop appropriate facilities that allow for proper screening of migrants and the provision of life-sustaining assistance.”</p>	<p>• September 8, 2015 – Commentary: U.S. has responsibility in European refugee problem (Xinhua) Quote: “The United States should take its responsibility in the disheartening refugee crisis in Europe as its controversial Middle East policies resulted in wars and chaos that displaced large numbers of people [...] As a solution, peace and stability should be established in the region. But it cannot be done unless the United States shoulders its responsibility and corrects its mistakes.”</p> <p>• September 9, 2015 – US has unshirkable role in addressing refugee crisis (China Daily) Quote: “The United States needs to shoulder its responsibilities in this regard and put more energy and resources into combating the IS group, and make greater efforts to restore order and stability in countries such as Iraq and Libya where its interventions have fueled the unrest. And it should rethink its Middle East policy, which has largely led to the ongoing refugee crisis.”</p> <p>• September 9, 2015 – Commentary: European refugee crisis bitter fruit of Western hegemony, interventionism (Xinhua) Quote: “The West should regard the ongoing refugee crisis as a costly and painful lesson of its hegemonistic foreign policies and interventionism in the Middle East that have not only brought wars and chaos to the region, but also boomeranged [...] Especially for the United States, it is high time to reflect upon its foreign policy as history and facts have shown that forcibly promoting its ideologies is dangerous and armed interventions can only bring about perilous outcomes. As for other Western powers, they also should learn, in a hard and painful way, that diplomacy is better than military action and that following the United States is not always a good policy choice.”</p> <p>• September 11, 2015 – Concerted efforts to defeat IS (China Daily) Quote: “In response to news reports that the Islamic State group is holding a Chinese [...] hostage and demanding unspecified ransoms for their release, China’s foreign ministry said [...] it was aware of the reports and was in the process of confirming them [...] Although China is not among the international coalition led by the United States that is conducting air strikes on an almost daily basis on targets and cells of the extremist group in Syria and Iraq, the country believes what the extremist group has done so far makes it an enemy of all.”</p>



• **September 2, 2015– Remarks on Nuclear Agreement With Iran** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Today, I will lay out the facts that caused those scientists and many other experts to reach the favorable conclusions that they have. I will show why the agreed plan will make the United States, Israel, the Gulf States, and the world safer. I will explain how it gives us the access that we need to ensure that Iran’s nuclear program remains wholly peaceful, while preserving every option to respond if Iran fails to meet its commitments. I will make clear that the key elements of the agreement will last not for 10 or 15 years, as some are trying to assert, or for 20 or 25, but they will last for the lifetime of Iran’s nuclear program.”

• **September 2, 2015– Interview on MSNBC’s Morning Joe** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I really believe the fastest way to a genuine arms race in the Middle East is not to have this (Iran nuclear) agreement, because if you don’t have this agreement Iran has already made clear what its direction is. And that is a direction that is only slowed down or stopped by this agreement.”

• **September 2, 2015 – Interview With Christiane Amanpour of CNN International** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I hope to make it clear that this agreement, which has been entered into by the P5+1 – six nations coming together – and Iran, is an agreement that will set out very strict requirements that Iran needs to adhere to, which they have accepted, and will in fact close off and provide assurance to the world that the pathways are closed off to a nuclear weapon. Iran has declared they never want to seek one, that they will not seek one, but that has to be put into a structure where it is affirmed by specific actions that are verifiable. That’s what this agreement does.”

• **September 3, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I said that the United States is likely to admit roughly 1,800 Syrian refugees total by the end of this fiscal year, which is October. We’ve certainly – in light of the significant number of Syrian refugees displaced, we’ve made substantial efforts this year to facilitate increased refugee admissions in this – from this population.”

• **September 11, 2015 – Commentary : Time for U.S. to change anti-terrorism policy** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “As the U.S. war on terror lamentably fails to reach its goal, Washington should see that countering terrorism has become a global challenge and no country can tackle it alone. It is high time for the United States to rethink and change its strategy while cooperating and coordinating with other countries in jointly fighting terrorism.”

• **September 25, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “It is China’s constant belief that stability of the Middle East meets the interests of all parties. Political dialogue is the only realistic way out of the Syrian issue. The international community should work in concert and create favorable conditions. China is willing to join hands with all relevant parties to push for the proper settlement of the Syrian issue at an early date.”

• **September 26, 2015 – Full Text : Outcome list of President Xi Jinping’s state visit to the United States** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “China and the United States decided to maintain communication and cooperation with one another on Afghanistan to support peaceful reconstruction and economic development in Afghanistan, support an “Afghan-led, Afghan-owned” reconciliation process, and promote trilateral dialogue among China , the United States and Afghanistan. Together with Afghanistan, China and the United States will co-chair a high-level event on Afghanistan’s reconstruction and development on the margins of the UN General Assembly on September 26. This event will convene Afghanistan’s neighbors and the international community to discuss the importance of continuing robust regional and international support for the Afghan government and regional economic cooperation. China and the United States jointly renew their call on the Taliban to enter into direct talks with the government of Afghanistan. China and the United States also noted their mutual interests in supporting peace, stability, and prosperity in neighboring countries of Afghanistan, and to working in partnership with these countries to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region.”

• **September 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “It is our long-standing belief that the Syrian issue should be politically resolved, the future of Syria should lie in the hands of the Syrian people, an inclusive political process should be moved forward, nation-wide reconciliation and unity should be achieved in Syria, and humanitarian assistance should be provided to Syria and its neighboring countries.”



• **September 3, 2015 – Remarks by the Vice President at the Eizenstat Lecture** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “This deal (with Iran) provides a long-term solution, closing off every pathway Iran has to a bomb [...] And if Iran violates the deal, we can impose sanctions and no one can stop us at the U.N. And we can re-impose our own sanctions. And no collection of states, including Russia, China, can block us from doing that the way the agreement is written.”

• **September 9, 2015 – Remarks Following Meeting With Senator Durbin** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We (US) are committed to increasing the number of refugees that we take, and we are looking hard at the number that we can specifically manage with respect to the crisis in Syria and Europe and migration today. But that’s being vetted fully right now, and I think at the appropriate time exactly what that number.”

• **September 9, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The President has made clear that there’s not going to be a military solution inside Syria to this particular conflict. Obviously, we’re helping coalition members go against ISIL inside Syria, but with respect to the conflict there and the Assad regime, there’s not going to be a military solution. There needs to be a political solution. That takes time. That can be messy, that can be complicated, but it’s a goal worth pursuing and we’re going to continue to pursue that.”

• **September 9, 2015 – Remarks to the Afghan Diplomat Training Program** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The wonderful thing too is this program (Afghan Diplomat Training Program) has not only supported a new generation of Afghan leaders – all of you – but it’s also helped to lay the groundwork for the U.S. and China to work together toward a stable, secure, prosperous, and unified Afghanistan. [...] And in this vital mission, the good news at least is that you do not stand alone. The United States and China share a stake in your success, a pledge that our two countries renewed just a few weeks ago in June at our Strategic and Economic Dialogue.”

• **September 10, 2015 – Senate Vote on the Iran Deal** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Today’s vote by the U.S. Senate is an important step forward toward the United States and its international partners implementing the agreement reached in Vienna on July 14, 2015, to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. This agreement, when implemented, will make the United States, our friends and allies in the Middle East, and the entire world safer.”

• **September 30, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “We believe that a solution to the Syrian issue should stick to the Five Principles. First, the Syrian issue must be resolved through political means. Military action is no answer to it. All parties should voice their demands through dialogue and negotiation. Second, the future of Syria must be decided by its own people. The political transition process in Syria must be Syrian-led, and the future of Syria can only be decided by the Syrian people themselves. Third, an inclusive political process must be promoted. An equal, inclusive and open political dialogue should be launched at an early date. Fourth, national reconciliation and unity must be achieved in Syria. National reconciliation dialogue must be launched in the interest of national unity of Syria. Fifth, humanitarian assistance must be delivered in Syria and its neighboring countries. The international community should step up humanitarian assistance to the people of Syria and neighboring countries. Besides, the settlement of the Syrian issue should take into account the counter-terrorism needs inside Syria.”

• **September 30, 2015 – Commentary : EU, U.S. need to collaborate to eliminate root causes of refugee crisis** ([Xinhua](#))

Quote: “First, to end conflict and violence, any kind of foreign intervention should be abandoned, as the neo-interventionism has been proved a failure and seriously harmed the peaceful and stable international order [...] Second, the refugee source countries should work together with relevant parties to find a political solution to domestic chaos, and exert efforts to develop its economy and improve people’s livelihoods [...] Third, the international community must show its care about the destiny of people who live in tragic war flames and lend a helping hand to them. China believes the EU and relevant countries can make concerted efforts to cope with this challenge, properly handle relevant issues and safeguard regional stability. Meanwhile, the Chinese side is willing to communicate and coordinate with the EU and its member states on the refugee issue through international and bilateral channels.”



• **September 11, 2015 – Statement by the President** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “Today’s vote in the House of Representatives is the latest indication that the more members have studied the historic deal that will prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, the more they have come out in support of it. As we conclude the most consequential national security debate since the decision to invade Iraq, I am gratified that the lawmakers, led by Democratic Leader Pelosi, who have taken care to judge the deal on the merits are joining our allies and partners around the world in taking steps that will allow for the implementation of this long-term, comprehensive deal.”

• **September 15, 2015 – Readout of Secretary Kerry’s Call With Foreign Minister Lavrov** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Secretary Kerry made clear that Russia’s continued support for President Assad risks exacerbating and extending the conflict, and undermining our shared goal of fighting extremism if we do not also remain focused on finding a solution to the conflict in Syria via a genuine political transition. Secretary Kerry also reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to fight ISIL with a Coalition of more than 60 countries, of which Assad could never be a credible member, and emphasized the U.S. would welcome a constructive Russian role in counter-ISIL efforts. The Secretary stressed that there is no military solution to the overall conflict in Syria, which can only be resolved by a political transition away from Assad.”

• **September 16, 2015 – Remarks With South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Our bilateral trade relationship is a \$20 billion-a-year trade relationship and growing. South Africa has made an important democratic transition, which is vital as an example to the world, stands up for human rights, has made a very important commitment on the health sector, and will be the first country in all of Africa to have taken over total management of the HIV/AIDS program, PEPFAR, which is an important transition that we’ve been working on together. And we continue to work on security issues, on leadership issues within the continent and elsewhere, as well as a particular commitment on the energy sector.”



• **September 16, 2015 – Press Availability With South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The United States is going to continue to do its part in many different ways, and I’m proud to say that we lead the world in refugee resettlement as well as in the financial contributions to the UNHCR. Recently, I started a working group here at the State Department under the leadership of Deputy Secretary Tony Blinken to develop additional options that we can present to the interagency and the international community, and we’re going to have more to say about the ideas that that effort is generating shortly. We’re also considering ways that we can increase overall refugee resettlement numbers. And as you know, President Obama just announced that for Fiscal Year 2016, the United States will bring in at least an additional 10,000 refugees from Syria. These are important measures, and as I said, we will likely take additional steps in the next days.”

• **September 16, 2015 – Press Availability With South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “I also reaffirmed our commitment to fight ISIL with the coalition now in place, and that indeed we would welcome a constructive role by Russia in that effort. I also stressed that continued military support for the regime by Russia or by any other country risks undermining the security of Syria, attracting more extremists to the fight, and hinders the possibility of future cooperation toward a successful transition – unless done in an effective and constructive way.”

• **September 16, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest** ([White House, Press Briefings](#))

Quote: “(Q : Would we (the U.S.) object to Russian airstrikes against ISIL targets?) [...] I think the short answer is it depends. The fact is we want to make sure that – a couple of things. The first is any efforts by Russia that are motivated – that are geared toward doubling down on their support for the Assad regime would be counterproductive and destabilizing. And the reason for that is simply that the support for the Assad regime only has the effect of propping up a leader that has utterly lost the legitimacy to lead that country, and it only further divides the population and, in some ways, makes it more likely that we’re driving some citizens in Syria directly into the arms of ISIL or other extremist groups that oppose the government. So what we would welcome is an integrated, coordinated, constructive effort on the part of the Russians to support the 60-member coalition of nations that is working to degrade and ultimately destroy ISIL.”



• **September 17, 2015 – Background Briefing on the JCPOA Implementation** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Q : One question on how Iran is going to achieve all these technical steps. They have talked in the past about getting help from other countries, particularly China. Do you know if there are plans or if there has been outreach to try to bring in expertise from other countries to help both do it and to expedite the process?”

A : So on the other question about other countries being involved in this – so there are going to be – there’s going to be involvement of other countries in a number of areas, specifically when the Arak reactor is redesigned and when the Arak reactor is rebuilt. Those activities will benefit from other countries’ involvement. Probably China will take a large role in that, as well as other P5+1 countries.”

• **September 17, 2015 – Background Briefing on the JCPOA Implementation** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “So starting on adoption day, about October 18th, we expect that Iran is going to need to make major changes to its Natanz enrichment facility. That will involve taking out thousands of centrifuges and putting them into IAEA-monitored storage. It will also involve taking out a very large amount of infrastructure, specifically some of the pipework and electrical infrastructure that allows for the enrichment process to work. [...] They also need to ship out to another country the vast majority of their enriched uranium stockpile. [...] In addition to those things, though, Iran will be, over the months after adoption day, working with the IAEA to put in place the increased transparency measures.”

• **September 17, 2015 – Statement by the National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice on the Situation in Burkina Faso** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The United States condemns, in the strongest terms, the unconstitutional seizure of power by elements of the Presidential Security Regiment in Burkina Faso. We call on the responsible parties to release immediately those being detained, order aligned forces to stand down, respect the rights of civilians to peacefully assemble, and put Burkina Faso back on the path to presidential elections in October.”



• **September 18, 2015 – Interview With Jon Snow of Channel 4** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We (Russia and the U.S.) share the same deep concern about ISIL [...] It needs to be – ISIL needs to be destroyed, stopped completely. It is, obviously, the most significant player in the massive migrant crisis that’s sweeping through Europe. And of course, Assad is a key part of that because he is the magnet attracting so many people to fight him in the region. So really, the conversations with Russia right now are to de-conflict, and the focus is to make certain that our efforts, which are going to continue – we’re not abating one bit; we will increase, in fact, some of the efforts we’re making against ISIL. And we need to make certain that those do not conflict with Russia’s efforts against ISIL. So obviously, it’s important to have that conversation.”

• **September 18, 2015 – Joint Statement on Libya by the Governments of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Time is running out for Libya to address its critical humanitarian, economic, and security challenges including the spread of ISIL-aligned groups and of criminal organizations engaged in smuggling and trafficking in persons. Recognizing upcoming Eid celebrations, we believe it is essential that all parties in the process approve a final agreement and the leaders for the new Government of National Accord before the end of September. The Governments of France, Germany, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States reaffirm their support for a united, sovereign, and independent Libya.”

• **September 19, 2015 – Remarks With British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond After Their Meeting** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “But obviously, there are challenges, and we call on the house of representatives to return to that process and to recognize this is a critical moment. And ISIL and other extremist groups take advantage of a vacuum, and a vacuum is what is left if there is not an agreement. So we need for the sake of the 6 million citizens of Libya, where there is great opportunity and significant wealth available to be able to help that country bind its wounds and move forward.”



• **September 21, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Now, one of the things we’ve always said is what the real way to sustain – to sustain a defeat of this ideology in a group like this is good governance. So we’ve also been trying to continue to pursue a political solution inside – to the larger conflict inside Syria – this gets at the Assad regime – a transition, a political transition in there to a government, as the Secretary said last week, that is responsive to the desperate needs of the Syrian people. If – we believe that a political transition towards a government like that could also be helpful in – obviously in the ultimate defeat of ISIL because it would lead to good governance and take away the breathing space that a group like ISIL has been allowed to have inside Syria because of Assad’s brutality.”

• **September 22, 2015 – On the Finalization of the Libyan Political Dialogue** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Last night, after almost a year of intensive negotiations, Special Representative of the UN Secretary General Bernardino Leon presented the final text of the proposed Libya political framework to establish a new Government of National Accord in Libya. [...] The new Government of National Accord will give Libyans the chance to unify their country and begin the hard work of restoring peace and security for the benefit of all Libyans.”

• **September 22, 2015 – Joint Press Conference with Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker, Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, and Indian Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “We agree on some key things with the Russians. We agree that we both want a Syria that is whole and peaceful and stable and secular and where its sovereignty is respected. We both want to see ISIL destroyed and defeated and gone, as well as any other violent extremist entity. We both have concerns about the need to end the flow of foreign fighters and the attraction of those foreign fighters, which draws people to this battle which is dangerous for everybody. The big difference between us is that we believe their sustaining of Assad is inadvertently or unwittingly a continuation of the attraction of those foreign fighters to the fight, because they will come to oppose Assad. And therefore, if you really want to end the war, you have to get to the business of a political dialogue in which you have some kind of negotiated resolution to that fundamental fact. And that – and we’re – we don’t yet have clarity with respect to the Russian effort.”



• **September 24, 2015 – Statement by NSC Spokesperson Ned Price on U.S. Support for the Countries Fighting Boko Haram** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The President today delegated authority to the Secretary of State to direct the drawdown of up to \$45 million in defense articles and services, as well as military education and training, to support Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria’s efforts to defeat Boko Haram.”

• **September 25, 2015 – Remarks at the 14th Ministerial Conference, Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC)** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “An economically stable Central Asia predicated on strong regional commercial, economic and personal relationships will create alternative paths to address global challenges such as illicit trafficking – in all its forms – as well as terrorism and extremism. [...] Greater regional connectivity is of particular importance to help sustain the gains achieved in Afghanistan. [...] But this can only happen if it is able to build more enduring links to not only its closest neighbors, but also markets in India, China, Europe, and further afield.”

• **September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “We’ve agreed to do more to promote international security. At the United Nations in the coming days, the U.S. and China will bring countries together to promote development in Afghanistan, and we’ll work with our many partners to strengthen international peacekeeping. We agree that all parties, including Iran, need to fully implement the nuclear deal, and that U.N. Security Council resolutions need to be fully enforced.”

• **September 25, 2015 – FACT SHEET : President Xi Jinping’s State Visit to the United States** ([White House, Statements and Releases](#))

Quote: “The United States and China decided to maintain communication and cooperation with one another on Afghanistan to support peaceful reconstruction and economic development in Afghanistan, support an “Afghan led, Afghan owned” reconciliation process, and promote trilateral dialogue among the United States, China, and Afghanistan[...] The United States and China jointly renew their call on the Taliban to enter into direct talks with the Government of Afghanistan. The United States and China also noted their mutual interests in supporting peace, stability, and prosperity in neighboring countries of Afghanistan, and to working in partnership with these countries to promote peace and stability in Afghanistan and the region.”



• **September 26, 2015 – Remarks at the High-Level Event on Afghanistan** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The Taliban, including the Haqqani Network, continue to perpetrate outrageous acts of violence against innocent civilians, Afghan security forces, and U.S. personnel, in addition to other targets of opportunity. And while al-Qaida remains a threat and the presence of Daesh – ISIL – has brought a new and unpredicted element of risk into this already volatile environment, the United States, I want to make it clear, strongly supports President Ghani and CEO Abdullah in their call for reconciliation talks with the Taliban. My country has long maintained that an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned reconciliation process is the surest way to achieve stability and end the conflict.”

• **September 26, 2015 – Co-chairs' Statement of the High-level Event on Afghanistan's Peaceful Development and Regional Cooperation** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The international community recognized the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces’ (ANDSF) dedicated performance and honored the sacrifices of the Afghan people. China, the United States, and Afghanistan reiterated their conviction that Afghanistan never again be used as a safe-haven for international terrorists and called on regional countries and the international community to make joint efforts toward preventing the spread of terrorist and extremist groups in the region. During the meeting, regional and international states affirmed that the entire international community has a stake in continuing to support Afghanistan’s security, stability, unity, peace, and prosperity.”

• **September 27, 2015 – Remarks With Turkish Foreign Minister Feridun Sinirlioglu At Global Counterterrorism Forum Ministerial** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Extremist violence is a major contributor to the suffering that we see radiating not just out of Syria but elsewhere in the world, and particularly in the Middle East. And it places an enormous burden on frontline states, sends millions of desperate people in search of a safe haven. Daesh is the primary source of outrage, or ISIL, as we know it here, but there are others – al-Qaida, al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, Lashkar-e Tayyiba, just to name a few. [...] To defeat terrorism, we have to act globally and locally, and we have to understand that we each have a responsibility to do everything that we can.”



• **September 29, 2015 – Interview With Nicolle Wallace, Mike Barnicle, Mark Halperin, Richard Haass, and Katty Kay of MSNBC’s Morning Joe** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “Now, let me just say you could end this violence within a very short period of time, have a complete ceasefire – which Iran could control, which Russia could control, which Syria could control, and which we and our coalition friends could control – if one man (Assad) would merely make it known to the world that he doesn’t have to be part of the long-term future; he’ll help manage Syria out of this mess and then go off into the sunset, as most people do after a period of public life. If he were to do that, then you could stop the violence and quickly move to management.”

• **September 29, 2015 – Interview With Greta Van Susteren of Fox News** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “So President Obama and President Putin agreed yesterday to immediately engage in military-to-military de-confliction at the most basic level, not yet to cooperate in the missions, but to de-conflict. We will continue our missions exactly as we are doing them today. The French have now joined in the fight with us and are flying missions. Australians are coming. There’s a lot happening. And I am convinced over the course of the next days that there will be additional pressure on ISIL.”

• **September 30, 2015 – Remarks With Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “And so we finally agreed we have a lot of work to do, and we’re going to get to doing that work as rapidly as possible, understanding fully how urgent this is in the context of refugees flowing out, the impact on Europe, the impact on the region, and understanding also that we need to see Syria kept whole, unified, secular, democratic. And those are big agreements in that regard, and now we need to work on getting there. So we will stay in very close touch and continue to work on this.”

• **September 30, 2015 – Joint Communique Following the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the GCC-U.S. Strategic Cooperation Forum** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “The Ministers underscored the accomplishments of the GCC-U.S. SCF in building upon the strong foundation of strategic partnership between their countries. They pledged to continue consulting closely, as they strive to build closer relations in all fields, including defense and security cooperation, and develop collective approaches to regional issues that advance our shared priority of a stable and secure Middle East.”



Issue 9 – Sovereignty and Territorial Disputes: U.S. Continues to Assert its View that the Seas Around China’s Reclaimed Islands Are International Waters; China Continues to Exert Its Territorial Claims in the East and South China Seas

United States	China
<p>• September 18, 2015 – Press Briefing by Press Secretary Josh Earnest (White House, Press Briefings) Quote: “The stakes of resolving those tensions (in the South China Sea) are not insignificant. The fact is, the South China Sea is a significant area when it comes to international trade; that there’s a lot of international trade that moves through those waters. And it’s in the interest of all the countries in that region of the world and it’s in the interest of countries like the United States that have an impact on the global economy to ensure that those tensions don’t interfere with the free flow of commerce. So what we have steadfastly urged the Chinese to do is to engage with other countries in that region to find a diplomatic resolution to some of these differences. And we are strongly supportive of the efforts of those other countries to find a diplomatic resolution with the Chinese.”</p> <p>• September 22, 2015 – Conference Call to Preview the Visit of President Xi Jinping of the People’s Republic of China (White House, Statements and Releases) Quote: “I would just emphasize the United States has a global freedom of navigation program that it conducts throughout the world and is also very active in East Asia, including the South China Sea. That is what we’ve done in the past, that is what we will continue to do in the future. And as the Secretary of Defense and other senior U.S. officials have made clear, the U.S. military intends to operate anywhere and at any time it is allowed to do so under international law.”</p> <p>• September 24, 2015 – Daily Press Briefing (State Department) Quote: “We’ve been very clear about our position with respect to these claims in the South China Sea. We don’t take a position on claims. We do take a position on any unilateral attempts of changing the status quo. We want to see these claims resolved in accordance with international norms. And we’ve also said that it’s unhelpful, we think, to the security and stability of the region for that status quo to be changed again in an overt manner, whether it’s through reclamation or militarization of reclaimed land.”</p>	<p>• September 17, 2015 – Time for Abe to stop leading Japan astray (China Daily) Quote: “The upper house of Japan’s parliament has not yet made a decision on Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s controversial security bills on Wednesday [...] To make his case stronger, Abe has been playing up the ‘threats’ faced by Japan. He and his cabinet ministers have echoed one another to raise a din over the ‘China threat’ cliché, citing China’s disputes with Japan over Diaoyu Islands while deliberately ignoring the fact that it was Japan that triggered the dispute.”</p> <p>• September 18, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) Quote: “China has sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and the adjacent waters, and this claim is fully backed by historical and jurisprudential evidence. China, like the US, champions navigation freedom in the South China Sea, but opposes any country’s attempt to challenge China’s territorial sovereignty and security under the pretext of safeguarding navigation freedom. China urges relevant party (a commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific) to exercise caution in its words and deeds, respect China’s territorial sovereignty and security interests, and refrain from taking any provocative and risky action..”</p> <p>• September 24, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference (Ministry of National Defense) Quote: “Jointly maintaining peace and tranquility in the China-India border areas is an important consensus reached between the leaders of the two countries and also a solemn promise made by the governments and militaries of the two countries. Recent actions by the Indian military in relevant areas were not consistent with the spirit of relevant agreements and consensus between the two sides. We ask the Indian military to earnestly implement the important consensus between the two governments, refrain from taking any unilateral action which may affect the situation in the border areas, and work together with the Chinese military to maintain peace and stability in the China-India border areas.”</p>



• **September 25, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama and President Xi of the People’s Republic of China in Joint Press Conference** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “We did have candid discussions on the East and South China Seas, and I reiterated the right of all countries to freedom of navigation and overflight and to unimpeded commerce. As such, I indicated that the United States will continue to sail, fly and operate anywhere that international law allows. I conveyed to President Xi our significant concerns over land reclamation, construction and the militarization of disputed areas, which makes it harder for countries in the region to resolve disagreements peacefully. And I encouraged a resolution between claimants in these areas. We are not a claimant; we just want to make sure that the rules of the road are upheld.”

• **September 27, 2015 – Background Briefing on Secretary Kerry’s Meeting With Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov** ([State Department](#))

Quote: “On Ukraine, the Secretary made clear that we are very pleased to see the ceasefire holding in eastern Ukraine, that that now needs to quickly convert into a real pullback of heavy weapons as called for in Minsk. He also made clear our concern, our European allies’ concern, about separatist talk of another round of fake elections later this fall, and that that would be a violation of Minsk, and instead we should be using the Minsk structures to work on implementing the agreement which calls for a real set of elections under Ukrainian law as monitored by the OSCE.”

• **September 28, 2015 – Remarks by President Obama to the United Nations General Assembly** ([White House, Speeches and Remarks](#))

Quote: “Similarly, in the South China Sea, the United States makes no claim on territory there. We don’t adjudicate claims. But like every nation gathered here, we have an interest in upholding the basic principles of freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce, and in resolving disputes through international law, not the law of force. So we will defend these principles, while encouraging China and other claimants to resolve their differences peacefully.”

• **September 24, 2015 – Defense Ministry’s regular press conference** ([Ministry of National Defense](#))

Quote: “China has sovereignty over the Nansha Islands and the adjacent waters, which has solid historical and legal evidence. China has conducted relevant construction and maintenance on the facilities of some stationed islands and reefs of the Nansha Islands. The functions of the facilities on the islands and reefs are diversified and comprehensive. Besides meeting necessary military defense needs, they, to a larger extent, are to serve various civilian needs and common interests of various countries. This will also help China to fulfil its international responsibilities and obligations. The construction work China has conducted on the Nansha Islands will not affect and is not against any other country. It is conducive to the international community.”

• **September 29, 2015 – Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Hong Lei’s Regular Press Conference** ([Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#))

Quote: “The Nansha Islands have been part of China’s since ancient times, and we have enough historical and jurisprudential evidence to back that up. China’s construction and maintenance work on some stationed islands and reefs in the Nansha Islands is legitimate, justified and reasonable. It affects and targets no one. China’s construction is mainly for the purpose of providing international public goods and services, fulfilling China’s obligations as a major country and further safeguarding freedom and safety of navigation in the South China Sea. We hope that relevant parties will have a right understanding on that.”



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