



**Defence Academy**  
of the United Kingdom

Research & Assessment Branch

# Special Series

Chinese Foreign Policy: A Chronology

April – June 2009

Catharine Melvin



# Chinese Foreign Policy: A Chronology

## April – June 2009

Catharine Melvin

**1 April 2009** President Hu Jintao met British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in London to discuss bilateral relations, on the sidelines of the G20 summit on the financial crisis, a follow-up to last November's G20 meeting in Washington.

**1 April 2009** Hu Jintao and US President Barack Obama met in London to discuss Sino-US ties and the financial crisis. Hu said that China-US ties have got off to a good start since Obama took office: *"I have been keeping close relations with Obama and the foreign ministers of both countries have exchanged visits in a short time."* Hu invited Obama to visit China in the second half of this year, which Obama accepted. The two leaders decided to establish the "China-US Strategic and Economic Dialogue", and agreed that the first round would be held in Washington DC this summer.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Chinese State Councillor Dai Bingguo will chair the 'Strategic Track' and US Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner and Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan will chair the 'Economic Track' of the dialogue, each as special representatives of their respective presidents.

Admiral Gary Roughead, US Chief of Naval Operations, will visit China upon invitation in April to attend events marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

**1 April 2009** Hu Jintao and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev met in London to discuss Sino-Russian ties and the global financial crisis.

**1 April 2009** China and France released a press communiqué in both Beijing and Paris. In principle both agreed to form a new strategic dialogue, while France reaffirmed its 'One China' policy:

*"...France fully recognizes the importance and sensitivity of the Tibet issue and reaffirms its adherence to the one-China policy and the position that Tibet is an integral part of the Chinese territory, in accordance with the decision made by General Charles de Gaulle, which has not changed and will remain unchanged. Based on this spirit and the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs, France refuses to support any form of 'Tibet independence'.*

*The two sides hold the view that in the context of profound changes in the international political and economic situation, China and France, both as permanent members of the UN Security Council, shoulder major responsibilities in maintaining world peace and promoting development. The two sides stand ready to strengthen dialogue and coordination and jointly respond to global challenges including the international financial crisis.*

*Acting in this spirit, the two sides decided to conduct high-level contact and strategic dialogue at a proper time to enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields and*

*promote the harmonious and steady growth of China-France relations.”*

**1 April 2009** Deputy Foreign Minister Wu Dawei led a delegation to the Hague, Netherlands on 31 March to attend the international conference on Afghanistan. Wu announced that China would provide an “*extra US\$ 75 million of free assistance in the coming five years*” to Afghanistan. While supporting counter-terrorism efforts, China nevertheless hoped that “at an early date” the Afghan government and army would take over “*the responsibility of maintaining their own national security and stability*”. This would suggest that China is not hugely in favour of Obama’s ‘surge’ strategy. China, a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), favoured an active role for the organization in Afghanistan: “*China supports the Organization to continue its active role in regard of the issue of Afghanistan.*” During the conference, Wu also met UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as well as foreign ministers or representatives of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Russia, the United States, Iran, India, and Romania, and had exchanges of views with them on Afghanistan.

**2 April 2009** Hu Jintao participated in the second G-20 Leaders Summit on Financial Markets and the Global Economy in London. Hu Jintao delivered a speech entitled “*Cooperating Hand in Hand and Pulling Together in Times of Trouble*”. Vice-Premier of the State Council Wang Qishan also attended the meeting. On international co-operation to revive the world economy Hu said:

*“We should push forward international cooperation in new industries, particularly in energy conservation, pollution control, environmental protection and new energy, which may become new growth areas in the world economy... Second, international financial institutions should give more assistance to developing countries... Improve the governance structures of the IMF and the World Bank and increase the representation and voice of developing countries.”*

**2 April 2009** London - Hu Jintao met Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso. Wang Qishan, Ling Jihua, Wang Huning, and Dai Bingguo were also present. Hu underlined the importance of Chinese-Japanese relations particularly because of their economic interdependence. Hu used the crisis to emphasise the need for China and Japan to work together to mitigate the effects of the downturn – particularly by promoting East Asian Free Trade Zones:

*“There is a need to jointly support the relevant countries in this region in dealing with the international financial crisis, promoting the construction of East Asian free trade zones, expanding regional common markets, and pushing forward regional economic and financial cooperation.”*

**2 April 2009** London - President Hu Jintao met Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. While Hu recognised the tensions between China and Australia wrought by the economic crisis, he continued to support the stalled bilateral free trade agreement:

*“Under the complex and volatile world situation at present, strengthening Sino-Australian relations not only has practical significance but also has strategic significance... The international financial crisis has brought difficulties to the trade relations between the two countries. We are willing to strengthen cooperation with Australia to overcome the difficulties. We must step up the pace of negotiations on bilateral free trade agreement ...”*

Wang Qishan, Ling Jihua, Wang Huning, and Dai Bingguo were also present.

**2 April 2009** London - Hu Jintao met Brazilian President Lula. Wang Qishan, Ling Jihua, Wang Huning, and Dai Bingguo were also present. Hu welcomed President Lula’s arrival in China in the next month, and promoted a ‘joint action programme’:

*"The Chinese side welcomes President Lula to pay a state visit to China again next month, and hopes that both sides will closely cooperate to ensure the success of his visit. The Chinese side is willing to work with the Brazilian side to start the formulation of a 'joint action programme' as soon as possible so that it will become a guide to cooperation in various fields between the two countries."*

**2 April 2009** At a naval base in the port city of Zhanjiang, headquarters of the South Sea Fleet, Navy Commander Adm. Wu Shengli authorized the deployment of a second group of Chinese navy escort ships to set sail to Gulf of Aden to replace a flotilla sent earlier to guard against pirates, led by Rear-Adm. Yao Zhilou. The task force, which includes the destroyer DDG-167 Shenzhen and the frigate FFG-570 Huangshan, will relieve two destroyers and rendezvous with the supply ship Weishanhu, which will remain in the Gulf.

With two helicopters and total crew exceeding 800, including navy special forces, it is mainly tasked with ensuring the safety of Chinese vessels passing through the gulf and waters off Somalia and those of international organizations like the World Food Programme shipping humanitarian goods. The flotilla will traverse 4,600 nautical miles, passing the Xisha and Nansha Islands, the Singapore Strait, the Strait of Malacca and the Indian Ocean before it arrives in the Gulf of Aden. China initiated its three-ship escort task force on Dec. 26 2008 after the United Nations Security Council called on countries to patrol the gulf and waters off Somalia, one of the world's busiest marine routes, where surging piracy endangered intercontinental shipping.

**2 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said that China sought joint efforts with the United States to push for "substantial progress" out of the newly-upgraded Strategic and Economic Dialogue. He said the decision to upgrade the dialogue to cabinet level meant a new historic start for China-US relations, and reflected the growing importance of bilateral cooperation.

London - Vice Premier Wang Qishan of the State Council, who is accompanying President Hu Jintao at the G-20 London financial summit, met US Treasury Secretary Geithner.

**2 April 2009** London - Commerce Minister Chen Deming made that clear China will conscientiously resist trade protectionism and oppose inappropriate protectionist measures adopted by other countries against China. Chen Deming revealed that during the current London summit, he met World Trade Organization (WTO) Director General Pascal Lamy, who expressed satisfaction with the trade measures taken by China since the start of the financial crisis.

**2 April 2009** Beijing - China signed a contract with Argentina to exchange 70 billion yuan, (10.24 billion US dollars) in their respective currencies for use in trade and investment. This will mean that there is no need for each other's companies to buy dollars to pay for transactions. It has been treated as a step to reduce reliance on the dollar.

**2 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang called on parties involved in the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue to safeguard peace and stability on the peninsula and northeast Asia. *"All relevant countries are obligated to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and northeast Asia as well as to push forward the six-party talks."* Qin's remarks came in response to a question concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) planned satellite launch.

**3 April 2009** Beijing - Qin Gang said that China opposed labelling Hong Kong and Macau as tax havens in a list proposed at the London G20 summit. Qin told a regular press conference: *"it is groundless to label China's Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macao as tax havens, to which China expresses firm opposition."*

**3 April 2009** President Hu Jintao met his South Korean counterpart Lee Myung-bak and

confirmed China's readiness to work with South Korea to promote bilateral relations.

**3 April 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met visiting Vice-Chief of the Defence Staff of the British Armed Forces, Timothy John Granville-Chapman. Liang indicated that the Chinese armed forces were ready to enhance military exchanges and cooperation with Britain.

*"China regards Britain as an important partner of cooperation and thinks highly of the role that Britain has played in European and international affairs. China is willing to work with Britain to promote the stable and sound development of China-Britain relations."*

**3 April 2009** Beijing - Guo Boxiong, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), and Belorussian Minister of Defence Leonid Maltsev agreed to step up military cooperation. Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie stated that: *"China will work with Belarus to promote multi-level and multi-field military cooperation."* Maltsev hailed China as Belarus's good and trusted friend, saying Belarus attached great importance to the development of the bilateral relationship. He also expressed appreciation of China's firm support for Belarus's internal and foreign policy on safeguarding its national sovereignty and independence as well as improving living standards.

**3 April 2009** Beijing - Jia Qinglin, chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee met the visiting Austrian Federal Council Chairman Harald Reisenberger. Jia said the CPPCC was ready to work closely with the Austrian parliament to promote bilateral ties.

**3 April 2009** Beijing - Brig. Gen. Subekti, the director of strategic environment analysis, said that: *"China will help Indonesia develop its military technology."* Following the memorandum of understanding signed by Indonesia and China in 2007, the two countries are set to agree a new deal to work more closely in military technology: Indonesia is expecting China to help its state arms producer, PT Pindad; state-owned ship maker, PT PAL Indonesia; and state-owned aircraft manufacturer, PT Dirgantara Indonesia, to produce upper-medium-class military technology. Subekti attended a China-ASEAN top officers dialogue hosted by the Chinese Academy of Military Science from March 30 to April 2.

**3 April 2009** Chinese ambassador to Australia Zhang Junsai said that Australian firms should not be worried about Chinese investment in the country as they only seek mutual benefits. However, he recognised that: *"the anxiety stems from two arguments: that Chinese enterprises are state-owned, and that they will subsequently control Australia's energy and mineral resources."* Nevertheless, Chinese companies investing in Australia, state-owned or private, he said, do not seek to control Australia's energy or mineral resources. Like companies from other countries, they seek a long-term, sound and reliable supply of energy and resources.

**4 April 2009** Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Central Committee, arrived in Cheju on his goodwill visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK). Li spoke of the cooperation achieved by China and ROK in various fields in a written statement delivered at the airport. ROK is the last leg of Li's four-nation tour which has already taken him to Australia, Myanmar and Japan.

**4 April 2009** Li Yuanchao, political bureau member, secretariat member, and organization department head of the CCP Central Committee, attended the opening ceremony of the first Sino-Singaporean Forum on Selecting and Cultivating Leaders held at the China Executive Leadership Academy in Shanghai's Pudong. Extending a welcome to Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and his party, Li Yuanchao said that this forum is an important landmark in the cooperation history between China and Singapore.

**5 April 2009** Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations Zhang Yesui attended an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council regarding the DPRK satellite launch. Zhang said:

*" we maintain that the UN Security Council's response should be cautious and appropriate, and we will participate in the discussions of this issue with an earnest, constructive, and responsible attitude."*

He added that continuing to promote the six-party talks process corresponded not only with the interests of the countries in this region, but also with the common interests of the international community.

**5 April 2009** The state-owned Kuwait Oil Company has announced that it has signed a 117 million kuwait dinars (350 million US dollars) contract with China's top oil refiner China Petroleum and Chemical Corp. (Sinopec) to build five oil and gas rigs in Kuwait.

**5 April 2009** Li Changchun, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee, suggested that China and the ROK could enhance cooperation in automobile industry even amidst the financial crisis, while visiting an auto plant of Hyundai Motors in Ulsan (ROK).

**5 April 2009** The Office of China in Palestinian territories opened a new visa office in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Yang Weiguo, head of the Office of China in Palestinian territories, claimed that more than 3,000 Palestinians applied for a visa to China in 2008.

**5 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi held a phone conversation with his US counterpart Hillary Clinton, expressing concerns over Chinese nationals killed and injured in Friday's Binghamton shooting rampage. According to preliminary investigation results, four Chinese women were among the people killed in the shooting and another Chinese national was injured. Yang said. *"This was a very serious incident and the Chinese government is deeply concerned about it."*

**5 April 2009** Lhasa - Nepali Foreign Minister Upendra Yadav met Qiangba Puncog, chairman of the regional government of Tibet. He confirmed that Nepal sticks to its one-China policy and is always against any anti-China activities. *"Nepal has always been supporting the one-China policy, and any kind of anti-China activities is not allowed on the Nepali territory."* Qiangba Puncog promised that Tibet will provide annual aid worth 3 million yuan (441,000 US dollars) to the northern region of Nepal for five years beginning from this year.

**6 April 2009** Moscow - Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin presented a government report to the State Duma stating that the Russian state oil pipeline Transneft will finish laying the East Siberia-Pacific Ocean (ESPO) oil pipeline to the Chinese border within weeks. Interfax news agency quoted Putin as saying: *"In just a few weeks, the phase during which the pipeline will reach the Chinese border will be over and we will go further to the Pacific Ocean."* Russia and China signed an intergovernmental agreement on the construction of an ESPO branch towards China and long-term Russian oil supplies in February.

**6 April 2009** Two warships from Russia's Pacific Fleet visited the south China port of Zhanjiang after finishing an anti-piracy operation in the Gulf of Aden. A spokesman of the South China Sea Fleet with the Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army said that the Admiral Vinogradov submarine chaser and the Boris Butoma tanker would stay in Zhanjiang for five days.

**6 April 2009** Addis Ababa - The Chinese representative Uyunqimg, Vice chairwoman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress, spoke to the 120th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Uyunqimg urged all countries to abandon trade and

investment protectionism:

*"During times of economic difficulties, the international community should abandon all forms of trade and investment protectionism and work for the progress of the Doha round of negotiations at an early date."*

**7 April 2009** Beijing - Vice-Premier Li Keqiang told former French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin that efforts should be made to ensure the "healthy" and "stable" development of Sino-French relations.

**7 April 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie told his Uruguayan counterpart, Jose Bayardi, that the latest meeting between Chinese President Hu Jintao and Uruguayan President Tabare Vazquez in March had greatly advanced ties. The two defence ministers also exchanged views on such issues as peace-keeping cooperation, personnel exchanges and military training.

**7 April 2009** Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez arrived in Beijing for a three-day working visit as the guest of President Hu Jintao. Chavez is scheduled to meet Hu and Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping on his sixth visit to China. Upon arrival, Chavez said he would urge Chinese leaders to increase the barrels of oil imported from Venezuela from 380,000 to 1 million by 2013.

**7 April 2009** Vice-President Xi Jinping met Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Kadyrbek Sarbaev and pledged to work with Kyrgyzstan to push forward a bilateral relationship.

**7 April 2009** Beijing - China and Serbia forged an agreement to seek stronger scientific and technological cooperation; signed by Serbian Deputy Prime Minister Bozidar Djelic, also chief of science and technological development, and Wan Gang, China's science minister. Chinese State Councillor Liu Yandong told Djelic: *"We welcome your visit and extend congratulations on the signing of the China-Serbia Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement."*

**7 April 2009** The Chinese embassy in Canberra has denied being engaged in cyber espionage. Such reports were "totally groundless" and "not worthy of comments", Counsellor Liu Jin told *The Australian* by email. His comments were quoted by the newspaper's website in a report by Cameron Stewart.

**8 April 2009** Beijing - In a meeting with President Hu Jintao, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez described China as the *"biggest engine driving the world"*, adding that *"the centre of gravity of the world has moved to Beijing"*. Hu emphasised that China attached great importance to its relationship with Venezuela.

**8 April 2009** Beijing - Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC) met visiting US Senator John McCain. Wu said that China-US relations had gone through a smooth transition and had got off to a good start since the new US administration took office in January.

**8 April 2009** Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa hailed China's investment of over 1 billion dollars in the country's largest hydroelectric plant Coca-Codo-Sincalir. Correa announced that the plant will cost 2 billion US dollars in total and that Chinese company Sinohydro will cover over 80 per cent of the total investment. The other 15 per cent will be funded by Ecuador and Argentina. The 1,500 MW plant, located some 75 kilometres east of Quito, will be the largest in the country.

**8 April 2009** Harare - Deputy Prime Minister Mutambara met Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe Yuan Nansheng and discussed how the two countries could increase cooperation. Yuan assured that China was delighted by the new political dispensation in the country and

that China would increase humanitarian assistance and identify more areas of cooperation with Zimbabwe. Mutambara emphasised the need for joint ventures to develop infrastructure:

*"We need China in many areas like value addition, infrastructural development like build, operate and transfer arrangements where China, for example, can construct a toll gate, operate it for, say, 30 years before transferring it to the Government."*

**9 April 2009** Beijing - Vice-President Xi Jinping met visiting Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. Chavez said that he expected more cooperation with China in financial aspects to benefit both nations, while visiting the state-owned China Development Bank (CDB). He held talks on strengthening cooperation with CDB board chairman Chen Yuan and CDB president Jiang Chaoliang.

**9 April 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao appointed six new ambassadors in line with decisions adopted by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. Qiu Xiaoqi was appointed ambassador to the Federative Republic of Brazil, replacing Chen Duqing. Zhang Xianyi was appointed ambassador to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, replacing Zheng Qingdian. Zheng Qingdian was appointed ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, replacing Yang Houlan. Liu Jianchao was appointed ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines, replacing Song Tao. Wang Kaiwen was appointed ambassador to the Kyrgyz Republic, replacing Zhang Yannian. Zhang Yannian was appointed ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, replacing Zhang Haizhou.

**9 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a regular press conference that pressure and sanctions are unhelpful to resolving the issue triggered by the DPRK's rocket launch. *"Imposing pressure or sanctions will not help towards making the Peninsula nuclear-free"*.

Jiang Yu announced that China welcomes the United States mending its relations with Iran and supports the resolution of Iran's nuclear issues via dialogue and negotiations: *"China encourages Iran to make active contact with the concerned parties in a bid to seek a comprehensive, long-term and proper solution to Iran's nuclear issue."* These remarks came in response to a question about the E3+3 Political Directors' Meeting on the Iran nuclear issue held in London on 8 April 2009, which was attended by Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jieyi.

Jiang Yu told the regular briefing that China's government opposed US sanctions on a Chinese company that allegedly supported Iran's nuclear programmes. *"As always, we resolutely oppose US sanctions on the Chinese company citing its domestic laws."* The Chinese company was not named, but Jiang's comments came after the US Treasury on 7 April 2009 banned Chinese firm LIMMT Economic and Trade Company Ltd and six Iranian companies from doing business in the United States as they were suspected of collaborating to transfer nuclear technology from China to Iran.

Jiang Yu denied that China hacked into America's electrical grid: *"The intrusion doesn't exist at all."* Several international news agencies had reported that the US electrical grid had been penetrated, leaving behind software programmes that could be used to disrupt the system. The articles claimed the spies came from China, Russia and other countries. Jiang Yu denied China had any involvement with mapping or breaking in to America's infrastructure, claiming the White House also denied the media's reports.

**10 April 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao congratulated Kim Jong Il, leader of the DPRK, on his re-election as chairman of the country's National Defence Commission. The First Session of the 12th Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK re-elected Kim as chairman of the National Defence Commission on 9 April 2009.



**10 April 2009** Rayong, Thailand - Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao is to attend the East Asia Summit and related meetings in Pattaya, including the 12th summit between ASEAN and China, Japan and South Korea; the 4th East Asia Summit, and China-Japan-South Korea Breakfast Meeting. His entourage includes Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission Zhang Ping, Finance Minister Xie Xuren, Commerce Minister Chen Deming, Director of the Research Office of the State Council Xie Fuzhan, Chinese Ambassador to the ASEAN Xue Hanqin, Vice Secretary-General of the State Council and Director of the Premier's Office Qiu Xiaoxiong and Assistant Foreign Minister Hu Zhengyue.

**10 April 2009** Beijing - The Ministry of Commerce said in an online statement that China has protested at the European Union's decision to impose anti-dumping duties on seamless steel pipes imported from China and expected the EU to end its anti-dumping investigation. The European Commission announced on 8 April 2009 that it would impose anti-dumping duties on Chinese seamless steel pipes; it represents the culmination of an anti-dumping probe launched by the European Commission on 9 July 2008. The duty rates stood at slightly more than 15 per cent for Hubei Xinye Steel and Shangdong Luxing Steel Pipe and 24.2 per cent for the general imports from other Chinese steel companies.

Ministry of Commerce Spokesman Yao Jian issued a statement concerning the request by US domestic industry to conduct an anti-dumping and anti-subsidy investigation of oil well pipe products from China.

**10 April 2009** Xu Qiliang, commander of the Air Force of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) and member of China's Central Military Commission, left China for official goodwill visits to Pakistan, Turkey and Malaysia. Xu will visit at the invitation of Pakistani Chief of Staff of the Air Force Rao Qamar Suleman; Turkish Air Force Commander Aydogan Babaoglu; and Chief of the Air Force of Malaysia Tan Sri Dato' Sri Azizan Bin Ariffin, according to sources with the PLA Air Force.

**10 April 2009** Beijing - Vice Premier Wang Qishan met his Mongolian counterpart Miegombyn Enkhbold, and pledged to deepen bilateral cooperation on energy and infrastructure: *"China-Mongolia relations have developed smoothly since the two countries forged diplomatic ties 60 years ago, featuring increasing political mutual trust and frequent high-level visits."* Enkhbold was attending the 11th meeting of the Sino-Mongolian Joint Commission of Trade and Economy.

**10 April 2009** China, Japan, Russia and the ROK conducted an exercise off the east China coast, practising an oil spill emergency. The drill was conducted to address extensive drifting oil leaks after an oil tanker bumped into a cargo ship off the southern coast of ROK, said an official with Shandong Maritime Safety Administration. China, Japan and Russia provided technical support and resources to handle the spillage as soon as they received ROK's call for help. The exercise which lasted nearly three hours, used English as its working language for communications.

**11 April 2009** Beijing - Premier Wen Jiabao returned to China one day ahead of schedule, after the Thai government postponed the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) related summits. Wen Jiabao was interviewed by Hong Kong media, and gave a positive appraisal of China's current economic situation:

*"At present, all statistics show that China's domestic demand is rising. The indicators include the investment in fixed assets, consumption, imports and exports, investment, stock market transaction volumes, sales manager index, enterprise sales index, and other industrial indexes in the first three months of this year. These indicators rebounded and rose every passing month in 2009 as compared with the same periods of last year."*

He emphasized that the measures laid down by the central government had achieved initial results, and the economy as a whole had shown positive signs.

**11 April 2009** Scotland's First Minister Alex Salmond said at a weekend forum in Beijing, that Scotland's technological leadership in wind and marine power could help China attain its goal of increasing renewable energy sources. China's top economic planning body, the National Development and Reform Commission, said cooperation with Scotland would focus on marine wind-powered electricity and industries with low carbon emissions.

**12 April 2009** Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi unveiled a multi-billion-dollar package of aid and credit to enhance China-ASEAN cooperation. Yang met envoys of the 10 ASEAN countries in Beijing and emphasised that Premier Wen had planned to promote regional economic integration at the summit: *"with an eye on the common long-term interests, firm support should be given to the integration process in East Asia so as to promote regional peace and prosperity."* Yang called for renewed efforts to reach an investment agreement, which was scheduled to be signed on the sidelines of the postponed ASEAN meetings in Thailand. The agreement would be conducive to the establishment of a China-ASEAN Free Trade Zone.

China planned to establish a China-ASEAN investment cooperation fund totalling 10 billion US dollars, designed for cooperation on infrastructure construction, energy and resources, information and communications. Over the next three to five years, China planned to offer credit of 15 billion US dollars to ASEAN countries, including loans with preferential terms of 1.7 billion dollars in aid for cooperation projects.

China also planned to offer 270 million yuan (39.7 million dollars) in special aid to Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar to meet urgent needs, inject 5 million dollars into the China-ASEAN Cooperation Fund, and donate 900,000 dollars to the cooperation fund of ASEAN plus China, Japan and the ROK. China would provide 300,000 tonnes of rice for the emergency East Asia rice reserve to strengthen food security in the region.

**12 April 2009** Busan, ROK - The fourth session of the Northeast Asia Trilateral Forum, a regional platform with political, business and academic experts from China, Japan and South Korea called for closer cooperation among the three countries in tackling the global financial crisis. The Forum is a yearly event cosponsored by the Xinhua News Agency of China, the Nikkei news group of Japan and leading South Korean daily *JoongAng Ilbo*. This year's meeting discussed global financial risks, the environment, energy and culture.

**13 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu expressed concern over the situation in Moldova, where violence broke out in the capital, Chisinau, after the Central Election Commission announced the ruling Communist party had won the election. Jiang said China had followed the developments in Moldova after its parliamentary elections on 5 April 2009 gained wide recognition from the international community.

**13 April 2009** Beijing - Vice-Premier Li Keqiang pledged to advance the strategic and cooperative partnership with the ROK. Li told visiting Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon: *"We will work with the ROK to expand cooperation and enrich the content of strategic and cooperative partnership."*

**13 April 2009** Beijing - Li Yuanchao, member of the Political Bureau and Secretariat of the CCP Central Committee, met a German Christian Democratic Union (CDU) delegation headed by Volker Kauder in the Great Hall of the People. A senior CCP official said that the CCP was ready to upgrade dialogue and exchanges with the CDU. This is the first visit to China by Kauder, chairman of the Parliamentary Group of the Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union at the Federal Assembly (Bundestag) of Germany. Li, also head of the Organization Department of the CCP Central Committee, expressed the wish that the two political parties should further enhance dialogue and exchanges to promote the long-term, steady growth of China-Germany relations.

**13 April 2009** Beijing - Wang Shengjun, President of the Supreme People's Court of China, met Lasar Georgiev Gruev, President of Bulgarian Supreme Court of Cassation.

**13 April 2009** Beijing - A delegation of the CPPCC left for good-will visits to the DPRK and Syria. The delegation, headed by Li Jinhua, vice chairman of the National Committee of CPPCC, was invited by the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland of DPRK and the National Progressive Front of Syria.

**13 April 2009** Moscow - The Russian government approved an agreement with China to build a branch of the ESPO oil pipeline towards China; thus confirming long-term Russian oil supplies. With an expected annual throughput of 15 million tonnes of crude oil, the branch pipeline will connect Skovorodino in Russia and China's Mohe station. Prime Minister Putin said the first stage of the ESPO pipeline, from Taishet in the Irkutsk region to Skovorodino in the Amur region, will be put into operation soon. Under the agreement, Rosneft will supply through the ESPO branch 9 million tonnes of oil to China every year starting in 2011, while Transneft supplies 6 million tonnes.

**14 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said that China disapproves of the United Nations adopting any new resolution on the DPRK rocket launch, and is opposed to any new sanction against the DPRK. *"China and the DPRK are friendly neighbours. We will continue the friendly and cooperative relationship with the DPRK."* The UN Security Council adopted a presidential statement saying DPRK's launching activity was "in contravention of Security Council resolution 1718" and urging the early resumption of the six-party talks. In the statement, the 15-member council "condemns" the 5 April 2009 launch by the DPRK and calls on all member states to "comply fully with their obligations under resolution 1718," adopted by the council in October 2006.

**14 April 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao met New Zealand's Prime Minister John Key. Key, on his first China visit since becoming Prime Minister in January 2008, said his country was proud to take the lead in developing ties with China. Hu lauded the China-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA): *"The signing of the China-New Zealand free trade agreement has provided a mechanism and created favourable conditions for bilateral cooperation of mutual benefit."* The bilateral deal was signed in April 2008, making New Zealand the first Western developed country to sign a FTA with China.

**14 April 2009** Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister Michael Thomas Somare arrived in Beijing, starting his six-day official visit to China. Somare will attend the 2009 meeting of the Bo'ao Forum for Asia from April 17 to 19 in south China's Hainan Province.

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and his Papua New Guinean counterpart Samuel Abal agreed to promote ties between their two countries. Abal emphasised that the Papua New Guinean government attached great importance to ties with China and agreed to firmly adhere to the one-China policy. Abal presented a cheque worth 531,300 US dollars to the Chinese government on behalf of the Papua New Guinean government to support post-quake reconstruction in southwest China's Sichuan province, and Yang expressed appreciation for the donation.

**14 April 2009** Beijing - China announced that its FTA with Peru would be signed and implemented soon. Chinese President Hu Jintao and his Peruvian counterpart Alan Garcia announced the conclusion of bilateral FTA talks last November when Hu paid a visit to Peru. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang said the China-Peru agreement was the first FTA package China signed with a Latin American country. *"It covers a wide range of fields and features high-degree openness."*

**14 April 2009** Local maritime officials said that the "Haixun-31" – a marine inspection vessel in south China's Guangdong Province started its voyage to join a patrol operation in the

South China Sea. The vessel left the Zhuhai port and headed for Sanya, a port in the southern-most island province of Hainan. The vessel will join the largest-ever joint marine inspection in mid April launched by the maritime authorities in Guangdong, Hainan and Shanghai. The ship, along with Guangdong's "Haibiao-32" and Shanghai's "Haixun-21", are the main forces in the joint operation. The patrol aims to monitor the sea environment, check the main sea routes, route markings and other facilities on the sea and ensure shipping order and safety.

**15 April 2009** Premier Wen Jiabao told visiting New Zealand Prime Minister John Key that China and New Zealand should work together to deal with the international financial crisis. *"This would benefit both countries and the region as well."* Key hailed the New Zealand-China FTA, which was signed in April 2008. Despite the global downturn, trade between the two countries grew by 19 per cent to more than 9 billion New Zealand dollars in a year ending February 2009. *"The China-New Zealand FTA is a good model for others in our region as it points the way to openness at a time when protectionist pressures are building."* Key claimed that New Zealand would invest more in China and planned to develop business offices in cities like south China's Shenzhen and eastern Qingdao.

**15 April 2009** Beijing - Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev arrived on a five-day state visit to China at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao, which will include talks with Hu, Wu Bangguo and Premier Wen Jiabao respectively in Beijing and Sanya, a port in the southern-most island province of Hainan.

**15 April 2009** Beijing - Vice-President Xi Jinping told visiting Mongolian Prime Minister Sanj Bayar that China would work with Mongolia to advance the relationship between the two countries.

Mongolia and Tianjin, a municipality in northern China, signed a memorandum on deepening economic cooperation, pledging to strengthen economic ties and expand the fields of cooperation. Zhang Gaoli, member of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and party chief of Tianjin, when meeting the visiting Mongolian Prime Minister, said that Tianjin and Mongolia had maintained cooperative relations and it was willing to deepen cooperation in more fields.

**15 April 2009** Beijing - Ministry of Commerce spokesman Yao Jian warned the US to deal "cautiously" with the anti-dumping complaint from US steel makers that China dumped specific types of tubular and pipe steel into the US market. Yao said that in the first quarter, the volume of Chinese steel exports to the US fell 55 per cent from a year ago. China was highly concerned about the suit and would send a delegation to the US to discuss the matter.

Beijing - The Foreign Ministry stated that Richard Holbrooke, US envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, will visit China 15-16 April 2009. Niu Xinchun, vice-director of the Centre for American Studies at the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, said the visit was another sign of US President Barack Obama's new strategy on Afghanistan and Pakistan. *"The US is actively seeking cooperation with the countries neighbouring the two terrorism-plagued areas, with China its biggest targeted partner."*

**15 April 2009** Beijing - Egyptian Ambassador to China Mahmoud Allam asserted that Egypt would increase its trade with China and co-operation over nuclear power. *"Egypt hopes to further work together with China in the fields of nuclear energy, renewable energy and power plants."* According to the ambassador, the bilateral trade volume reached 6.2 billion US dollars in 2008 and China is expected to be the biggest trade partner of Egypt in 2010.

**15 April 2009** Beijing - Ministry of Commerce announced that foreign direct investment in China posted a 20.6 per cent year-on-year decline in the first quarter to 21.78 billion US dollars.

**15 April 2009** China successfully launched its second navigation satellite in its effort to construct an independent global satellite navigation system code named "Compass". The carrier rocket Long March 3C blasted off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province at 0:16 am. Previous reports said that China planned to complete its own GPS system by launching 30 more orbiters before 2015, with 10 navigation satellites scheduled to launch in 2009 and 2010. The current Compass system only provides regional navigation service within China and neighbouring regions. The second "Compass" satellite and its carrier rocket were respectively developed by the China Academy of Space Technology and the China Academy of Launch Vehicle Technology which are under the China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation. It is the 116th flight for the country's Long March series of rockets. China launched the first "Compass" navigation satellite into geostationary orbit in April 2007 to build up its own positioning system following the United States' Global Positioning System (GPS), the Galileo Positioning System of Europe and Russia's Global Navigation Satellite System (GLONASS).

**15 April 2009** Navy Commander Admiral Wu Shengli, member of the Central Military Commission, in an interview with Xinhua reporters (in conjunction with the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Navy) discussed the Navy's current capabilities. The Navy's coastal defence units have all been armed with missiles: *"The Navy's coastal defence units are a service arm deployed on important stretches of the seacoast, where they participate in combat operations to defend the coastline."* Wu Shengli confirmed that units now held a new generation of shore-to-ship missiles having stronger ability to penetrate defences, longer range, and more resistance to jamming. Navy coastal defence units were gradually becoming a new type of service arm capable of air defence at key locations and over offshore waters and also capable of effective support to other arms and services as they carry out offensive operations. Naval aviation has become an important part of a modernized navy, and as such, all Chinese Naval Aviation combat regiments would shoulder mobile combat operations. *"Without air superiority there is no sea superiority."*

Naval Aviation's first division was established at Shanghai in June 1952. In the 1990s, Naval Aviation units received the Flying Leopard fighter-bomber, electronic reconnaissance aircraft, antisubmarine aircraft, early warning patrol aircraft, and aerial refuelling aircraft. These expanded the scope of naval aviation, and it established omni-directional support for naval surface ship units seizing sea superiority. As third-generation warplanes are fielded, units get markedly improved manoeuvre in various fields: ship-aircraft coordination, aerial dogfights, penetrating defences at low altitude, executing long-range attacks, and precise attacks. Wu further added: *"All of that shows that Naval Aviation's overall combat operations capabilities under high-tech conditions have advanced to a new and higher level."*

On new types of submarines, Wu explained: *"Submarines are the main underwater strike force, and they are a service arm which is a focus of development in the People's Navy."* He added that new models of conventional and nuclear powered submarines are being issued to units. The new types of submarines are equipped with ultra long wave communication systems, datalink systems, tactical software and command automation systems, as well as smart torpedos and precision guided missiles. The new generation of submarines is markedly improved in terms of quietness, underwater endurance and survivability, and its ability to penetrate defences underwater is markedly stronger. The first-generation, conventionally powered submarine researched, designed and built by China itself was launched in 1971. China's first nuclear powered submarine entered service in 1974. China's first missile launching, nuclear powered submarine entered service in 1983.

**15 April 2009** Shen Liding, Executive Vice Principal of Fudan University's International Affairs Institute, published an article on the Chinese newspaper *Dongfang Zaobao* website: "DPRK's Walkout from the Six-Party Talks is its Realistic Inevitability". In it he discusses the DPRK's tactics during negotiations and DPRK's need for nuclear weapons as an external security guarantor.

*"...It was inevitable that the DPRK would walk out of the 'six-party talks' and this was bound to happen sooner or later. The reason is very simple; like all states possessing nuclear weapons, the DPRK holds the view that these weapons are the fundamental guarantee for safeguarding its national security. The DPRK does not trust alliances and security guarantees, it only puts its trust in holding its destiny in its own hands..."*

*...the DPRK only tactically commits to the principle of giving up nuclear weapons in exchange for time and space to securely develop these weapons while the negotiations are going on.*

*However, after the DPRK acquires nuclear weapons, its nuclear capability is very likely to be a deterrent towards the United States, and so it will gain permanent peace through depending on its own capability, which is obviously worthwhile. At this time, the "six-party talks" have already satisfied the DPRK's phase objective of avoiding war, and are already no longer so valuable.*

*The DPRK's withdrawal from the 'six-party talks' was determined from the first day that it participated. Analysed from any realistic angle, this was bound to happen, and it is no longer a question of which negotiating party failed to make enough effort. If some people feel shocked by the DPRK's walkout, it is either because they are not perceptive enough of objective reality or else because they are too idealist and infantile."*

Shen also feels that a certain hypocrisy amongst the nuclear powers has contributed to the failure of the talks:

*"...To overstate the matter somewhat, some nuclear states do not want to abandon nuclear weapons themselves... yet demand that a relatively small and weak DPRK restrain its security options; this can hardly be convincing in the mind of the DPRK. When they collectively peddle the idea to Pyongyang that giving up nukes will benefit it more, this is no less than openly insulting the DPRK's intelligence."*

**16 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a regular briefing that China urged "calmness and restraint" from the six parties in the talks aimed at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula after the DPRK asked international inspectors to leave the country on 14 April.

*"We expect all sides to take a far-sighted view of the big picture, exercise calmness and restraint and properly address related issues to ensure the six-party process and safeguard peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and northeast Asia."*

**16 April 2009** Beijing - Wang Yi, director of China's Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, met a delegation from the National Committee on American Foreign Policy headed by George Schwab. Schwab and others said that the mainstream of various circles in the United States, either inside or outside of government, have taken an affirmative and welcome attitude towards the improvement and development of cross-Strait relations and believed that the new US government will maintain continuity in its policy for the Taiwan issue.

**16 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a regular press conference that China had taken note of a US report stating that the Chinese government did not manipulate the exchange rate of the yuan. *"We will continue reform of the renminbi exchange rate mechanism."* She said that China would strive to keep the rate basically stable at a reasonable and balanced level. Such a policy was in the interest of not only China, but also the world economy.

**16 April 2009** Beijing - Vice Premier Wang Qishan met Kazakhstan's visiting President

Nursultan Nazarbayev and about 30 representatives of entrepreneurs of the two countries. Wang said that China would work together with Kazakhstan to step up bilateral enterprises' cooperation, and advance bilateral cooperation in all fields.

**16 April 2009** Navy Commander Admiral Wu Shengli told Xinhua - one week ahead of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PLA Navy - that the Navy planned large surface combat ships, supersonic cruise aircraft and high-speed intelligent torpedoes.

*"The Navy will move faster in researching and building new-generation weapons to boost the ability to fight in regional sea wars under the circumstance of information technology."*

In addition to ships; aircraft, torpedoes, long-range missiles, submarines and electronic weapons are also on the Navy's agenda. He said the Navy would have more equipment for offshore repair, high-seas dispatch, large-scale rescue and supply among others. The Navy will incorporate the capacity for non-war military actions to the integrated construction of the army's power, especially emergency offshore search and rescue and anti-terrorism activities.

**17 April 2009** Premier Wen Jiabao met Parviz Davoodi, first vice president of Iran, in Sanya, in south China's Hainan Province. Wen positively addressed Iran's civilian nuclear programme:

*"China respects Iran's nuclear programme for peaceful purpose, resolutely safeguards the international non-proliferation system and advocates that the Iranian nuclear issue should be peacefully resolved through negotiation."*

Davoodi, who is to attend the 2009 meeting of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) scheduled for April 17-19, said Iran is willing to resolve the nuclear issue and improve ties with relevant countries on the basis of mutual respect.

**17 April 2009** Wen Jiabao met Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in Sanya, in south China's Hainan Province. Wen said that the consolidation China-Pakistan relations serves as a priority of China's foreign policy. As an all-weather friend of Pakistan, China was ready to offer help for the country's stability and development. In coping with the challenges of the global financial crisis, Zardari said Pakistan hoped the two countries would increase cooperation in economy, trade, finance and security, which would help strengthen confidence of the Pakistani people in overcoming current difficulties.

**17 April 2009** Wen Jiabao met Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev in Sanya and discussed measures to withstand the impact of the global financial crisis. China and Kazakhstan issued a joint statement, agreeing to further enhance bilateral economic and trade cooperation:

*"The two nations would spare no effort and create the necessary conditions to ensure the completion and operation of the energy cooperation projects, including the China-Kazakhstan gas pipeline and the second phase of the oil pipeline."*

*Kazakhstan supported China's participation in the oil and gas exploration of the continental shelf under the Caspian Sea.*

*The two sides will adopt active measures to ensure the continuous and steady growth of bilateral trade, so as to raise the trade volume.*

*China supports Kazakhstan in joining the World Trade Organization (WTO).*

*The Kazakhs hoped China would participate in technology transfer to Kazakhstan."*

China National Petroleum Corp. (CNPC), China's largest oil producer, announced that it would lend 5bn US dollars to the Kazakh state oil company KazMunaiGas, which would be used for the joint purchase of a local company, MangistauMunaiGas, a major oil developer in Kazakhstan. KazMunaiGas agreed in January to buy 52 per cent of MangistauMunaiGas. Terms of the loan were not disclosed.

**17 April 2009** Wen Jiabao met his Myanmar counterpart Thein Sein. Wen said China supports Myanmar's sustainable development, and is committed to helping the country to get over the difficulties brought by global financial crisis. China sincerely hopes for Myanmar's political stability, economic development and national reconciliation.

**17 April 2009** China filed complaints to the WTO about a US law effectively banning imports of Chinese poultry products, saying the law may violate WTO regulations. Pursuant to Section 727 of the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009, which was already signed into law, the United States effectively prohibits the establishment or implementation of any measures that would allow poultry products to be imported from China, the Chinese WTO mission said.

**17 April 2009** Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi has said that China wants the United States to engage with the DPRK directly to ease escalating tensions over Pyongyang's renewed nuclear weapons activities. In an interview published in Japan's *Nikkei* newspaper, Yang said the Six-Party Talks hosted by Beijing remain the way forward in making the Korean Peninsula nuclear free, despite Pyongyang's declaration this week that it would boycott the talks for good and resume work at shuttered atomic facilities. But Yang, a former ambassador to Washington, hoped that the Obama administration would deal directly with Pyongyang. *"(China) hopes for an improvement and development of US-DPRK relations. It is a relationship that will mutually help both sides whether it takes a bilateral or multilateral route."*

**17 April 2009** Beijing - Hu Jintao, General Secretary of the CCP Central Committee, president of the state, and chairman of the Central Military Commission, met representatives attending the 15th Session of the Military Attaches Working Conference. Those participating in the meeting were Guo Boxiong, member of the CCP Central Committee Political Bureau and vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission; Xu Caihou, member of the CCP Central Committee Political Bureau and vice-chairman of the Central Military Commission; and Chen Bingde, Li Jinai, Liao Xilong, Chang Wanquan, Jing Zhiyuan, and Wu shengli, members of the Central Military Commission. Hu Jintao stressed:

*"Profound and complex changes are taking place in the international situation, and the global financial crisis is still deepening and spreading. We are facing unprecedented opportunities as well as unprecedented challenges."*

Also participating in the meeting were Ge Zhenfeng, Liu Zhenwu, and Ma Xiaotian, Deputy Chiefs of the General Staff of the PLA, and Qi Jianguo, Assistant Chief of the General Staff of the PLA.

**18 April 2009** Parviz Davoodi, first vice president of Iran, said at a press conference at the ongoing BFA Annual Conference in Hainan Province, that Iran desired extending energy cooperation with China. *"We consider Iran as one of the most stable countries in the Middle East to provide necessary energy source for China."* Davoodi also said Chinese investors could invest in the area (of the privatization of Iran's industry) and also in oil and gas industries.

**18 April 2009** Sanya - The BFA Annual Conference officially opened in Boao, Hainan Province - taking its theme as *"Asia: Managing Beyond Crisis"*. Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao delivered a keynote speech, "Strengthen confidence and deepen cooperation for win-win progress", at the opening plenary meeting. He promoted greater free trade and regional integration: *"We should make greater efforts to promote free trade and expand intra-regional*



trade." He announced a 10 billion US dollar "China-ASEAN Fund on Investment Cooperation" to support infrastructure development in the region. Wen also called on Asia to promote reform of the international financial system:

*"We should advance reform of the international financial system, increase the representation and voice of emerging markets and developing countries, strengthen surveillance of the macroeconomic policies of major reserve currency issuing economies, and develop a more diversified international monetary system."*

Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the People's Bank of China, said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) failed to give alarm or diagnosis, let alone remedies when problems occurred in developed countries. Zhou made the comment at a panel discussion during the conference, saying that the IMF needs improvement in this respect.

**18 April 2009** Sanya - Wen Jiabao, at a meeting with Fredrick Chien, chief adviser of Taiwan's Cross-Straits Common Market Foundation, called on the Chinese mainland and Taiwan to: *"discard past enmity and face the future to tackle the financial crisis and seek common prosperity."* Chien told reporters after his longer-than-expected talks with Wen that he came up with several proposals in his capacity as a Taiwanese citizen, not as a representative of Taiwan's government.

**19 April 2009** A Xinhua article describes the 42<sup>nd</sup> escort provided by the Chinese Navy in the Gulf of Aden and the waters off Somalia, started on 16 April. It was the first escort task commanded by the second escort formation of the Chinese Navy. The 13 ships to be escorted were divided into two groups. The first group comprising the "Shenzhen" and the destroyers "Wuhan" and "Haikou" formed an escort which accompanied nine merchant vessels - the "Mingzehu", "Carmen", "Anlihu", "Gangqiang", "Taixing", "Xijinuosi", "Friends of the Thunder God", "Tairong" and "Kangqiang" - that advanced in double files. In the second group, the [frigate] "Huangshan" escorted four merchant vessels - "Fuyuxing", "Daming", "Xique" and "Changhang Xingyun" - which arrived slightly late at the rendezvous point. During the three-day-long escort operation, the escort formation encountered 42 suspicious boats in 16 batches. Among others, at 1816 on 17 April, not long after the first escort formation left the formation for a return voyage, six batches of 19 suspicious boats appeared around the nine merchant vessels but the ship "Shenzhen" successfully drove them away.

**19 April 2009** Taizhou, Zhejiang - Li Keqiang, standing committee member of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee and vice-premier of the State Council, attended the opening construction ceremony of the Sanmen Nuclear Power Plant and promoted nuclear power. Li acknowledged that Sanmen Nuclear Power Plant was: *"China's first project to increase self-sufficiency in developing third-generation nuclear power plant."* The Sanmen Nuclear Power Plant is the biggest energy cooperation project between China and the United States so far. The Chinese and US governments signed a memorandum of understanding on making joint efforts to build an advanced pressurized water nuclear power project and related technical transfers in December 2006. The Plant will be constructed in three phases, with an investment of more than 40 billion yuan injected in the first phase. The first generating unit will be finished in 2013. The AP1000 nuclear power generation units will use third-generation pressurized water reactor technology. On developing China's nuclear power technology Li suggested: *"promote the improvement of imported technologies through digestion and absorption."*

**20 April 2009** Wang Yiren, head of China's Atomic Energy Authority, told reporters at a nuclear energy conference in Beijing: *"China has never had any cooperation with the DPRK in nuclear energy development."*

Mohamed El Baradei, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General, opened the nuclear energy conference in Beijing with the remark that:

*"Global nuclear security standards should be made binding rather than voluntary as at present, so that the risk of nuclear terrorism - the most dangerous threat we face - can be addressed more effectively."*

The three-day ministerial conference, organized by China and the IAEA, attracted energy ministers or other representatives from more than 60 countries to discuss nuclear power issues.

According to El Baradei, both global energy demand and interest in nuclear power have continued to grow, and more than 60 countries were considering launching nuclear power programmes, adding to the 30 countries with existing programmes. He said there were 436 power reactors in operation in 30 countries, adding that last year saw construction start on 10 new reactors around the world, the highest number since the Chernobyl accident in 1986. Of the 10 on which construction started in 2008, eight were in Asia and six were in China, he said.

**20 April 2009** Multi-national naval activities marking the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Navy of the PLA formally began in Qingdao this evening. The four-day celebration includes seminars, a sampan race and a fleet review that will feature the first public appearance of the country's nuclear submarines.

The opening ceremony of the activities and a large reception was held at 1800 at the No 3 harbour of the Qingdao Port. Admiral Wu Shengli, member of the Central Military Commission and commander of the Chinese Navy, addressed the opening ceremony. Wu stressed the common efforts of 10 nations on escorting missions in the Horn of Africa and that the celebrations should be an opportunity *"to jointly discuss measures to ensure maritime security, and that the world will better understand China and the Chinese Navy."*

Naval Commander Wu Shengli met seven naval delegations from Brazil, Bangladesh, Portugal, South Africa, Vietnam, Indonesia and New Zealand in Qingdao, when they arrived to attend the celebrations for the 60th founding anniversary of the Chinese PLA Navy.

Ding Yiping, Deputy Commander of the PLA Navy, told Xinhua in an exclusive interview that the international fleet review to be held in east port city Qingdao on 23 April would serve as a platform for China's domestic-made warships and weapons, including the debut of its nuclear submarines. It would also aid other countries to increase their understanding about China and the Chinese navy. Ding added that ignorance was a source of suspicion, which he hoped China could alleviate:

*"Suspensions about China being a 'threat' to world security are mostly because of misunderstandings and lack of understandings about China. "The suspicions would disappear if foreign counterparts could visit the Chinese navy and know about the true situations."*

According to the Defence Ministry high-level delegations from 29 countries and 21 vessels from 14 countries will take part in the review.

**20 April 2009** The Chinese Embassy in Harare gave digital recording and conferencing equipment worth 150,000 US dollars to the Parliament of Zimbabwe, to be used for recording parliamentary proceedings. Chinese Ambassador to Zimbabwe Yuan Nansheng handed over the equipment to Speaker of Parliament Lovemore Moyo at a brief ceremony at Parliament Building. President of the Upper House, the Senate, Edna Madzongwe, was also present. The Chinese government has made several donations to the parliament of Zimbabwe since 2000, including mainly computer equipment and a motor vehicle. In an interview, Clerk of Parliament Austin Zvoma said the Chinese government had been very supportive of the parliament and was one of its major benefactors.

**20 April 2009** Beijing - Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army Chen Bingde met Tin Aye, member of Myanmar's State Peace and Development Council and made clear that China is willing to maintain and enhance friendly military cooperation with Myanmar.

**21 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi will focus on the Middle East issue during visits to Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Syria and Russia. Yang is making official visits to the five countries from April 21-27. He will see Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ali Aboul Gheit, Foreign Minister of the Palestinian National Authority Riyad al-Malki, Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Mualem and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu noted that China is ready to continue playing a constructive role in promoting a political solution to the Middle East issue.

*"It is China's consistent position that the involved parties should, on the basis of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and the 'land-for-peace' principle, settle the dispute by political and diplomatic means and realize the peaceful coexistence of Palestine and Israel as well as the Arab world and Israel."*

**21 April 2009** Jiang Yu told a regular press conference that China pledged to work more closely with the international community to fight terrorism, specifically mentioning the Eastern Turkestan Islamic Party as a focus of Chinese efforts:

*"Combating the Eastern Turkestan Islamic Party (ETIP) is an important part of international counter-terrorism efforts, which serve the interests of China, the United States and other countries. Haq was ETIP's major leader who has involved in recruiting terrorists and masterminding terrorist activities. ETIP is a terrorist organization designated by the Chinese government and the United Nations Security Council. China takes a very clear stance on fighting terrorism and actively participates in the world counter-terrorism process."*

Jiang's comments came after the US Treasury Department on 20 April designated Abdul Haq as a terrorist who supports al-Qaeda and declared it would freeze his assets and prohibit transactions with him. The US move followed a decision by the UN Security Council's 1267 Committee to place Haq on its list of people associated with Osama bin Laden, al-Qaeda or the Taleban and subject to sanctions by UN member states.

Jiang Yu told the regular briefing that China is hoping an international donor conference this week in Brussels will help Somalia combat the pirates. *"We expect positive outcome from the international donors conference on Somalia so as to provide substantive support for the Somali political process."* Jiang said China supported the upcoming conference and would send senior diplomats from China's EU delegation to it.

Jiang Yu said that China called on Japan to deal with the "politically sensitive" issue of Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine in a manner that will help promote the progress made in Sino-Japanese relations. The comment came after Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso made an offering to the controversial shrine for its spring festival; and comes ahead of Aso's planned visit to China from April 29-30 to meet President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao.

**21 April 2009** Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met US Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Gary Roughead in Qingdao on the sidelines of a four-day celebration to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PPLA Navy. During the meeting, Roughead offered congratulations to Liang, and expressed his hope that naval forces of the two countries would deepen exchanges and cooperation in the future. Liang said China attached great importance to Sino-US military relations, and had made active efforts to promote their ties.

Liang Guanglie also met Admiral Metin Atac, commander of Turkey's naval forces, and the

Republic of Korea's Chief of Naval Operations Jung Ok-keun, pledging to improve cooperation and ties between the PLA Navy and the two countries' naval forces.

**21 April 2009** Qingdao - PLA Navy Commander Admiral Wu Shengli said at a meeting of international naval officials that terrorism, separatism, extremism, piracy and transnational crimes, such as smuggling, posed serious challenges to the maritime peace and safety. Wu emphasised that it was the obligation of all countries' naval forces to work together to ensure safety on the oceans under the guidance of the United Nations. *"We must abide by the principles and the regulations of the United Nations Charter when handling maritime affairs and carrying out military operations on the oceans."*

**21 April 2009** Beijing - Vice-Premier Wang Qishan signed an oil co-operation agreement with visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin. Wang told a press briefing that: *"A package of cooperation agreements between Chinese and Russian enterprises will become effective after the signature."* Sechin said that Russia had already started construction of the oil pipelines and that the infrastructure construction would be finished in a short time, promising to be reliable supplier to China: *"We will provide steady, reliable supply of oil to China."*

Vice-Premier Li Keqiang later said to Sechin that: *"This [agreement] provides a solid basis for comprehensive, long-term and steady cooperation in this field."* In response, Sechin stated that *"The record-breaking agreement signed this time would establish a basis for long-term, strategic cooperation in energy resources"*.

**21 April 2009** Beijing - State Council Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen at the Great Hall of the People. Wen Jiabao made clear China's desire to expand trade and mutual investment:

*We hope Finland will have its eyes on the long-term future, make greater efforts to make investment and carry out research and development in China, and work together with China to carry out cooperation in making innovation and cultivating new economic growth points.*

Matti Vanhanen promised investment opportunities for Chinese firms in Finland:

*The Finnish government welcomes Chinese enterprises to make investment and launch undertakings in Finland and is ready to provide convenience for this. The Finnish government will also fully support Finnish enterprises in actively taking part in the Shanghai World Expo.*

Prior to the talks, Wen Jiabao held a ceremony to welcome Matti Vanhanen's visit to China at the North Hall. Central Committee Vice Chairman Yang Bangjie, Minister of Commerce Chen Deming, Vice Foreign Minister Wang Guangya, Chinese Ambassador to Finland Ma Keqing and others attended the welcoming ceremony.

**21 April 2009** Beijing - Vice-Premier Wang Qishan met Dieter Zetsche, chairman of the board of management of the German automaker Daimler AG. Wang said he hoped the company could further cooperation with China, so as to contribute to a sustainable and sound development of China-Germany economic and trade relations.

**21 April 2009** The China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA) signed its 10<sup>th</sup> agreement with the French Atomic Energy Commission to continue cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear power. The three-year agreement, signed by CAEA director Chen Qiuфа and his French counterpart Bernard Bigot, includes efforts in radioactive waste treatment, controllable nuclear fusion and personnel training. The two agencies signed their first cooperation agreement in November 1982.

**21 April 2009** Gansu - A 105-member delegation, headed by Pakistani Minister for Youth Affairs Shahid Hussain Bhutto, including government officials, university students, entrepreneurs, artists and athletes, is visiting north-western China in an effort to deepen exchanges with Chinese youths. The delegation arrived in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 19 April, where they visited companies and schools and met local youths. They continued their tour in the neighbouring Gansu Province today. The delegation will stay in Gansu for four days, visiting Muslim families and mosques and talking with university students. The nine-day visit took place at the invitation of the All-China Youth Federation. The last stop of the delegation is Beijing. They are scheduled to leave China on April 27. Chinese President Hu Jintao invited 500 young people from Pakistan to visit China within five years when he paid a state visit to Pakistan in November 2006. The programme was launched in 2007.

**21 April 2009** Washington DC - World Bank President Robert Zoellick said in response to a question raised by Xinhua, that the United States and China should work closely to cope with the current crisis. "*We try to point it out that in addition to getting out of this economic downturn, its important for the United States and China to work cooperatively on mutual structural reforms.*" In a recent article published by *The Washington Post*, Zoellick and Justin Yifu Lin, chief economist and senior vice president for the World Bank, also called for a strong G2 between the two powers.

**21 April 2009** Cairo - Egyptian Foreign Minister Abu-al-Ghayt held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi in which they discussed major issues in the Middle East, West and Central Asia, as well as Sino-African cooperation in the light of Egypt hosting the 4<sup>th</sup> ministerial meeting of the Sino-African Cooperation Forum. Yang noted that China supports the two-state solution as the only way out for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Yang Jiechi met the Cairo-based Arab League (AL) Secretary General Amr Moussa and discussed cooperation between China and the Arab nations and ways of boosting the Middle East peace process. Yang said that China-Arab relations had progressed since the two sides decided to establish a new-type of partnership at the 3<sup>rd</sup> ministerial meeting of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum. Yang made clear that China praised AL's role in resolving issues in the Middle East, adding that China was willing to keep contacts with the AL on the peace process.

Moussa said that China had kept good ties with the AL and the Arab nations, and that the China-Arab Cooperation Forum had played an important role in bilateral cooperation. Moussa added that the Arabs appreciated China's role in solving the Palestinian-Israeli issue.

**22 April 2009** Cairo - Egyptian President Husni Mubarak held talks with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, in which they vowed to boost bilateral relations. Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt and China's Ambassador to Egypt Wu Chunhua also attended the meeting. Yang said that China was willing to promote strategic ties with Egypt to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their strategic co-operation first agreed in 1999. He further added that China appreciated Egypt's efforts in the Middle East peace process and was willing to play a joint role with Egypt in forging a comprehensive, impartial and durable peace across the region. Yang is on a five-leg visit which will also take him to the Palestinian territories, Israel, Syria and Russia.

**22 April 2009** Beijing - Vice-Premier Zhang Dejiang met Oleg Markov, aide to the Russian president.

**22 April 2009** Beijing - Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC Wu Bangguo met the Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Fahmida Mirza. Wu noted that China always conducted its ties with Pakistan with a strategic, long-term perspective. Wu highlighted the growth of bilateral relations and expressed appreciation for Pakistan's support for China on

issues relating to Taiwan and Tibet. Wu added that China would firmly back Pakistan's efforts for national stability and development. Wu said the NPC and Pakistan's National Assembly had forged friendly legislative ties.

Mirza said relations with China were always at the top of the agenda in Pakistan's foreign policies. She further added that Pakistan hoped to expand cooperation with China in fields such as transportation, energy and free trade. Mirza's visit to China lasts from April 21 to 27, and will include a visit to Xi'an and Shanghai.

**22 April 2009** Anne-Marie Idrac, French Minister of State for Foreign Trade, said at the China Tianjin International Business Convention for Aerospace Industries, that France was interested in participating in China's large-jet programme. She noted that French companies could be suppliers of engines, take-off and landing gears, and electronic devices. Idrac divulged that Safran and Thales were already in active contact with potential Chinese clients, although China had not invited bidders. Idrac also invited the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Ltd. (CACC), a major entity of the nation's large-jet programme, to attend the Paris aerospace convention to be held in June for further business talks. Idrac praised the operation of the Airbus assembly line in Tianjin, the only final assembly line of the company outside Europe. China approved the large-jet programme in February 2007, and inaugurated CACC in 2008 in Shanghai, in a bid to independently produce the country's jumbo passenger aircraft. Currently only the United States, Europe, and Russia are able to produce large passenger aircraft with more than 150 seats.

**22 April 2009** Taipei - The volume of cross-Taiwan Strait containers handled by the port of Kaohsiung has increased by 4.6 times since the launch of direct shipping links between Taiwan and China in December 2008, according to statistics released by the Kaohsiung Harbour Bureau. Ships previously had to take long detours through waters near Japan or Hong Kong because direct routes were banned. Taiwan's exports to China are mainly machinery and capital-intensive goods, while imports from China are mostly raw commodities and textiles, said Harbour Master Tsai Ting-yi.

**22 April 2009** Port Moresby - Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea (PNG) Sir Michael Somare announced that the Chinese firm Huawei Technologies is to invest in Papua New Guinea to develop e-government in partnership with Telikom PNG. Somare revealed that the deal had been agreed during his recent state visit to China:

*"I also witnessed the signing of a MoU in Beijing last Wednesday [15 April] between our secretary for information and communication, Henao Iduhu, and Huawei to further develop our own integrated government information system (IGIS). I am aware that Huawei had earlier signed a three-year arrangement with Telikom PNG worth around 3m US dollars to improve the microwave transmission system in the country."*

IGIS would involve the online integration of government services that would include passport and visa application, tax and medical rebates, vehicle registration and public transport coordination.

Huawei, set up in 1988, is said to be the third-largest telecommunications company in the world. It is a high-tech enterprise that specializes in research and development, production and marketing of communications equipment, and providing customized network solutions for telecom carriers in optical, fixed, mobile and data communication networks.

**22 April 2009** Kampala - Assistant Minister for Commerce Chong Quan said during a meeting with the Vice-President Prof Gilbert Bukenya, that China had followed the same path to development. Chong commended President Yoweri Museveni for his exemplary leadership and foresightedness. Prof Bukenya hailed China's support to Uganda especially in information and communication technology, health education and defence. He described

Uganda's relations with China as worthwhile, saying that Africa wasted a lot of time focusing on technology from the developed world in Europe and ignored technology suitable for developing economies.

**22 April 2009** A report in English entitled "All China's Three Fleets To Be Represented at Qingdao Naval Parade" appeared on Xinhua. In particular it announced the first appearance of nuclear submarines at the parade:

*"All of China's three fleets have sent vessels to take part in the fleet review scheduled for Thursday [23 April]... including several nuclear powered ones [submarines] making their first public appearance during Thursday's parade, and the majority of destroyers and frigates taking part would come from the Qingdao-based PLA Navy Beihai (North Sea) Fleet, said the [military] source that declined to be named.*

*PLA Navy's Donghai (East Sea) and Nanhai (South Sea) Fleets would also send ships to the parade, including missile destroyer Guangzhou from the Nanhai Fleet. Destroyer Harbin of the PLA Navy North Sea Fleet will also take part in the parade. Thursday's activities will include a parade of Chinese warships, a flypast by PLA Navy aircraft, and a fleet review attended by 21 foreign vessels from 14 countries. Senior naval officers would review the naval vessels onboard the PLA Navy's missile destroyer Shijiazhuang during the activities."*

**22 April 2009** A spokesman from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in north Shanxi Province announced that a remote-sensing satellite "Yaogan VI", was successfully launched into the space on a Long March 2C carrier rocket at 10:55 a.m. According to the centre, it will be mainly used for land resources surveys, environmental surveillance and protection, urban planning, crop yield estimates, disaster prevention and reduction, and space science experiments.

Xi'an Satellite Control Centre reported that China's second navigation satellite, launched a week ago, has been functioning normally since it was put into a working orbit.

**22 April 2009** Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi visited the West Bank city of Ramallah, where he urged the resumption of Israeli-Palestinian talks, to push forward the Middle East peace process. Yang said in his talks with Palestinian National Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas that China is ready, along with the international community, to help the Palestinians realize their goal of nation building at an early date and push the Middle East peace process forward through unremitting efforts. He also urged the international community to offer strong support to efforts to strengthen unity among the Palestinians and promote economic growth on the Palestinian territories. China has always played close attention to peace and development in the Middle East and believes that economic growth and political process in Palestine are closely linked and supplement each other. China has offered economic assistance in various forms to Palestinian territories to help improve people's life and promote the territories' social-economic development.

**22 April 2009** Washington DC - The IMF announced that economic growth in China is projected to slow to about 6.5 per cent this year, half the 13 per cent growth rate recorded pre-crisis in 2007.

Yi Gang, Vice-President of the People's Bank of China gave an exclusive interview to Xinhua. In response to the threat of inflation by excessive money supply indicated by the increase in new loans for the first quarter to 4.58 trillion yuan, Yi Gang felt that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages:

*"One is that it basically smashes expectations of deflation. Two is that it is helpful in stabilizing the capital market... Three is that it speeds up the readjustment of the*

*inventory cycles of the companies.”*

Yi also advocated reform for marketization of interest rates and the renminbi (RMB) exchange rate mechanism:

*“We should speed up the building of a basic interest rate system for the money market... We should pay close attention to the changes in the exchange rates of the major international currencies and... improve the RMB exchange rate formation mechanism, boost the flexibility of the exchange rate, and maintain the basic stability of the RMB exchange rate on a reasonably balanced level.”*

**23 April 2009** President Hu Jintao announced the start of the naval parade of the PLA Navy warships and aircraft this afternoon aboard a PLA Navy destroyer off the coast of Qingdao. Hu, also chairman of the Central Military Commission, was accompanied by PLA Navy Commander Admiral Wu Shengli aboard the destroyer Shijiazhuang.

Four submarines came first in the parade. Two were nuclear-powered, the Long March 6 and the Long March 3, and two were conventionally-powered, the Great Wall 218 and the Great Wall 177. This is the first public appearance of the PLA nuclear submarines. The submarines were followed by five missile destroyers, the Shenyang, the Lanzhou, the Guangzhou, the Harbin and the Dalian. Then came the aircraft formations, including an electronic reconnaissance aircraft, a warning aircraft, a fighter-bomber formation, a fighter formation, an anti-submarine helicopter formation, and an ambulance helicopter formation. Six frigates also joined the parade. They were the Zhoushan, the Xuzhou, the Luoyang, the Mianyang, the Wuhu and the Cangzhou, which were followed by the landing ship LSD-998 Kunlunshan. The parade displayed 25 naval vessels and 31 aircraft of the PLA Navy.

At a meeting with the heads of 29 foreign navy delegations; Chinese President Hu Jintao reassured them that China's armed forces, including the PLA Navy, will always be an important force in safeguarding world peace and development, and China will never be a threat to other nations.

Hu added that China would never seek hegemony, nor would it turn to military expansion or arms races with other nations. China will unswervingly stick to the road of peaceful development, which demands China to adhere to its defensive national defence policy.

Hu continued that the PLA Navy will be more open and practical in international maritime security cooperation in the future and unremittingly work towards the goal of building a harmonious ocean. International maritime security cooperation must observe the principles of international relations established by the United Nations Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Speaking for the foreign navy delegations, Admiral Julio Soares de Moura Neto, commander of the Brazilian navy, thanked Hu for his meeting and congratulated the PLA Navy on its 60th anniversary.

Vice-chairmen of the Central Military Commission Guo Boxiong, Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie, PLA Navy Commander Admiral Wu Shengli and Chen Bingde, Chief of the General Staff of PLA, attended the meeting.

President Hu Jintao, aboard the PLA Navy destroyer Shijiazhuang, reviewed the 21 foreign naval vessels from 14 countries in waters off Qingdao, in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PLA Navy. The foreign vessels lined up in a row in the order of combatant ships, landing craft, auxiliary ships and a sailing ship for training. In each category, the order of placement was based on tonnages. The ships reviewed came from the following nations:



Russia:

The Russian cruiser CG-011 Varyag, a 11,500-tonne vessel which was commissioned in 1989 and carries 529 crew. Known for its sophisticated missile, torpedo and artillery systems, the Slava-class cruiser is the flagship of the Russian Navy's Pacific Fleet.

The Russian auxiliary ship MB-99 carries 38 crew, with a displacement of 1,460 tonnes.

USA:

The Japan-based USS Fitzgerald from the 7th fleet, a 6,800-tonne destroyer, represents the highest level of US navy destroyers. It was the world's first missile destroyer equipped with a Zeus Shield system and invisibility design. Commissioned in October 1995, the Fitzgerald carries 280 soldiers and officers. It was also one of the two US vessels to take part in the second phase of the first China-US search and rescue exercise in 2006 in the South China Sea.

India:

The Indian naval Delhi-class destroyer D62 Mumbai, commissioned in 2001, has a complement of 328 people and a tonnage of 6,700 tonnes.

Another Indian warship the INS Ranvir, commissioned in 1986, is the fourth of the five Rajput-class destroyers built by India.

ROK:

The DDH-979 Gang Gam Chan, commissioned in 2007, is one of the ROK's new-generation destroyers. The Chungmugong Yi Sunshin class destroyer has a complement of 200 people and a tonnage of 5,500 tonnes.

The LPH-6111 Dokdo, a Dokdo-class amphibious assault ship with the ROK Navy, is the largest combatant ship in the fleet review. The ship's displacement is 19,000 tonnes and its complement is 400 crew.

Pakistan:

The PNS Badr 184, transferred to Pakistan from the United Kingdom Royal Navy in 1994, has a displacement of 3,641 tonnes. The ship's complement is 284 soldiers and officers.

The Pakistani PNS A47 Nasr, built by China's Dalian Shipyard in 1988, carries 319 crew. Its tonnage is 14,962. The ship visited Shanghai in 2003 and joined the first Sino-Pakistani maritime rescue exercise.

New Zealand:

The Anzac-class frigate F111 Te Mana of New Zealand, commissioned in 1999, has a complement of 163 people and a tonnage of 3,600 tonnes.

New Zealand's replenishment ship All Endeavour is the current fleet oiler for the Royal New Zealand Navy. It has a complement of 319 people and a tonnage of 12,390.

Singapore:

The Singaporean multi-role stealth frigate F68 Formidable has a displacement of 3,200 tonnes and a complement of 90 crew.

Thailand:

The Thai frigate Taksin was made by China and sold to Thailand in 1995. The frigate has a complement of 299 people and a tonnage of 2,980 tonnes.

The FFG-456 Bangpakong of Thailand was also purchased from China. The ship's displacement is 1,924 tonnes and its complement is 299 crew.

France:

The French Navy's light monitoring frigate F734 Vendemiaire, with a tonnage of 2,600, has visited China seven times, including a 2002 visit to Qingdao.

Bangladesh:

The BNS F18 Osman, bought from China in 1989, is the Bangladesh Navy's first missile capable frigate. The ship has a tonnage of 1,700 and a complement of 300 crew.

Australia:

The Royal Australian Navy's HMAS AOR-304 Success is the Durance-class multi-product oil-refueling ship, with a complement of 237 people and a displacement of 17,966 tonnes.

The Australian patrol boat HMAS Pirie carries 21 crew members and has a tonnage of 270 tonnes.

Brazil:

The G29 Garcia D'Avila tank landing ship was commissioned into the Brazilian Navy in 2007 (formerly the United Kingdom's Royal Fleet Auxiliary's Sir Galahad). The landing ship has a complement of 49 people and a tonnage of 8,585 tonnes.

Canada:

The Canadian AOR-509 Protecteur is an auxiliary oil-refueling ship of the Canadian Forces Maritime Command. The ship's tonnage is 25,676 and its complement is 335 crew.

Mexico:

The Mexican ARM Cuauhtemoc BE-01 was named after the last Aztec Emperor, who was captured and executed in 1525. The sail training vessel has a complement of 263 people and a tonnage of 1,800.

Most of the visiting foreign vessels have raised their anchors and are sailing back home. Vessels from Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand and Pakistan will stay longer in the Qingdao port.

**23 April 2009** Beijing - Chen Hu, editor-in-chief of *World Military Affairs Magazine* discussed the impact of the news (that first emerged in March 2009) that China is seeking to build its own aircraft carriers, in the Chinese Communist Party newspaper *Renmin Ribao*. In his article "Justifiable and reasonable for China to have its own aircraft carriers", Chen acknowledges aircraft carriers as a symbol of naval strength; but justifies China's need for it:

*"Can we imagine any other country that is a permanent member of the United Nations and has assumed significant responsibility to human society without an aircraft carrier? Among countries like China that have long sea coastlines, a huge marine territory and comprehensive maritime interests, are there any countries other than China that do not have aircraft carriers?"*

Chen similarly seeks to reassure those suspicious of China's motives by pointing out that it has kept its promises regarding non-first use of nuclear weapons:

*"Whether aircraft carriers represent hegemony depends on the subjective wishes of its possessor. Today, China's promise of peaceful development can also guarantee that Chinese aircraft carriers will always be peacekeepers. In that case, are the concerns of those who worry about China's development of aircraft carriers unfounded?"*

Lastly, Chen points out that the nations most 'worried' by the development of aircraft carriers were: *"simply the ones that have the largest and greatest number of aircraft carriers and have made the most frequent use of their aircraft carriers."* And that contrary to the hype: *"aircraft carriers are very common, and so is China's development of the aircraft carrier."*

**23 April 2009** Beijing – President Hu Jintao reiterated that the country's military build-up was purely defence-oriented in a meeting with heads of 29 foreign navy delegations gathered for the PLA Navy's anniversary celebration. Hu pledged that China's armed forces, including the navy, would never be a threat to other nations: *"For now and in the future, China would never seek hegemony, nor would it turn to military expansion or arms races with other nations."*

**23 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu expressed China's discontent with Japan in response to a question by a reporter: *"It has been reported that Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso presented a bouquet to the Yasukuni Shrine on 21 April. What is China's comment on the issue?"* Jiang Yu replied:

*"The Chinese side has expressed its grave concern and discontent to the Japanese side through diplomatic channels, stressing the high sensitivity of historic issues. Any mistaken move from the Japanese side will have a serious, negative impact on bilateral ties. It is hoped that the Japanese side will be prudent in its words and deeds, and appropriately handle the matter."*

Jiang Yu told a regular press conference that:

*"It is rather irresponsible to easily affirm or allege, even without thorough investigation, that cyber-attacks originated in China. We have reiterated many times our policies of firmly opposing and severely cracking down on all crimes that damage the Internet, including hacking."*

Jiang's remarks came in response to a question saying that the US government planned to create a new military command focusing on Pentagon computer networks and offensive capabilities in cyber warfare. The plan was reported to be to protect its networks from attacks by hackers. According to some media reports, the attacks seemed to have originated in China. Jiang added that the Ministry of Public Security strengthened international cooperation to crack down on cross-border cyber crimes, as well as enhanced its crackdown through consultation and collaboration with the International Criminal Police Organization.

Jiang Yu said that China is "strongly against" the Dalai Lama carrying out activities in any country,

*"under whatever capacity, and under whatever name. We have already made representations to the United States requesting that the US honours its pledge and not permit the Dalai to visit the country to engage in separatist activities."*

The Dalai Lama is to visit the United States this week, but there has been no confirmation if he will meet President Barack Obama. Every US president since George HW Bush has met the spiritual leader, whom China sees as a leader of the Tibetan independence movement.

Jiang Yu said that China supported inter-Korean dialogue to ease the tension in the Korean Peninsula. *"We support the DPRK and the ROK in resolving issues and advance cooperation through talks."* Jiang's comments came after DPRK and ROK officials ended a rare governmental dialogue on 21 April without a significant breakthrough. The talks, which were the first time that the two sides had held a government dialogue since South Korean President Lee Myung-bak took office in February 2008, lasted only 22 minutes at the DPRK's border city of Kaesong. The talks came amid mounting tension over the Korean peninsula. The ROK government announced on 18 April that it would not declare full participation in the

US-led Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) before the inter-Korean talks. Previously, the DPRK has repeatedly warned the ROK's full participation in the PSI would be taken as a "declaration of war".

**23 April 2009** Jiang Yu discussed the visit of the Speaker of the French National Assembly Bernard Accoyer to China at the invitation of Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

*"China has attached great importance to Accoyer's visit. Accoyer's China visit is conducive to enhancing the friendly cooperation between China and France as well as the legislatures of the two countries and promoting mutual understanding between them."*

Wu Bangguo held fruitful talks with Accoyer on 20 April. After the talks, they signed a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of a regular exchange mechanism between the legislatures.

**23 April 2009** Jerusalem - Israeli President Shimon Peres met visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. The Israeli President called for a global solution to the global financial crisis and economic recession, adding that the Jewish state is ready to enhance cooperation with China to deal with the downturn. Yang said the mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Israel in recent years has gained momentum, and bilateral economic cooperation has been developing rapidly. Yang is currently on a five-leg visit, including Egypt, the Palestinian territories, Israel, Syria and Russia.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also met Yang Jiechi. Netanyahu said that the Israeli government has attached great importance to developing relations with China. Yang Jiechi said that China-Israel relations have developed rapidly. Yang Jiechi said that China calls on all parties involved in the Middle East issue to resume talks, iron out differences and realize peace as soon as possible on the basis of relevant UN resolutions, the principle of "land for peace" and the Middle East peace roadmap plan. China is ready to provide assistance for Israel and the Arab nations to hold talks and enhance mutual trust and to play a constructive role in promoting the Israel-Palestine peace talks and the proper solution of the Middle East issue at an early date.

Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and Yang Jiechi agreed to take measures to enhance bilateral ties. During a meeting in Jerusalem between Yang and Lieberman, who is also Israel's deputy prime minister, the two leaders agreed to strengthen the contacts in different fields and at different levels. During the meeting, Yang and Lieberman also exchanged views on the Middle East issue.

Yang met Tzipi Livni, Chairwoman of Kadima, now the largest opposition party.

**23 April 2009** Beijing - Zhou Jiping, deputy general manager of the China National Petroleum Corp. confirmed that an oil pipeline linking Russia's far east to China's northeast is to start operation by the end of 2010. The pipeline would run from Skovorodino, Russia to China's northeastern city of Daqing. According to earlier reports, construction will start at the end of this month. The pipeline aims to transport 15 million tonnes of crude oil annually from Russia to China from 2011 to 2030. China and Russia signed seven energy cooperation agreements in February, which included the pipeline construction project, a long-term crude oil trading deal and a financing plan between the China Development Bank and the Russia Oil Pipeline Transport Company.

**23 April 2009** Beijing - Wang Gang, member of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee and Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, met a Patria Querida (Beloved Homeland) Party delegation from

Paraguay, headed by the party's president Pedro Fadul. Wang said that the CCP will step up exchange and cooperation with the party. Wang said the CCP attached great importance to developing friendship with the party. Wang said China felt grateful to the Patria Querida Party for its long-term support for the one-China principle, and hoped it could continue to support China's great cause of national peaceful reunification.

**23 April 2009** Beijing - Vice-Premier Wang Qishan met former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke. They exchanged views on China-Australia ties, bilateral trade and investment.

**23 April 2009** Beijing - Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, when meeting visiting Speaker of Pakistan's National Assembly Fahmida Mirza, said that the friendship between China and Pakistan had enjoyed smooth development since the 1950s. *"Amiable ties between China and Pakistan tally with our fundamental interests, and China will stick to developing friendly ties with Pakistan."* Mirza stressed that: *"Pakistan is willing strengthen cooperation and coordination with China, jointly tackle challenges, and make greater contributions to regional and international peace and stability."*

Chen Zhili, Vice-Chairwoman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, met a delegation led by Fahmida Mirza.

**23 April 2009** Beijing - Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and Russia signed a visa abolition agreement to grant a mutual visa-free access for a stay of up to 14 days for HKSAR passport holders and Russian nationals, according to Hong Kong Information Services Department. The Director of Immigration, Peh Yun-lu, on behalf of the HKSAR government, signed the agreement with Russia's Ambassador, Sergey Razov.

**24 April 2009** Hong Kong – Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cui Tiankai said that Sino-Japanese relations will not be damaged too much by Diet members visiting the Yasukuni Shrine. According to an article on the Hong Kong newspaper *Ta Kung Pao* website entitled *"Cui Tiankai: China, Japan Have Consensus on Handling Shrine Issue"*:

*"Japanese Diet members' paying homage at the Yasukuni Shrine a few days ago is unlikely to cause too much damage to Sino-Japanese relations, much less adversely affect Prime Minister Taro Aso's scheduled visit to China from the 29th."*

The statement suggests that China has decided to disregard the visit of nearly 100 Diet members to the Shrine, which included a pot plant from Taro Aso although he did not go in person.

**24 April 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao told Speaker of the French National Assembly Bernard Accoyer, who is visiting China from April 19 to 26 at the invitation of Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the NPC Standing Committee: *"We will work with France to push forward the healthy and stable growth of bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership."* The statement came on the 45th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-French diplomatic relations. Accoyer said the French National Assembly hoped to promote lasting development of France-China friendly relations through a regular exchange mechanism with the National People's Congress. Accoyer is the second speaker of the French National Assembly to visit China since the two countries forged diplomatic ties. In addition to Beijing, Accoyer also visited north China's Tianjin Municipality, south China's boomtown Shenzhen and China's financial hub Shanghai, reviewing the Sino-French cooperation projects of aircraft industry and nuclear power plant.

**24 April 2009** Beijing - A meeting between Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Wu Bangguo, and the President of the Syrian People's Assembly, Mahmoud Abrash resulted in a pledge to work more closely for stronger bilateral ties. Wu said Syria was among the first Arab countries to forge diplomatic relations with

China on 1 August 1956. Abrash, who was making a week-long China visit as Wu's guest, said the Syrian People's Assembly would like to strengthen friendly exchanges and cooperation with the National People's Congress. Abrash said his country was committed to developing a comprehensive friendship with China.

Earlier, Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, met Abrash separately. Abrash said he hoped his visit would boost the ties between National Progressive Front and the CPPCC.

**24 April 2009** Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong met visiting Chinese State Councillor Liu Yandong to discuss further cooperation in education and technology between the two countries. Liu also visited the National University of Singapore, the Confucius Institute of Nanyang Technological University and Raffles Institution. Liu also met separately with Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean and Minister for Education Ng Eng Hen.

**24 April 2009** Beijing - China National Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Corporation has signed an agreement with KazMunaiGas, the Kazakh state oil company, to purchase JSC Mangistaumunaigas for 3.3bn US dollars. The purchase included two oil and gas fields and all its other oil and gas assets, according to CNPC, the Chinese parent company. CNPC, China's largest oil producer, said in an on-line statement: "*The transaction is an important step to develop long term strategic partnership between China and Kazakhstan. It also helps with our overseas expansion.*" JSC Mangistaumunaigas owns licenses to explore and develop 15 oil and natural gas fields in Kazakhstan as well as oil fields in the Caspian region. The company's annual crude output stood at 40m barrels in 2008, and had 41.8bn cubic metres of natural gas reserve.

**24 April 2009** Beijing - Chen Zhili, Vice Chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, met a delegation of the Turkey-China Friendship Group from Turkey's Grand National Assembly.

**24 April 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao, also chairman of the Central Military Commission, met veteran officers and model soldiers of the PLA Navy and announced that the PLA Navy should comprehensively push forward its modernization.

An article in English published by Xinhua entitled "*China Focus: PLA Navy Keeps To Defender of Peace, Despite Rise of National Power*" discussed the PLA Navy's development following the unveiling of two nuclear submarines at its international fleet review which concluded a four-day celebration for the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PLA Navy. Ding Yiping, Deputy Commander of the PLA Navy, during an exclusive interview with Xinhua on 20 April, said: "*China's national defence policy and nuclear strategy are purely defensive in nature, and the country's naval forces will not pose any threat to other countries.*"

Wu Shengli, the PLA Navy commander, also stressed that the Navy will never change its defensive strategy and will keep maintaining peace. Discussing the Navy's overseas mission off Somalia:

*"By mid April, the Chinese naval convoy had escorted 212 vessels, including Chinese merchant vessels, UN grain-shipping vessels and merchant vessels from other countries, in pirate-infested waters off the Somali coast."*

Zhang Xiaolin, a professor with the strategy research office of the PLA Navy Command College commented:

*"China has extended its participation in international peacekeeping operations from the land to the ocean. It demonstrates the country's tradition of loving peace and*

*assuming responsibilities."*

Zhang Shiping, deputy chief of the war theory and strategy research department under the Chinese Academy of Military Sciences noted:

*"Our navy will stick to the defensive strategy, even if it is capable to host an international fleet review and send flotillas further away to join in the Somali anti-piracy mission."*

The article also mentions China's military strategy of 'active defence':

*"In January, China issued a white paper on China's National Defence in 2008, which reiterated that "China implements a military strategy of active defence. Strategically, it pursues a principle featuring defensive operations, self-defence and attacking only after being attacked."*

On the proposed aircraft carriers Zhang Xiaolin commented:

*"The PLA Navy will not alter its nature of peace, even if it has aircraft carriers. We build aircraft carriers to better protect the maritime security and interests of the country, instead of deterring or even violating the interests of other countries. China has chosen to rise peacefully. Only a mighty military power can guarantee such a peaceful rise and contribute more to the maintenance of the world peace."*

Zhang further argued that since China has invested more in overseas areas and increased demands on energy sources, extending its sea transportation routes, the PLA Navy has an obligation to safeguard route security.

**24 April 2009** Beijing - The State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) noted that China reported surpluses both in current and capital accounts in 2008, although the country witnessed the first decline in the growth of its forex reserves since 2000. China reported a surplus of 426.1bn US dollars on current account in 2008, with an increase of 15 per cent, SAFE said. The country's surplus on capital account was 19bn US dollars, down 74 per cent year on year. The administration said the country received a capital inflow of 94.3bn US dollars from foreign direct investment and 42.7bn US dollars from securities investment, but saw an outflow of 121.1bn US dollars in "other" investment, which was not identified by the administration. China's foreign exchange reserves stood at 1.946 trillion US dollars at the end of last year, up 417.8bn US dollars from a year ago, SAFE said. The country's foreign exchange reserves have climbed to 1.9537 trillion US dollars by the end of March, according to latest figures released by the country's central bank.

SAFE announced that China's outstanding external debt reached 374.66bn US dollars by the end of 2008, up 0.28 per cent, or 1.04bn U.S dollars from a year earlier. Long and medium-term external debt, which accounted for 43.74 per cent of the total, stood at 163.9bn US dollars, up 6.74 per cent, or 10.3bn US dollars. Short-term external debt, however, fell 4.23 per cent, or 9.3bn US dollars year on year to 210.8bn US dollars. In 2008, the newly-added debts increased by 0.81 per cent year on year, or 291m US dollars, to 36.3bn US dollars. The nation repaid principals for long and medium-term debt of 23.3bn US dollars, up 14.92 per cent and interest of 4.15bn US dollars, down 16.22 per cent.

SAFE announced that China earned \$82.5 billion from nearly \$2 trillion in foreign exchange reserves last year, and is now the fifth largest holder of gold. Hu Xiaolian, head of SAFE, said the \$82.5 billion return was an increase of 8 per cent on the year before, and dismissed foreign media reports that China had lost "tens of billions of dollars" on the value of its reserves during the economic crisis. *"Not only has China managed to keep its foreign exchange reserves secure and in liquid investments, but it has also made a profit."*

Hu also revealed that China had boosted its gold reserves by 76 per cent since 2003, making it the fifth largest holder of gold. Beijing now has 1,054 tonnes of gold in its reserves, 454 more than it did in 2003. Hu said that SAFE managed the nation's reserves well last year when many overseas investment funds were incurring huge losses.

*"On the whole, we at SAFE have been able to keep the valuation of assets under our management generally stable - by making different currencies and assets complement each other."*

David Jiang, Asia-Pacific head of BNY Mellon Asset Management, commented that China should diversify its investments away from US treasury bonds to inflation-proof notes and other assets. *"The economic recession may cause the depreciation of many currencies, especially the US dollar, and trigger a new round of inflation once the economy starts to recover."*

Fan Haibo, analyst of China Cinda Securities, said the central bank could increase its gold reserve considering the depreciation risk of some foreign currencies. *"It is necessary to boost the proportion of gold holdings because China has only 2.28 per cent of the global reserves and the United States has 31 per cent."*

China's Ministry of Finance said it would offer 30bn yuan (4.4bn US dollars) worth of treasury bonds next week in two equal tranches. China is increasing Treasury bond issues to finance its 4-trillion-yuan stimulus package over the next two years.

**24 April 2009** Beijing - Jia Qinglin, head of the China Council for the Promotion of Peaceful National Reunification, and Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference; met representatives of overseas Chinese anti-independence organizations. Jia called on Chinese anti-independence organizations to continue their promotion of national peaceful reunification and said that they had contributed in creating favourable conditions for the peaceful development of relations between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits.

**24 April 2009** Taipei - President Ma Ying-jeou of Taiwan instructed the Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF) to discuss with China the signing of a cross-Taiwan Strait economic cooperation framework agreement (ECFA) in upcoming talks. SEF Chairman Chiang Pin-kung will lead the SEF delegation to the third round of cross-strait talks slated to open in Nanjing on 26 April. The upcoming talks between Chiang and his Chinese counterpart, Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits President Chen Yunlin, are expected to focus on expanding cross-strait flight services, paving the way for financial cooperation, tackling cross-strait crime and providing legal assistance, as well as opening Taiwan to investment from China.

Although the controversial ECFA - which Ma's administration has said is similar to a free trade agreement with no political strings attached - is not on the agenda of the talks, it is an issue that the president feels strongly about. Ma has argued that if Taiwan does not sign such an agreement with China, it risks being marginalized and losing its competitiveness as China and neighbouring countries are about to sign FTAs and as Beijing continues to block Taiwan's efforts to reach FTA agreements with other countries.

In Chiang's entourage will be SEF Vice Chairman and Secretary-General Kao Koong-lian and Fu Dong-chen, vice chairman of the Cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council, which coordinates Taiwan's policy towards China and oversees SEF operations. Other officials in the 22-member delegation will also include Deputy Justice Minister Huang Shih-ming and Financial Supervisory Commission Deputy Chairwoman Lee Chi-chu.

On plans to allow Chinese investment in Taiwan, Minister of Economic Affairs Yiin Chii-ming



said:

*"There will still be caps on each category of the industries opened to Chinese capital initially, and further opening will be adopted only once the initial plan is found to be proceeding satisfactorily."*

Fu Dong-cheng, a vice chairman of the Cabinet-level Mainland Council Affairs which coordinates Taiwan's China policy and oversees SEF operations, said consensus was reached by the administration that the cap on Chinese investment in Taiwanese companies will be 30 per cent of their total investment capital.

Financial Supervision Commission Chairman Sean Chen said that Taiwan will sign financial agreements with China this coming weekend, but not a Memorandum of Understanding. Before the country would sign an MOU, a broader framework had first to be put into place; Chen told a delegation of lawmakers visiting the Commission. The 26 April meeting between Straits Exchange Foundation Chairman PK Chiang and his Chinese counterpart Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits Chairman Chen Yunlin would result in agreements using more general language.

**24 April 2009** Harare - Zimbabwe and China signed two deals worth about US\$10 million which are expected to boost economic and technical cooperation. President Mugabe witnessed the signing of the deals by Foreign Affairs Minister Simbarashe Mumbengegwi and visiting Chinese Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs responsible for Africa Zhai Jun at State House. The ministers signed a Bilateral Cooperation Agreement and the Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement on the Financing of the Establishment of the Agricultural Technological Demonstration Centre worth 30 million yuan (about US\$4.3 million). They also signed an agreement for a US\$5 million cash grant to government. President Mugabe paid tribute to the Chinese government: *"China has been continually supporting us (and) the kind of support from China is historical."*

President Mugabe described his meeting with Zhai as useful, adding he had taken the opportunity to outline some of the critical areas in which China's participation was needed.

*"I would also want to express our deep gratitude for the support they have been giving us especially at the UN during the crucial Security Council debate whether Chapter 7 of the (UN) Charter should apply to Zimbabwe. And together with other countries like Russia they stood by us and we continue to say thank you, China has been a friend, as I always say; a friend in need is a friend in deed."*

Zhai expressed confidence in the success of the inclusive government:

*"China has over the years enjoyed a profound and traditional relationship and this strong bond dates back to the days of the liberation struggle. We, however, had a shared task to develop our countries. It has been 29 years since the establishment of (the) relationship and strong, mutual support and friendship have remained over the years. I am the first Chinese official to come to Zimbabwe since the formation of the inclusive Government and would like to wish (you) success and progress under the leadership of President Mugabe."*

Prime Minister Tsvangirai also met Zhai and commented:

*"The meeting that I had with the minister has been a very productive exchange. China has committed itself to support STERP and that we renegotiate on financial cooperation that had been closed, we will negotiate on areas of cooperation such as energy and telecommunications among others."*

He said Zhai had come at a crucial time, and there was need to harness the goodwill China has shown for Zimbabwe's economic revival.

**25 April 2009** Nanjing - Zheng Lizhong, deputy chief of the mainland-based Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS), said the international financial turmoil has brought new challenges to economic development across the Taiwan Straits, at a preliminary meeting with his Taiwan counterpart Kao Koong-lian, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-General of the island's SEF. The meeting was held to make final preparations for talks between the ARATS and SEF heads Chen Yunlin and Chiang Pin-kung.

Kao Koong-lian said one of the SEF's basic notions is that the cross-Straits relations should be two-way exchanges instead of one-way. He hoped issues on safeguarding cross-Straits investment agreements and preventing double taxation could be included in the next round of talks. The mainland has been the largest trading partner of Taiwan since 2003, with annual trading volume surpassing 100 billion US dollars.

**25 April 2009** Algiers - Vice-Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit, on a 3 day visit, met Speaker of Algerian National Assembly Abdelaziz Ziari. Ziari stressed the desire to increase bilateral cooperation and commented that electing President Abdel Aziz Butaflika for a third presidential term represents a new stage in which Sino-Algerian relations will witness more support.

Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit made clear that China gives great significance to developing relations with Algeria, and China is ready to make it integrated and comprehensive. Abdul'ahat Abdulrixit also met Parliamentary Group for Sino-Algerian Friendship Chairman Saeed Buhagah and discussed ways of strengthening channels of dialogue and consultations, and of sharing legislative information.

**25 April 2009** Singapore - Singapore's Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew met visiting Chinese State Councillor Liu Yandong. Liu highlighted the Suzhou Industrial Park as an example of beneficial trade co-operation which marked the coming of the China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement: "*Bilateral trade and economy relations have entered a new stage with the China-Singapore Free Trade Agreement coming into effect this year.*" Liu later met officials of the Chinese Embassy in Singapore, and representatives of Chinese students and scholars in the city state. Liu started the three-day official visit to Singapore on 23 April at the invitation of the Singapore government. Liu met Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and witnessed the signing of a revised government-to-government Memorandum of Understanding on education cooperation between China and Singapore.

**25 April 2009** Washington DC - Zhou Xiaochuan, Governor of the People's Bank of China, announced at the International Monetary and Financial Committee meeting that the Chinese economy's overall performance was better than expected.

*"Facing the impact of the financial crisis, the Chinese government has promptly introduced a policy package to expand domestic demand and maintain financial stability, striving to respond to the impact of the financial crisis."*

The slowdown in GDP growth had been contained - with GDP growth in the first quarter of 2009 reaching 6.1 per cent. This meant industrial production also rebounded, with industrial added value growing 5.1 per cent over the same period in 2008. Zhou added that "*there are signs of gradual stabilization.*" Zhou warned that China still face challenges:

*"It should be recognized that the rebound in China's economy remains to be consolidated. The internal and external environments are still challenging, external demand continues to shrink, the decline in export volume is relatively large, some industries have excess capacity, government revenue is falling, and employment*

*pressures continue."*

The Chinese government would continue to respond with *"its implementation of an aggressive fiscal policy and a moderately accommodative monetary policy, and implement the package plan in response to the crisis."*

**25 April 2009** Beijing - Guo Boxiong, Vice-Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the CCP, at a conference marking the 60th founding anniversary of the PLA Navy urged the navy to increase its combat capacity to better protect the country's maritime security. Guo suggested that the Navy gradually form a maritime defence system to ensure the nation's sea security and development interests.

*"We should continuously strengthen preparations for military struggle... raising the capability to win local wars in conditions of informationization at the core, gradually build a marine defence system which suits the requirements for safeguarding the state's maritime security and development interests..."*

Wu Shengli, member of the Central Military Commission and Commander of the Navy, delivered a speech. Liu Xiaojiang, political commissar of the Navy, presided over the celebrating meeting. Representatives of senior leaders, former Navy Commander Zhang Lianzhong, representatives of heroic models, and Zhu Guiquan, chief technician of the Navy's Harbin Warship, also spoke. Members of the Central Military Commission Chen Bingde, Li Jinai, Liao Xilong, Chang Wanquan, and Jing Zhiyuan; leaders of relevant departments of the state organizations, the General Staff Headquarters, the National Defence University, and the Beijing Municipality attended the meeting.

**25 April 2009** Hong Kong – The food situation in DPRK's border areas was discussed in an article by *Feng Huang Chou Kan*.

*"In the village of Mapai, in Tumen City's Yueqing Town in Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, Jilin, villagers regularly give food to relatives on the DPRK side Suikoupu Village in Onsong County.*

*They simply do not have enough to eat. They are not fully fed in each meal," said a Mapai villager. He said that the Korean villagers have to give the rice they work hard to produce to the military and they only have broken grain to eat. In fact, a lot more other Korean farmers don't even have this for food.*

*From what I have learned, owing to institutional factors and resources, the commodity prices have soared a lot higher than people's pay increase. In 2007, the average food price in Pyongyang set a record high since 2004. The price of rice was 2,000 North Korean won (1 euro equals 199.02 Korean won) per kg.*

*According to the assessments the UN World Food Programme (WFP) and World Food Organization (WFO) conducted in June 2008 on North Korea's food situation, the rice price was three times higher and corn price was four times higher than those a year ago.*

*Zhang Zhongjun, assistant representative of WFO in China, said that, even though the official food prices in North Korea are not high, people in North Korea simply have no food to buy. Many people have to buy food from the black market. He said, "Some Korean people have sold everything, from their sewing machines to woollen blankets, for money to buy a bag of corn."*

*Food smuggling appears to be big business across the Sino-DPRK border. One officer working at the Changchun customs office said that food smuggling along Sino-Korean border areas remained frequent, and crackdown on food smugglings*

*remained his customs office's priority task. "The reason why food smugglings are rampant along Sino-Korean border areas is neither because of food speculation nor rising international food prices, but because of North Korea's protracted food shortages."*

*North Korea's northern parts adjacent to the Tumen River are high, cold mountains. The naked, deforested hills are causes of the frequent floods. This problem and the serious inadequate infrastructure facilities in the area make the area susceptible to drought. From what I have learned, North Korea's food output is about 4 million tonnes in a normal year, but the country's food shortfalls remain from 1.5 to 2 million tonnes per year.*

*The UN WFP representative in North Korea said that North Korea is facing the gravest food crisis since the 1990s and at least six million people need food assistance.*

*North Korea began to ration food in 1957. Under the rationing system at that time, an ordinary worker's daily food ration was 700 grams; a soldier 800 grams; and an elderly person 500 grams. The country began to cut food rations in 1973. In 1994, an ordinary worker's food ration was 450 grams per day. In 1996, North Korea, using the flood as an excuse, cut the food ration in half. In 1996, the country further cut the food ration by one-third. Today, the country's per-person food ration is about 100 grams per day.*

*The North Korean army is a vital force in the border trade between China and North Korea. "They are a privileged and a very corrupt class," said a businessman who has long engaged in Sino-Korean border trade. He said the North Korean army often uses the state's resources for purchasing food. "Other people do not have this privilege," he said, "And the army has military trucks for food delivery and has the protection of soldiers." He said most of these transactions are barter trade, especially barter trade with mineral ores.*

*"When food is smuggled into North Korea, it is distributed first through a mechanism created at the bureaucratic strata," said one border trader. He said the food smuggled into North Korea by the North Korean government or the army, or through collusion between government officials and businessmen, must satisfy the consumption of the privileged class first. Then, within their sphere of influence, they would use the food as a form of award. Cash award in North Korea is meaningless, he said, but a bag of rice is a significant award.*

*Meanwhile, China, considering the issue from a geopolitical perspective, has no intention to let great amounts of food flow into North Korea. The food expert indicates that food has always been a political issue in the world."*

**25 April 2009** Beijing - The press office of China's Ministry of National Defence announced that a Chinese naval frigate came, at the request of the Philippines, to escort a Philippine-flagged chemical tanker which had just been released by pirates in Somali waters. The Chinese frigate FFG-570 Huangshan came to the Hobiya waters to escort the 32,400-ton Philippine merchant ship, and provided it with supplies including food and medicine. The released tanker MT Stolt Strength, with 23 Filipino sailors on board, is on its way to safe seas under the escort of the Chinese naval frigate.

**26 April 2009** Nanjing - Chen Yunlin, president of the mainland-based ARATS, and Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of the Taiwan-based SEF, signed three agreements on opening regular flights, boosting cooperation in finance and cracking down on crime, foretelling the realization of decades-long aspiration of comprehensive, direct and two-way links between the two

sides. The three agreements are: "The Agreement on Cross-Strait Air Traffic Supply", "The Agreement on Cross-Strait Financial Cooperation" and "The Agreement on Cross-Strait Mutual Assistance in Cracking Down on Crimes". Under the new agreements, the two sides will launch regular passenger and cargo flights across the Taiwan Strait, which indicates the normalization of cross-Strait air transport service.

Chen Yunlin and Chiang Pin-kung signed agreements to cooperate with one another in terms of money regulation, accessibility of financial institutions to each other's market, and an arrangement for information exchange for financial regulatory purposes.

Wang Yi, director of the Taiwan Work Office of the CCP Central Committee, met Chiang Pin-Kung and his negotiating delegation from the SEF. Wang noted that economic cooperation is the priority of the Chinese mainland-Taiwan relations at present and in the near future.

**26 April 2009** Beijing - China is expected to own rights in more than 100 million tonnes of overseas iron ore assets next year, according to the country's leading steel information provider, Beijing-based Lange Steel Information Service, an online information provider. The estimation has included assets owned by Chinese firms following the purchase by China's Hunan Valin Iron and Steel Group of Australian miner Fortescue Metals Group (FMG). The deal, if secured, would ensure a yearly iron ore supply of 10 million tonnes for Hunan Valin from FMG. Lange said six Chinese steel producers, including Baosteel, Sinosteel and Hunan Valin, have each secured rights in an annual supply of more than 10 million tonnes of overseas iron ore assets. Another four producers have obtained a combined supply of 12 million tonnes of iron ore from overseas suppliers. Wang Guoqing, a Lange analyst, said about 80 per cent of China's overseas iron ore supplies are in Australia, which have been obtained through stake purchases, purchases of assets, joint ventures and joint development. China imported 443.56 million tonnes of iron ore in 2008, bringing the country's reliance on imported iron ore to around 50 per cent. About 20 per cent of China's imported iron ore is actually owned by domestic firms, while the percentage for Japan and European countries is about 60 per cent, according to Lange.

**26 April 2009** Damascus - Syrian President Bashar al-Assad met Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. Bashar al-Assad expressed Syria's appreciation for China's attention to the Middle East issue and said that Syria was ready to work together with China to jointly push forward the Middle East peace process. Bashar al-Assad emphasised that Syria-China relations were developing very well and thanked China for its just stand on the issue of the Golan Heights and firmly supports China's stand on the Taiwan issue. Yang Jiechi said that the Chinese government attaches importance to the traditional China-Syria friendship and reaffirmed China's support to Syria in its just cause of safeguarding state sovereignty and territorial integrity and hopes Syria will realize territorial reunification in accordance with relevant UN resolutions at an early date.

On the same day, Yang Jiechi and Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Moallem held talks and exchanged views on bilateral relations and regional and international issues of common concern.

In an exclusive interview Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi discussed the Middle East peace process and laid out China's views in a five-point proposal. Yang made clear that China has been closely following the situation in the Middle East and that he made in-depth exchanges of views with concerned parties on various issues of the region.

- 1. China supported the peace process on the basis of relevant UN resolutions, the "land for peace" principle, the "Road Map" plan, and the Arab peace initiative.*
- 2. Confidence building measures between Israel and the Palestinian territories to accumulate mutual trust.*
- 3. China believes the two-state solution should be maintained:*

*"This is the ultimate way out for the Palestinian issue, which can give guarantee to the Middle East peace and security."*

4. *The international community should continue to pay due attention to the Middle East issue.*

5. *The peace negotiations between Palestine and Israel, Syria and Israel, Lebanon and Israel should advance in a coordinated way in order to achieve a comprehensive peace across the Middle East.*

Yang added that China would maintain its involvement in the Middle East peace process:

*"As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, China will continue to maintain close communication and coordination with parties concerned to play a constructive role in pushing for a comprehensive, just and lasting solution to the Middle East issue."*

**27 April 2009** Washington DC - The US Chamber of Commerce confirmed that Chinese and US firms signed 32 trade and investment contracts, worth some 10.6 billion US dollars, which will support US economic growth and job creation. Myron Brilliant, the chamber's senior vice-president of international affairs, who presided over the signing ceremony said: *"With businesses in both countries struggling, these deals come at a critical time and will help create jobs and stronger commercial bonds between the United States and China."* Companies like China Mobile, Lenovo, Amway, Cisco, Dell, Emerson, EMC, Ford, Freescale and Hewlett-Packard signed deals at the ceremony.

Chinese Commerce Minister Chen Deming warned in *The Wall Street Journal* about rising protectionism in the United States:

*"History tells us that the more serious a crisis becomes, the more committed we must be to openness and cooperation. Regrettably, however, trade measures by the US against China are on the rise."*

Recently, American industries have petitioned the US government for anti-dumping investigations and for investigations under the WTO's "special safeguard provision" which could restrict imports of Chinese products. Chen warned that these measures would:

*"...seriously test China-US economic and trade relations. The Chinese government does not pursue a trade surplus with the US. We will continue to encourage Chinese companies to import more from the US, and we will also welcome US companies and trade-promotion agencies to be more active in China."*

Prior to the signing ceremony, the US Chamber of Commerce and the China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Machinery and Electronic Products hosted a forum, at which senior American and Chinese business executives spoke about the importance of US-China cooperation in addressing shared economic, geostrategic and environmental challenges.

Chen Deming encouraged Chinese companies to invest in the US, when meeting his US counterpart Gary Locke:

*"We welcome American companies that want to increase their investment in China," visiting "Meanwhile, we also encourage capable Chinese companies to invest in the US. We hope that the US government will welcome Chinese investments and create an open and transparent investment environment."*

Both ministers underscored the importance of achieving concrete results at the next meeting of the Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade.

Chen also exchanged views with US Trade Representative Ron Kirk on a range of bilateral and multilateral trade issues. Kirk said in a statement after the meeting:

*"Particularly during the current difficult global economic circumstances, both the United States and China have a tremendous stake in maintaining a vibrant, open international trading system to revive and sustain growth. With the size and importance of our bilateral trade flows, we also have a shared interest in ensuring that our bilateral trade relationship is fair, sustainable and mutually beneficial."*

**27 April 2009** Moscow - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and reached a broad consensus on strengthening the Sino-Russian strategic partnership of cooperation. Both sides also thoroughly exchanged views on the nuclear issue of the Korean peninsula and collaboration within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Yang noted that this year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Russia. Yang noted that the Chinese President Hu Jintao and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev made arrangements and plans for further development of bilateral relations when they met on the sidelines of the G20 London Summit.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov spoke at a joint briefing for the media with visiting Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi shown on Russian state-run news channel *Vesti TV*, about Russo-Chinese strategic collaboration. Lavrov elaborated:

*"The strategic partnership between Russia and China is not limited only by the fact that we are permanent members of the UN Security Council, we are also the closest neighbours, we are active members of the SCO, active members of many mechanisms for security and collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region, we are key partners in the BRIC [Brazil, Russia, India and China] and other formats.*

*I assess our strategic collaboration very, very positively and I see two main principles in the way it is developing. First, Russia and China have a common vision of ... ways to resolve global regional problems on the basis of the international law, on the basis of strengthening the central role of the UN, on the basis of multilateral diplomacy.*

*Secondly, Russia and China, keeping to the approaches I mentioned, are always supporting each other in specific issues that directly involve national interests of either Russia or China. This comradely mutual aid will only strengthen, we agreed today."*

Lavrov also said that the preparations for the meeting of the SCO foreign ministers to be held in Moscow in May had been discussed; and confirmed both countries' positions in favour of strengthening the SCO as the key factor in maintaining stability and security in Central Asia.

**27 April 2009** Skovorodino - Construction of the oil pipeline branch to China began in Russia's Amur Region.

*"After the first seam was welded, both Russian and Chinese representatives left their signatures, first on the pipe itself, and then on the official papers.*

*The first seam was welded on the branch-off of the oil pipeline from Western Siberia to the Far East. The ribbon in front of the pipeline was cut by Russian Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin, Transneft company president Nikolay Tokarev and Wang Dongjin, vice-president of the China National Petroleum Corporation.*

*For this project, the Chinese Development Bank is extending loans of 15bn dollars to*

*Rosneft, and of 10bn dollars to Transneft, for 20 years. The agreement was signed between Russia's Transneft and China's CNPC in Beijing in February; and on 23 April, the two countries' vice-premiers, Wang Qishan and Igor Sechin, signed an intergovernmental agreement on cooperation in this area for 23 years.*

*Igor Sechin elaborated: "This is a unique agreement. It lays a foundation for truly strategic partnership in the oil sector between Russia and China, and aims to make this cooperation happen in all elements - exploration, extraction, transportation, processing and sales. We'll definitely develop all these elements."*

*The Russian side is to build a branch-off to China from the Skovorodino oil transfer pump station to a similar Chinese station, Mohe; overland and via an underwater passage across the Amur. The length of pipeline is about 70 km and its designated annual capacity is 15m tonnes of oil. The Russian side is providing access to the pipeline for 20 years as a guarantee of the repayment of the loan. The construction of the facility will help create more than 1,000 jobs in the region.*

*Oleg Kozhemyako, Amur Region governor; spoke at the ceremony: "The arrival of a company such as Transneft opens up wide opportunities for Amur Region. Igor Ivanovich [Sechin] has mentioned that this means extra jobs and tax revenue."*

*Igor Sechin continued: "Oleg Nikolayevich [Kozhemyako] has invited our major companies, Transneft and Rosneft, to take part in building a new refuelling station at the airport, with guaranteed supply of high-quality fuel. This will be another regional project here - I think it is also good for the region."*

*The construction of the pipeline is scheduled to be completed in 2011."*

**27 April 2009** Moscow - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi disclosed that Chinese President Hu Jintao and Wu Bangguo would visit Russia in June. He said the itinerary of Hu Jintao's visit was being formulated. According to a RIA Novosti report, Hu Jintao would visit Yekaterinburg to attend the SCO summit, and then he would visit Russia. Lavrov reported at the press conference that Russian Premier Putin would visit China to attend the 14th regular meeting of Chinese and Russian premiers. However, he did not disclose the date of the visit.

**27 April 2009** Moscow - Defence Minister Col-Gen Liang Guanglie visited North Caucasus Military District [SKVO] and is scheduled to have a meeting with the SKVO command. According to the press service and information directorate of the Russian Federation Defence Ministry, Liang visited the 20th Separate Motor-Rifle Brigade, which is stationed in SKVO. *Zvezda* TV showed Liang Guanglie speaking after laying a wreath at a war memorial in Volgograd: *"We are interested in close cooperation between the two great powers, Russia and China; and we are striving to a closer interaction between our armies."* In the course of Russian-Chinese talks to be held on 28 April, Russian Defence Minister Anatoliy Serdyukov and Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie plan to discuss bilateral military cooperation. Liang Guanglie is in Moscow on an official visit from 25-28 April 2009.

**27 April 2009** Nanjing – After the completion of the ARATS-SEF cross-straits talks in Nanjing, Taiwan SEF Chairman Chiang Ping-kun bade farewell to ARATS President Chen Yunlin, Jiangsu Provincial Party Committee Secretary Liang Baohua, and Governor Luo Zhijun around midday. He left to visit Yangzhou and Suzhou. Chen Yunlin promoted the success of the talks: *"The talks between the two organizations in Nanjing will open a new chapter in cross-Strait relations... We believe that cross-Strait relations will not stop because of twists and turns."*

Chiang Ping-kun emphasised:

*"The current talks in Nanjing are the "most important talks in the last 60 years. Since*



*the resumption of ARATS-SEF talks last year... we have reached nine agreements and one consensus, which are favourable to cross-Strait peace and prosperity as well as to the welfare of the people on both sides of the Strait."*

However, he warned: *"The deeper the development of cross-Strait relations will be, the more complicated problems the two organizations will encounter..."*

**28 April 2009** Beijing - CNPC has agreed with Kazakh state oil company Kazmunaigas to jointly purchase Kazakh oil company, JSC Mangistaumunaigas (MMG), for \$3.3 billion, according to a statement on CNPC's website. The purchase includes two oil and gas fields and all MMG's other oil and gas assets. MMG owns licenses to explore and develop 15 oil and natural gas fields in Kazakhstan as well as oil fields in the Caspian region. The company's annual crude output stood at 40 million barrels in 2008, and it had 41.8 billion cu m of natural gas reserve. The deal is part of a \$5 billion loan-for-oil deal that China signed with Kazakhstan earlier this month. CNPC said in the statement: *"The transaction is an important step to develop long-term strategic partnership between China and Kazakhstan. It also helps our overseas expansion."*

Kazakhstan has become an important overseas market for CNPC. By the end of 2008, the company had invested \$7 billion in the country, according to the CNPC (Kazakhstan) 2008 Sustainable Report. By the end of 2008, 12.54 million tonnes of crude oil have been transported through the Sino-Kazakhstan oil pipeline. Construction of the natural gas pipeline that crosses the borders of the two countries began in 2008; the pipeline is expected to be operational at the end of 2009, said the report. In 2005, CNPC acquired PetroKazakhstan (PK) for \$4.18 billion, then the largest overseas acquisition ever made by a Chinese company. Today the company's annual crude oil production exceeds 10 million tonnes, accounting for 16 per cent of Kazakhstan's total oil output. Analysts said China should further boost energy cooperation with central Asian countries to increase its energy security.

China's oil imports are expected to continue to see rapid increases. According to a report by the State Information Centre, 55 per cent of the country's oil consumption will be met by imports in 2010, and the figure will further rise to 66 per cent in 2020. Analysts said China should further diversify its oil importing sources to find more sustainable supply. At present the Middle East, Africa and Asia-Pacific are China's three main sources of imported oil.

**28 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu denied that China had any cases of swine flu, but admitted that the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine and the Ministry of Agriculture jointly issued a notice on 26 April banning imports of pork and related products from Mexico and from the three states hit by swine flu in the United States.

President Hu Jintao sent a consolatory message to his Mexican counterpart Felipe Calderon after a swine flu outbreak killed 152 people.

**28 April 2009** Jiang Yu responded to Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone, who on 27 April criticized China for failing to assume responsibility for reducing nuclear weapons and for the lack of transparency about the intentions of its nuclear strategy. Jiang claimed:

*"China has always advocated and actively promoted the comprehensive prohibition and complete destruction of nuclear weapons. It supports the international nuclear disarmament process and has made significant unremitting efforts towards that end. China's nuclear strategy and policy are perfectly clear and absolutely transparent. Japan's unwarranted criticism of China in this respect is absolutely untenable."*

However, it would not create any negative consequences for Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso's forthcoming visit to China to hold talks with Premier Wen Jiabao.

Jiang Yu reiterated China's position on the Chinese terrorist suspects held at Guantanamo Bay that the US is considering releasing into the continental United States.

*"[They] are members of the terrorist organization "East Turkistan Islamic Movement." They should be handed over to China to be dealt with under the law. Our stance of opposing any other country accepting these people under any guise is consistent and clear."*

**28 April 2009** President Hu Jintao met former French President Jacques Chirac, who is in Beijing at the invitation of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs. Hu Jintao urged for initiatives to boost Sino-France strategic partnership: *"I hope the two countries and two peoples can make joint efforts to advance the development of bilateral strategic partnership."* Chirac highlighted the achievements of China in its development, calling the development "a positive factor" in world prosperity, according to the press release. Hu praised Chirac, on his ninth visit to China, as an old friend of the Chinese people for his contribution to the China-France friendship.

Jiang Yu said that French National Assembly President Accoyer had personally delivered a letter from President Sarkozy to President Hu. In the letter, President Sarkozy reiterated his wish to further enhance cooperation between the two countries and signalled France's readiness to strengthen communication and coordination with China on major international issues, especially on the issues of dealing with the global economic crisis and reforming international financial institutions. He invited President Hu to pay a state visit to France again.

**28 April 2009** Jiang Yu reiterated in a press release China's sovereignty over the Xisha Islands [Paracel Island; Huyen dao Hoang Sa] and their adjacent waters and declared Vietnam's appointment of an official in this area illegal and invalid. *"China has indisputable sovereignty over the Xisha Islands and their adjacent waters."* Vietnam appointed Dang Cong Ngu as chairman of the People's Committee of the Huyen dao Hoang Sa on April 25. The group consists of more than 30 islets, sandbanks or reefs over an area of about 15,000 square kilometres in the South China Sea.

**28 April 2009** Two Chinese warships returned to a naval base at Sanya after a four-month escort mission in the pirate-infested Gulf of Aden. The two destroyers with the PLA Navy, DDG-169 Wuhan and DDG-171 Haikou with a supply ship, took part in the country's first battle-ready overseas deployment beyond its territorial waters. According to the task force's commander, the Wuhan and Haikou escorted 179 Chinese vessels, including 73 ships from Hong Kong and nine from Taiwan. Chinese warships also protected 33 foreign ships and rescued three chased by pirates. They had departed from Sanya on 26 December 2008.

**28 April 2009** Tianjin – The first Chinese-made airbus A320 is to be tested in May according to the *Chongqing Evening News*. Shang Luguo, general manager of Airbus (Tianjin) Final Assembly Company stated:

*"The Airbus assembly line, the first of its kind outside Europe, opened in Tianjin on September 28 and the first A320 has already been painted and had its engines installed. It will begin high speed runway tests in May and make its test flight in the second half of May."*

The Airbus assembly line in Tianjin is the largest in Asia, and the fourth largest civil aircraft assembly line in the world. The aircraft assembled in Tianjin are destined for airlines in China and around Asia. The first China-made airbus is expected to be delivered to Sichuan airlines at the end of June. By the end of 2009 the Tianjin factory will have delivered 11 aircraft; six A320s and five A319s. By 2011 the Tianjin line will be turning out 48 aircraft a year.

Andreas Foerster, Chief Operating Officer of Airbus (Tianjin) Final Assembly Company said, *"The aircraft assembled and delivered in Tianjin meet the same standards as those assembled and delivered in Europe."*

Another assembly plant in Tianjin, intended to build aircraft wings for Airbus, is currently being constructed by AVIC Xi'an Aircraft Industry Group. The plant is expected to go into operation in October 2009. The first wing will be delivered in the first quarter of 2010. It will be the first Airbus aircraft part to be entirely manufactured, tested and assembled in China. Previously, aircraft parts were sent to Airbus plants in Europe to be tested and then returned to Tianjin for assembly.

**28 April 2009** Yangzhou - Taipei's chief negotiator with Beijing, Chiang Pin-kung, chairman of the SEF said that the two sides had signed three agreements covering the launch of regular cross-strait passenger flights, financial cooperation, and cross-strait cooperation to fight crime. A joint statement on a proposal to open Taiwan to Chinese investment was also released on the occasion. Issues to be addressed by the two sides in the future, such as investment protection, dual tax avoidance and intellectual property right protection, are expected to help further promote direct cross-strait business links. The latest Chiang-Chen meeting was the third since the resumption of cross-strait dialogue less than a year ago following a nine-year hiatus. In their first meeting, in June 2008 in Beijing, Chiang and Chen signed agreements on the launch of weekend cross-strait passenger charter flights and the admission of larger numbers of Chinese tourists to Taiwan. Their second meeting took place in November 2008 in Taipei, during which they signed agreements on extending charter flights from weekends to every day of the week, opening direct cross-strait shipping, postal, and air cargo charter services, and improving food safety.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) said that an agreement signed between Taiwan and China over the weekend to cooperate in fighting crime means China must not reject Taiwan's demands that it extradite major economic criminals wanted by the government. More than 50 major economic criminals from Taiwan, including those convicted or indicted, have fled to China over the past few years, according to the Investigation Bureau under the Ministry of Justice.

**28 April 2009** Moscow - Russian Defence Minister Anatoliy Serdyukov stated Russia's intent to continue cooperation with China in the military sphere during a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Liang Guanglie. *"We are very satisfied with the level of our relations."* The visit of the Chinese military delegation to Russia will last until 28 April. The leaders of the ministries of defence of the RF and China will discuss bilateral cooperation in the military sphere also as part of the session of leaders of the defence departments of the SCO countries.

Moscow - First Deputy Chief of the Russian ground forces' General Staff, Lieutenant-General Sergey Antonov, told *ITAR-TASS* that about 2,000 Russian and Chinese troops will take part in a joint counter-terrorist exercise codenamed 'Peace Mission-2009', scheduled for July-August 2009.

*"Some 1,000 officers and men from the Far Eastern military district with organic armaments and equipment will represent Russia. Apart from heavy ground equipment - tanks, armoured personnel carriers and self-propelled artillery pieces - Russia will also provide frontline and military transport planes. The question of using strategic aircraft remains undecided for the time being. China will delegate approximately the same amount of personnel on a parity basis."*

Lt Gen. Antonov confirmed that the exercise will be held "in the form of a command staff event with troops involved," in three phases.

*"The first phase, that of military-political consultations, will take place in the Far*

*Eastern military district in July, and the second and third phases - the active ones - will be held in Northeastern China in August. Counter-terrorist measures are the main theme."*

The agreement on a second joint Russian-Chinese exercise was achieved in 2008 at a meeting between Russian Defence Minister Anatoliy Serdyukov and his Chinese counterpart Liang Guanglie. Lt Gen. Antonov also announced another round of consultations between Russian and Chinese experts in Khabarovsk at the end of May 2009 about 'Peace Mission-2009':

*"China has agreed that the routine round of military experts' consultations is to be in Khabarovsk at the end of May... The experts will finalize the general concept of the exercise and coordinate the plan for practical actions by either party's troops."*

Russian and Chinese military experts held the first round of consultations in China last March. Lt Gen. Antonov, who led the Russian delegation at the talks, told *ITAR-TASS* the exercise would certainly strengthen cooperation by the two countries and their armies in the struggle with international terrorism and other threats existing in the world:

*"The consultations with Chinese counterparts are in progress in the city of Baicheng, some 200 kilometres southwest of Harbin. We have jointly studied the area of the exercise near the Ulan Hoto community, in northeastern China, close to the border with Mongolia, and also the Qiqihar airdrome (250 kilometres northwest of Harbin), where the aircraft will be based. They prepared for and conducted not only the first bilateral Russian-Chinese exercise Peace Mission-2005, but also the joint exercise of the SCO member-countries Peace Mission-2007."*

**28 April 2009** Moscow - Kyrgyz Defence Minister Maj-Gen Baktybek Kalyyev met Col-Gen Liang Guanglie, a member of the Chinese State Council and defence minister in the run-up to a session of the SCO defence ministers. They signed an agreement in which China allocated no-strings military and technical assistance worth about 10m yuan (about \$1.5m) to Kyrgyzstan.

**28 April 2009** Former German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder called for broad Europe-China cooperation in investment, energy and environmental protection at the on-going 8th Euro-China Forum in Tianjin, the first such forum held in China. The Forum, on April 28 and 29, is aimed at addressing global challenges through strengthening Sino-EU cooperation.

**28 April 2009** Beijing - The Ministry of Commerce announced that China and Germany had signed the '*Chinese-German Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Legal Field*' during the Chinese-German Technological Cooperation in the Legal Field Dialogue Forum. The Chinese side was led by Cao Kangtai, Director of the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, and the German side was led by Brigitte Zypries, Federal Minister of Justice. The forum was jointly held by China's Ministry of Commerce and Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development in Beijing on 24 April 2009. In accordance with the memorandum, the German side is to provide 8 million euros in assistance to this project. As part of the Chinese-German technological cooperation framework, both sides conducted extensive communications and discussions regarding legislation, the training of judges, civil society, social insurance and issues of concern in law enforcement, as well as their future plans for cooperation.

The ninth Chinese-German Rule of Law Symposium was held in Shenzhen on April 27 and 28. Government officials and legal experts from China and Germany made "the legal system and mechanisms for social insurance" the focus of discussions. Previously, China and Germany signed the "*German-Chinese Agreement on Exchange and Cooperation in the Legal Field*" in Berlin on 30 June 2000.

**28 April 2009** London – A one-day forum jointly hosted by the China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture and Dibyesh Anand from the University of Westminster was held. Ge Lek, deputy director general at China Tibetology Research Centre who is leading a delegation of Tibetologists for an academic exchange in Britain, briefed a 50-strong mainly academic audience on historical issues such as disagreement between China and Britain over the status of Tibet in the past century, as well as development and reforms in Tibet in the modern age.

**29 April 2009** Beijing - Premier Wen Jiabao held official talks with his Japanese counterpart Taro Aso on bilateral ties, North Korea's nuclear programmes and the global economic downturn. Aso arrived in Beijing for a two-day tour, his first official visit to China since he took office in September 2008. Wen told Aso at the beginning of the meeting: "*China-Japan ties are one of the most important bilateral links for both nations.*" The talks at the Great Hall of the People were also expected to address regional security issues, including North Korea's nuclear programmes, after Pyongyang announced its withdrawal from the six-party talks. Pyongyang warned on 29 April 2009 that it will carry out further nuclear tests, following the one conducted in 2006, if the UN Security Council does not issue an apology. China is the chair of the six-party talks, which include the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia. Beijing is also Pyongyang's traditional ally. Likely to be discussed is a plan by China and Japan to carry out a joint gas exploration project in the disputed East China Sea.

Aso is scheduled to hold separate talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao on 30 April. It is Aso's third meeting with the Chinese state leaders in a month, following his meetings with President Hu Jintao in London and with Wen Jiabao in Pattaya, Thailand.

**29 April 2009** Hong Kong – The Chinese mainland's space tracking ship, Yuanwang 6, arrived in Hong Kong. The tracking ship will be open to the public from 30 April to 3 May. This is the first of a string of activities to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

**29 April 2009** Beijing - China and ROK agreed to further strengthen military ties in a meeting between Chen Bingde, Chief of the General Staff of the PLA and Lee Jong-koo, former Defence Minister and President of the Retired Generals and Admirals Association of the ROK.

**29 April 2009** China reopened its land border with the DPRK to tourism at Dandong, a city in the north-eastern province of Liaoning after three years suspension. In February 2006 China suspended all of its border tour programmes following rampant gambling by Chinese tourists, according to the exit and re-entry section of the Public Security Bureau in Dandong. Ji Chengsong, manager with the China International Travel Service Dandong Branch, the organizer of the Sinuiju programme, said the travel agency charged each tourist 690 yuan (about 102 US dollars) for the one-day tour. Only an ID original and a copy are needed for each tourist. Ji added his company planned to organize tour groups to Sinuiju four days a week: "*We submit brochures of applicants to the exit and reentry department of the local security bureau for approval before handing the namelist to sight-seeing agencies in the DPRK.*" According to Ji, on the one-day tour programme tourists could visit six scenic sites in Sinuiju, including a museum on the revolutionary deeds of Kim Il Sung, father of DPRK incumbent top leader Kim Jong Il, plus a free lunch for each tourist. The tour programme is only for Chinese citizens, and not for foreigners, said the Public Security Bureau in Dandong City.

In addition to Dandong, border tours have also resumed in Heihe and Mudanjiang, two cities neighbouring Russia in Heilongjiang Province, northeast China, and Chongzuo, a city close to the Sino-Vietnamese land border in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

**29 April 2009** Almaty – Kazatomprom (the Kazakh national nuclear company) and China

Guangdong Nuclear Power Co (CGNPC) have agreed to set up a joint venture to construct nuclear power stations in China. Kazatomprom and the CGNPC also signed a contract to supply China with 24,200 tonnes of uranium by 2020. The relevant memorandum was signed by the president of Kazatomprom, Mukhtar Dzhakishev, and the chairman of the CGNPC board of directors, Qian Zhimin. Qian Zhimin clarified: *"the corporation is constructing 16 nuclear reactors in China and expects that the Chinese government will issue licences this year to construct another four or eight reactors."* Qian explained that this would make China the world's number one in terms of the number of nuclear power stations being built; the corporation was therefore interested in guaranteed uranium supplies through cooperation with Kazakhstan, which in 2009 would become the world leader in natural uranium extraction.

**29 April 2009** Urumqi - A suspected Afghan drug trafficker has been arrested by customs officers in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region for allegedly smuggling 2,240 grams of heroin. The suspect took flight FG 331 from Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, to Urumqi. He allegedly hid the heroin in the luggage handle casing, which was found later by the X-ray check.

**29 April 2009** Washington DC – an article by Xinhua writer Jiang Guopeng entitled *"Obama's Determination To Introduce An Amiable Administration"* analyses Obama's first 100 days in office. While acknowledging Obama's drive to bring about diplomatic remedies, he considers increased negotiation a symptom of weakness:

*"...America's image and influence are in decline around the world. This is the reality facing the Obama administration, and also the impetus driving those decision-makers in Washington to seek another way to try to keep US predominance in the world. Under these circumstances, "Smart Power" is emerging as one of the most fashionable words quoted by officials of the administration."*

Jiang identifies the new US administration's strategic focuses as:

*"the trans-Atlantic partnership, the trans-Pacific partnership and the Western Hemispherical partnership, through strengthening alliances and cultivating partnerships with key regional powers, such as Brazil, Turkey and Indonesia."*

*As one of the most important parts of the US foreign policy, relations with China and Russia have been certainly emphasized. "We will work with China and Russia wherever we can, and we will be candid about our areas of disagreement," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told the House Foreign Affairs Committee at a testimony meeting held on April 22.*

*Since taking office in January, Obama and his administration have put "two wars," "two nuclear issues" and "the Israeli-Palestinian conflict" as top priorities on the diplomatic agenda."*

However, America's more consensual diplomacy is judged so far to have failed, despite bringing America more popularity:

*"But the 100-day-long "listen" diplomacy has made no obvious effect on these tough issues. The DPRK's announcement of launching a "satellite" and withdrawing from the six-party talks and the Taleban's enlargement of influence in Pakistan have been viewed as strong blows to the wide-ranging but "listen" diplomacy."*

Neither is the US's goal of strategic pre-eminence considered to have changed:

*"The changed attitude might bring the "amiable" US administration more popularity in the world, but Obama and his foreign policy-making team have to take active and*

*determined actions to protect core national interests by "prolonging and preserving American pre-eminence," which is the unchanged goal of every US administration's foreign policy."*

To emphasise his knowledge of the US policy debate Jiang quoted Joseph Nye, the co-founder of the international relations theory of neo-liberalism; Kim Holmes, a foreign policy expert in the Washington-based think tank Heritage Foundation; White House communications official Dan Pfeiffer and Zbigniew Brzezinski.

**29 April 2009** Beijing – The Foreign Ministry announced that China will offer humanitarian aid worth \$5 million to Mexico: \$1 million in cash and material aid worth \$4 million.

**29 April 2009** Beijing - State Council Taiwan Affairs Office spokesman Li Weiwei stated at a regular press conference that the Chinese mainland was "optimistic" about Taiwan attending the World Health Assembly (WHA). China's Health Ministry confirmed that the WHO has invited health authorities in Taiwan to attend the 62nd WHA as an observer from May 18 to 27.

Mao Qun'an, spokesman of the Health Ministry said: *"Such an arrangement shows our goodwill to achieve practical benefits for Taiwan people and indicates our sincerity to promote peaceful development of cross-Straits relations."* The spokesman said that the mainland and Taiwan had recently held talks and negotiations regarding Taiwan's participation in the WHA, but he did not provide any details.

**29 April 2009** Brussels - Chinese Ambassador to the EU, Song Zhe, promoted shared interests in a speech at a seminar on Sino-EU relations. Song said that the most significant change in EU-China relations since the establishment of Sino-EU diplomatic relations in 1975 had been in their trade relationship - China-EU trade exceeded \$425 billion in 2008. James Moran, Asia director at the Directorate-General for External Relations of the European Commission, described the current status of Sino-EU ties as *"full engagement,"* stressing that both sides are interdependent. Both Song and Moran expressed their hopes that the upcoming Sino-EU High-Level Dialogue and the 11<sup>th</sup> China-EU Summit would push forward the steady development of bilateral ties.

**29 April 2009** Moscow - Russian President Dmitriy Medvedev met Liang Guanglie. Medvedev commented on Sino-Russian defence cooperation:

*"Our cooperation in this sphere is multifaceted, and I believe that it serves the interests of our peoples, our countries. It is not directed against third countries but ensures the defence capability and strength of our countries, and is very useful."*

Medvedev denied a Sino-Russian defence alliance: *"In the defence and security fields, both sides have conducted fruitful cooperation, but such cooperation is not a military alliance or aimed at a third party."* Liang confirmed the close relationship in defence:

*"The two countries maintain high-level close contacts and cooperation in various fields has yielded fruitful results. Both sides support each other on major issues involving sovereignty and territorial integrity, closely coordinate in handling international affairs."*

Liang proposed further enhancing *"the two countries' military relations to a higher level in accordance with the consensus reached by the two countries' heads of state."* Chinese Ambassador to Russia Liu Kuchang; main members of Liang Guanglie's entourage, including Shi Xiangyuan, deputy commander of the Shenyang Military Region, and Qian Lihua, director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ministry of National Defence; Russian Defence Minister Serdyukov; and Kolbunov, acting chief of the International Military Cooperation

Bureau of the Russian Ministry of Defence, were present on the occasion.

Liang Guanglie, in an address to defence ministers of the SCO, called for enhanced cooperation from countries of the SCO to confront regional and global challenges. Liang said that the Chinese military is willing to work more closely with forces of other member states to fulfil the Treaty on "*Long-term Good-neighbourliness, Friendship and Cooperation*" signed at the Bishkek Summit in 2007, and the consensus reached at Dushanbe last August. They also should develop a long-term mechanism for joint exercises and enhance their substantial effects, as well as expand fields of security cooperation, and push forward for a harmonious world, Liang said.

The member states issued a joint communique and endorsed a plan of cooperation of the SCO defence ministries for 2010-2011.

**29 April 2009** An article in Chinese International affairs daily *Huanqiu Shibao* (Global Times) website refuted a claim by the World Forum of the United States on 27 April that Israel had evidence that Hamas had directly ordered weapons and military equipment from China and that the Hamas regime had sent agents to Beijing to discuss weapons purchase with Chinese state-owned companies. Chinese military strategist Wei Guoan was quoted as telling *Huanqiu Shibao* on 28 April that the content of the report was hearsay and denied any direct links between Hamas and China:

*"Both the military and non-government sector of China do not have any direct contacts with Hamas economically and in other aspects. China's attitude is very clear - China does not oppose legal arms deals, but China only provides arms to friendly countries for self-defence use."*

**30 April 2009** Beijing - Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso arrived in Beijing on 29 April for a two-day tour, his first official visit to China since he took office in September. Aso said he has agreed with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and President Hu Jintao that the two countries will work closely towards an early resumption of the six-party talks on North Korea's denuclearization.

President Hu Jintao told Aso it is a set policy of the Chinese government to push forward China-Japan bilateral ties. Hu further promoted cooperation within multilateral institutions such as ASEAN plus China, Japan and ROK, the East Asia summit and the China, Japan plus ROK format.

Taro Aso, speaking at an event attended by members of the All China Youth Federation, urged China to continue with its path of peaceful development so that it will not trigger concerns in the region and the world:

*"I am certain that it is the expectation of the international community for Japan and China to cooperate towards peaceful development, without becoming military powers or threats to each other."*

Aso warned against China's military development: *"it is a fact that there is a group that views China's economic development with concern that it may lead to it becoming a military power."*

**30 April 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told a regular press conference that China urged all six parties of the Korean peninsula nuclear talks to safeguard the negotiating mechanism: *"We hope all the parties proceed from the overall situation, properly resolve relevant issues and make concerted effort to maintain the six-party talks."* The comments came in response to announcement of the DPRK on 29 April that it might conduct nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests in self-defence, if the UN



Security Council did not apologize for "infringing" on the country's sovereignty. The DPRK's Foreign Ministry also said the country planned to build a light water reactor as its first step to build a nuclear power plant.

Jiang Yu refuted a claim that China is tightening the issuance of visas to foreigners due to the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PRC.

**30 April 2009** Beijing - Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC met the Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Thien Nhan. Jia announced not only stronger Sino-Vietnamese cooperation, but also that China and Vietnam would hold a friendship year in 2010.

Chinese State Councillor Liu Yandong met Nhan later.

**30 April 2009** Beijing - The Ministry of Commerce (MOC) announced that the Chinese government is deeply concerned about the US investigations into tubular and pipe steel imported from China. MOC spokesman Yao Jian made the remark in response to the decision by the US Department of Commerce to launch anti-dumping and countervailing duty investigations into specific types of Chinese steel pipes used in oil and gas drilling. On 8 April US steel makers filed an anti-dumping suit to the US trade bodies for an investigation into the steel products.

**30 April 2009** Beijing - A chartered Air China aircraft carrying the first batch of humanitarian materials from China to Mexico took off at 7:30 p.m. Beijing time from the Beijing Capital International Airport. The goods included masks, gloves, isolation coats, disinfectant and infrared thermometers. China's government announced it would send relief materials worth 4 million US dollars and 1 million US dollars relief funding to Mexico to help prevent swine flu. The funding was transferred to Mexico and the MOC was coordinating government agencies to arrange batches of humanitarian materials, the MOC said in a website statement.

**30 April 2009** Hong Kong - Secretary for Security Ambrose Lee Siu-kwong said the government don't know how many PLA troops are stationed in the city and believes it would be "interfering" in their business to ask. He added that under the Basic Law, barrack usage was a matter for the central government and that the city "had no right to, and shouldn't, interfere with the use of military sites". The PLA has an estimated strength of some 5,000 personnel in the territory.

**30 April 2009** Kazakhstan – According to an article on the pro-government Kazakh newspaper Liter website, Kazakhstan is worried about competition between Russia and China to import Turkmen gas. The article notes the recent ratification of "an agreement between the governments of Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan on building the Caspian gas pipeline, which was signed in December 2007" by the Kazakh parliament. The article describes the commercial possibilities for Kazakhstan as a gas middleman for Russia:

*"A total of 1,200 km of a 1,700-km gas pipeline may pass through the territory of Kazakhstan. A total of 30bn cu.m. of Turkmen and 10bn cu.m. of Kazakh gas is expected to be annually transported through the pipeline. Moreover, Russia believes that the capacity of the Caspian pipeline on Kazakhstan's territory has potential to double and reach 20bn cu.m. of gas [a year]."*

But author political scientist Dosym Satpayev is not optimistic about Turkmenistan's participation in the scheme. Turkmenistan formally supported the construction of the Caspian pipeline and the East-West gas pipeline, which would connect the country's eastern fields with the Caspian Sea; Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow proposed building pipelines in all four geographical directions during a visit to Iran in March. China is explicitly named as the major competitor for Turkmen gas:

*"Moreover, the construction of a gas pipeline to China, with annual carrying capacity of 40bn cu.m. of gas, is under way. At that, the Chinese gas pipeline may become a serious competitor to the Caspian one.*

*A recent visit of Wang Dongjin, vice-president of the China National Petroleum Corporation, to Turkmenistan confirmed this. Dongjin was worried about the plans to build the Caspian gas pipeline, as China hopes to receive gas from these eastern deposits of Turkmenistan. China is concerned about whether there would be enough gas for all projects that Asgabat plans to implement, especially taking into account that the construction of the Turkmenistan-China gas pipeline is considerably falling behind schedule.*

*That is why it is not surprising that simultaneously with Turkmenistan, China is more closely working with Kazakhstan and tries to pull additional gas flows. Especially as favourable economic conditions have arisen for that. During the crisis, Kazakhstan does not have financial opportunities to carry out many oil and gas projects.*

The article concludes with a warning for Russia that if it does not 'take on itself the main financial burden of building the Caspian gas pipeline': *"China will once and for all take the strategic gas initiative and redirect considerable volumes of Central Asian gas towards itself."*

## May 2009

**1 May 2009** Hong Kong - The barracks of PLA garrison troops at Stonecutters Island was the first among the three PLA barracks in Hong Kong opened to the public, as one of the major activities marking the 60th anniversary of PRC. Major General Wang Junli, deputy commander of the PLA garrison troops in Hong Kong, said that the "barrack open days" had become an important platform for PLA to liaise with the Hong Kong residents. He said that among the newly added drills in this year are tactical laser weapon confrontation exercises and anti-terror manoeuvres. During the visit, visitors were also shown guided-missile frigates, landing craft, helicopters, armed vehicles, and some conventional lightweight weapons, and allowed to tour soldiers' living quarters. San Wai Camp will be opened on the afternoon of 1 May and Shek Kong Camp will be opened on 3 May one after another, "to let local residents have more opportunities to visit more camps".

**1 May 2009** Taipei - President Ma Ying-jeou proposed that the number of direct flights between Taiwan and China be further increased to 540 per week to meet the high demand for travel across the Taiwan Strait. Ma made the remarks while receiving a delegation of the Washington-based Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, a civic group of Taiwanese expatriates in the United States.

**1 May 2009** Beijing – an unattributed report published in *Zhongguo Tongxun She* criticises the Swedish Migration Court of Appeal for having approved the immigration of ex-Guantanamo Bay prisoner, East Turkestan suspect Adil Hajimjan. One analyst considered the decision to have: *"set a dangerous precedent for providing living space of terrorists in the international society."* Another accuses Sweden of pandering to the US: *"the decision made by the Migration Court of Appeal apparently has the tendency of currying favour with the United States."* The report concludes with the statement that China firmly opposes any country accepting Uighur Guantanamo detainees.

**2 May 2009** Beijing - A delegation of the CCP departed on official visits to Kenya, Eritrea, Ghana, Cape Verde and Norway. The delegation is led by Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of CCP Central Committee.

**2 May 2009** Dushanbe - The head of the press centre of the Tajik Ministry of Defence,

Faridun Mahmadiyev, announced that the Chinese Ministry of Defence will provide Tajikistan's defence department with no-strings technical aid worth 10m Yuan (about \$1.5m) in 2009. The money would be used to equip Tajikistan's defence department and to train professional personnel. The grant had been agreed in Moscow by the heads of the two countries' defence departments during their participation at a meeting of SCO defence ministers.

**2 May 2009** Hong Kong – Local Chinese and overseas activists who headed off to a group of Japan-held islets in the East China Sea, known as the Diaoyu in China and the Senkakus in Japan, to assert Chinese sovereignty were turned back later in the day. As the activists departed, they chanted "*Down to Japanese militarism*" and "*Diaoyu islands are Chinese territory not to be invaded by Japanese.*" Conflicting reports emerged as to why the activists were turned back, from 'lacking an engineer's licence' to having inadequate fire-safety equipment on board. Chan Miu-tak, chairman of Hong Kong's Action Committee for Defending the Diaoyu Islands, said before the vessel set sail that the government had tried to bar them from making the trip. Beijing has not been openly supportive of their protests in the past, and on some occasions obstructed the protests and banned mainland activists from joining them. Located 170 kilometres northeast of Taipei and 410 km west of Okinawa Island, the islets' sovereignty has been in dispute among China, Taiwan and Japan, who apparently eye the exclusive economic zone in the surrounding waters. Japan has administered the islets since 1895 when it colonized Taiwan except for a period after the end of World War II when they were under the US control until 1972. China has issued a stern protest against recent remarks by Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso that the islets are Japanese territory and fall under the security alliance between Japan and the United States.

**2 May 2009** Beijing - Chinese health authorities announced that at least 113 people who were on the same Mexico City-Shanghai flight with a Mexican national later diagnosed with influenza A/H1N1 (swine flu) in Hong Kong are under quarantine.

**2 May 2009** Beijing – human rights activist Li Jinping, a demonstrator at Tiananmen Square on 30 April was arrested by public security personnel, after holding a slogan demanding a verdict reversal for Zhao Ziyang.

**2 May 2009** Kazakhstan - The Irkol uranium mine has been opened in Shieli District of (southern Kazakh) Kyzylorda Region. The project is being carried out on the basis of a strategic partnership deal signed in Astana in October 2008 between the KazAtomOnerkasip state atomic company and China's Guangdong Nuclear Power Corporation. The mine, with an annual capacity of 750 tonnes of natural uranium, is the first joint industrial enterprise opened in the nuclear energy sphere. It is planned that 500 tonnes of natural uranium will be produced at the enterprise by the end of 2009. It is expected that the mine will be producing uranium by the in-situ leaching method for the next 25 years. Mukhtar Zhakishiev, President of KazAtomOnerkasip said: "*The enterprise will be fully export-oriented. We have taken up the joint project with China because we know that that country consumes uranium in large amounts.*"

Kazakhstan also aims to construct a nuclear power plant in cooperation with China. The chairman of committee for nuclear power issues of the Kazakh Industry and Trade Ministry, Timur Zhantikin, said at the mine's opening ceremony:

*"This project will contribute to strengthening of relations between the two countries. It is known that more and more electric power is being consumed, and so this joint project will have significant results."*

**2 May 2009** Beijing – The Foreign Ministry released a statement of support for Fiji: "*We want to help the Fijian people and we will continue.*" The latest briefing paper from the Foreign Ministry in Beijing on China's relations with Pacific island countries says:

*"The Chinese government regards aid as mutual, and not as a kind of unilateral alms. The scale of China's development programme in the region is smaller than other donors, and mostly in the form of projects."*

The paper stresses support for the Pacific Islands Forum.

*"As a dialogue partner to the PIF, China attaches great importance to exchanges and co-operation with the Pacific island countries within the forum framework. China has maintained good coordination with the USA, the European Union, Australia, New Zealand and other development partners in the region in safeguarding regional stability. We are willing to work jointly with all relevant parties to promote stability, development and prosperity in the region."*

**3 May 2009** Hong Kong - The Mexican tourist who was confirmed as Hong Kong's first swine flu victim on 1 May remains in a stable condition. A seven-day quarantine period was imposed on the Metropark Hotel in Wanchai, on Hong Kong Island, where the man stayed.

**3 May 2009** Changchun – According to the Jilin Provincial Tourism Bureau, an official agreement has been signed to open a railway tourism line by Jilin's Tumen City Government and the DPRK North Hamgyong Provincial Tourism Bureau. It would run between China's Tumen to the DPRK's Namyang, Chongjin, and Chibosan. The agreement points out that the railway tourism line opened by China and the DPRK will be jointly run by the two travel agencies. Both sides have planned to hold an opening ceremony for the trial operation in mid-May. The agreement further clarifies China's ownership of the train compartments it provides, the DPRK's right to use the train compartments, the DPRK's guarantee for the regular dispatches of special tourism trains, and other relevant matters.

**4 May 2009** Beijing - Ma Zhaoxu, spokesman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, said that China rejected US President Barack Obama's remarks in a statement on 1 May marking World Press Freedom Day. Obama had said that journalists were being harassed or jailed in countries including China, Cuba, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. Ma emphasised: *"We urge the US to respect the facts and China's jurisdiction, view China's press freedom correctly, and stop intervening in China's press freedom."*

**4 May 2009** Beijing – According to a report in the *China Daily*, China plans to finish 100 gigawatts of wind power capacity and expand its renewable energy consumption to 40 per cent of the energy market by 2050. China will also become the biggest growth market for wind power generating capacity this year, ahead of the United States, said the report, citing a forecast from the Global Wind Energy Council. As the world's second largest energy consumer, China has around 12 gigawatts of wind power capacity and has said it wants to raise that to around 20 gigawatts by next year. China is currently the fourth largest wind power producer in the world after the United States, Germany and Spain.

**4 May 2009** Beijing – The State Council passed a plan to support the development of the economic zone on the western side of the Taiwan Straits. The plan adopted at an executive meeting of the State Council is aimed to boost development in a region led by Fujian Province and promote cooperation between the region and Taiwan. The blueprint of an economic zone on the western side of the Taiwan Straits was included into the country's 11th five-year plan (2006-2010).

**4 May 2009** New York – At the United Nations, China called on the international community to continue to push forward the nuclear disarmament process. Cheng Jingye, Director-General of Arms Control and Disarmament department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, made the appeal at the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. *"China believes that nuclear disarmament should be a fair and reasonable process of gradual*

*reductions towards a downward balance," he said. Cheng urged nuclear-weapon states to commit themselves unequivocally to complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons, and negotiate and conclude an international legal instrument at an early date. China welcomes the agreement of the United States and Russia to start negotiations on a new bilateral nuclear disarmament treaty, and hopes that the two countries will further reduce their nuclear arsenals in a verifiable and irreversible manner, Cheng said.*

**4 May 2009** Nairobi - Wang Jiarui, visiting minister of the International Department of the CCCP's Central Committee, said the Chinese ruling party would engage Kenya's political parties - the Orange Democratic Party-Kenya, the party of National Unity and the Orange Democratic Party in support of the stability of the Kenyan Grand Coalition government. Wang said his country valued the eastern African nation as an important partner in the continent.

Vice-President Musyoka thanked China for refurbishing roads and constructing stadia in Kenya.

*"Today China is constructing various roads across the country including the one from the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport to the United Nations headquarters. China has also oil exploration companies and with all these, we hope to expand other areas of cooperation and reach mutual understanding to enable both sides to benefit."*

**4 May 2009** Zambia – The Chinese Special Representative for Africa Affairs Liu Gui started his visit to Zambia today and held talks with Zambian Acting Foreign Minister Ronnie Shikapwasha. Liu Gui spoke on China's friendship and cooperation with Zambia and said that China attaches great importance to developing relations with African countries. Despite the international financial crisis, the Chinese government will not reduce its aid to African countries.

**5 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu announced that at the invitation of the South African Government, Abul'ahat Abdulrixit, Vice Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, will attend the inauguration ceremony for the new South African president on 9 May in his capacity as President Hu Jintao's special envoy.

**5 May 2009** Beijing - Ma Zhaoxu announced that at the invitation of President Hu Jintao, Emir Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah of the State of Kuwait will pay a state visit to China from 10 to 13 May.

*"This will be Sabah's first visit to China after he took over as emir. It is aimed at further strengthening China-Kuwait friendly relations and at promoting pragmatic cooperation between the two nations. During the visit, Emir Sabah will hold talks with President Hu Jintao and meet Premier Wen Jiabao."*

*China and Kuwait are quite complementary to each other in terms of cooperation in the fields of energy resources such as oil and gas, and they have cooperated well in this respect. Relevant departments and enterprises from the two sides are now having discussions on further strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation."*

**5 May 2009** Beijing - Ma Zhaoxu announced that the Chinese Government has decided to provide \$1 million in cash in emergency humanitarian aid to the Sri Lankan Government for the resettlement of displaced civilians in the north.

*"As Sri Lanka's friendly near neighbour, China has been following closely Sri Lanka's domestic developments. We believe maintaining social stability and economic development and achieving national reconciliation in Sri Lanka are in keeping with the common aspirations and fundamental interests of the people of all ethnic groups in Sri Lanka; they also represent the widespread expectations of the international community. We sincerely hope Sri Lanka will achieve peace, stability, and*

*development at an early date."*

**5 May 2009** Beijing - Ma Zhaoxu announced that the Foreign Ministry has set up a Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs. The department's main functions will be formulating foreign policies concerning land and maritime boundaries; and undertaking the work of diplomatic negotiations related to maritime boundary delimitation and joint development. Earlier, those responsibilities were shared by several departments under the ministry. According to media reports, Ning Fukui, a senior diplomat specializing in Asian affairs, has been appointed head of the new department. The two deputy heads, Wang Zonglai and Ouyang Yujing, are both senior diplomats dealing with boundary affairs from the department of treaty and law. Wang is an expert on international maritime law, while Ouyang has participated in border demarcations and negotiations. China has a coastline of 18,000 km and maritime territory of 3 million square kilometres. The establishment of the department, which reportedly started functioning last month, coincides with escalating rows with Malaysia and the Philippines over some islands in the South China Sea. In the East China Sea, the country has yet to reach agreement with Japan over joint development in the oil-rich waters. Ma's announcement came days before the 13 May deadline set by the United Nations for countries to submit claims over extended continental shelves. Under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, a continental shelf of up to 200 nautical miles from the archipelagic baseline automatically belongs to a nation and no proof of claim is required. States may claim an extended continental shelf of up to 350 nautical miles from the baseline.

**5 May 2009** Beijing – A report in the International affairs daily *Huanqiu Shibao* website promoted the extradition of the 'Guantanamo Uighurs' to China and explored the response of Germany to the US request to accommodate some of them. Li Wei reiterated the argument that the US uses human rights abuses as a 'pretext' to refuse to return the Uighurs to China.

*"There is new information on the future accommodation of the 17 "East Turkestan" prisoners at the US Guantanamo Prison. A spokesman for the German Ministry of Internal Affairs said on 3 May that the United States had "officially requested" Germany to accommodate a number of prisoners from Guantanamo. German Newspaper Pictorials and other media reports said that these prisoners are exactly the "East Turkestan" elements that China has all along urged the United States to extradite.*

*China's antiterrorism expert Li Wei was interviewed by our reporter on 4 May on this issue, during which he said that the United States had earlier hoped Germany to accommodate these "East Turkestan" elements.*

*Currently the German Ministry of Internal Affairs used the phrase "officially requested," possibly to test the reaction in Germany and China's response as well. Li Wei stressed that China's stand on this issue has not changed, namely, it resolutely demands the United States extradite the 17 "East Turkistan" elements to China.*

*[passage omitted on German Internal Affairs Ministry spokesman's further confirmation of US official request]*

*China's antiterrorism expert Li Wei said: 'There have been twists and turns on Germany's accommodation of "East Turkestan" prisoners. Those who agree said that accommodating these prisoners will draw US-German relations closer. Those who object said that accepting them will pose threats to Germany. I personally think that judging from the statement of the German Ministry of Internal Affairs, we may see that it is likely to test the reaction in Germany and China's response as well. In addition, viewing from the US attitude, there are three possibilities in handling these 'East Turkestan' elements. First is sending them to Munich; second is accommodating some of them in US territory; and third is not ruling out the possibility of extraditing*

*them to China.'*

*Li Wei added that according to international laws or international practice, the "East Turkestan" elements should be extradited to China. Gates' clarification of the stand is still affected by the Cold War concept. Li Wei said: "The United States has always used the human rights issue as a pretext to assert that China is using antiterrorism to suppress human rights, but this way of thinking does not correspond with the reality of China's development or the reality of international relations. The purpose of saying that China will persecute these "East Turkestan" terrorists is to gain advantages for the United States itself or Germany in accommodating these people."*

**5 May 2009** Beijing - Vice President Xi Jinping met former ROK President Kim Dae-jung and his entourage at the Great Hall of the People. The two sides discussed China-ROK ties and the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula. Kim Dae-jung and his entourage were invited to visit Beijing at the invitation of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA). CPIFA President Yang Wenchang was present at the meeting.

**5 May 2009** Beijing - Jiang Shusheng, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, met a delegation from the Portuguese parliament headed by speaker Jaime Gama.

**5 May 2009** Minsk - The Belarusian government has signed an inter-governmental agreement with China on cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the press service of the Council of Ministers has said. Resolution No 518 to this effect was signed on 23 April 2009. The Foreign Ministry was ordered to send a letter of notice that Belarus had fulfilled the intrastate procedures necessary for the document to come into force. The agreement was signed in Beijing on 16 December 2008. It envisages cooperation in fundamental and applicable research, developments in the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the joint elaboration of innovative reactor technologies, nuclear security, radiation protection and environmental protection. Radiation technologies and their use, nuclear medicine and radiotherapy, training of specialists were also chosen for cooperation.

**5 May 2009** Beijing - The PLA has started preparations for a massive military drill in the second half of this year that involves as many as 50,000 troops, sources from the Headquarters of General Staff said. The series of live-fire exercises, dubbed Kuayue-2009, will be undertaken by troops from four military command areas, namely, Shenyang, Lanzhou, Jinan and Guangzhou. This is the first time in the history of the PLA that four divisions from four military command areas are taking part in a drill that involves the deployment of troops across different military command areas, the sources said. The PLA has seven area command areas. The other three are Beijing, Chengdu and Nanjing. The Air Force and the Army Aviation troop will also send men and various aircraft to take part in the drill, the sources said.

The drill is aimed at assessing and improving the PLA's overall combat capacity in the context of information warfare, the sources said. The purpose of the drills is to conduct a comprehensive test and enhance military units' overall capabilities of operations under informationalized conditions. More than 60,000 vehicles and large weapons and equipment will be used. It is expected that the total length of mobility assignments will be more than 50,000 kilometres. The longest one-way journey for some units will be more than 2,400 kilometres. In addition, the Air Force and the Army Aviation troop will also send men and various aircraft to take part in the drills.

According to an initial plan, the exercises include six major parts: command and decision-making, joint operations of land and air troops, operations in complicated electro-magnetic conditions, paratrooper assault operations, simulated battles, and comprehensive exercises by specialist units. Cross-region mobility training is an important method adopted by the PLA in recent years to accelerate change in war fighting capabilities and to improve the methods

by which military units are organized and trained. In accordance with the requirements of the Headquarters of General Staff of the PLA, all PLA units have focused on carrying out the new outline. They are speeding up the transformation of military training and enhancing the trans-regional operation capability of military units.

**5 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said that China has lodged a solemn representation to Japan over remarks by the head of the Taipei office of Japan's Interchange Association who commented on the "*uncertainty of Taiwan's status*". Masaki Saito, who directs Japan's Interchange Association, said Taiwan's international status remained unresolved at a symposium held at National Chung Cheng University in southern Taiwan. Zhaoxu said: "*It is recognized by the international community that Taiwan has always been an inalienable part of China.*" According to Ma, Japan clarified that Saito's comments did not reflect the position of the Japanese government. According to the 1972 Sino-Japanese Joint Statement, the Japanese government fully understands and respects the Chinese government's position on Taiwan as being an inalienable part of the territory of China.

**5 May 2009** New York - La Yifan, the minister-counsellor of the Chinese Mission to the United Nations, called on all Nepalese parties concerned to make concerted efforts to safeguard the peace process. Meanwhile, La also encouraged the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN) to continue to properly monitor the situation concerning weapons and militants according to the Security Council's mandate. "*The peace progress in Nepal should be led by the Nepalese people. We believe that with the support from the international community, Nepal is sure to be back on the track towards peace and development.*"

La made the statement at an open Security Council meeting, at which Karin Landgren, representative of the UN Secretary-General and head of UNMIN, briefed the Council members on the work of UNMIN. Landgren was appointed on Feb. 3 and it was her first time to brief the council. "*Unfulfilled commitments are the Achilles heel of the peace process, and threaten the peace dividend that the people of Nepal expect and so richly deserve,*" she said.

**5 May 2009** Asmara - During his meeting with Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki, Wang Jiarui, visiting head of the International Department of the CCP Central Committee, said that the Chinese ruling party and government attach great importance to deepening exchange and cooperation in various fields with Eritrea. "*China would like to work together with Eritrea to inject more vigour to the development of the bilateral ties.*" Wang also held talks with Yemane Gebreab, head of political affairs of the People's Front for Democracy and Justice of Eritrea, on the friendly cooperation between the two ruling parties, as well as the efforts to enrich the new Sino-African strategic partnership. Also present at the meetings were Wang's delegation and Shu Zhan, Chinese ambassador to Eritrea, as well as other senior officials of the Eritrean ruling party.

**6 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said that a US Navy surveillance ship, which conducted activity in China's exclusive economic zone in the Yellow Sea, violated international and Chinese laws.

*"The fact is that the USNS Victorious conducted activities in China's exclusive economic zone in the Yellow Sea without China's permission. China has expressed concern over this issue. We demand that the United States take effective measures to prevent similar acts from happening."*

Ma's comments came in response to a question concerning a Pentagon spokesman's remarks that Chinese fishing vessels "harassed" the USNS Victorious in international waters in the Yellow Sea.

*"The Chinese government always handles foreign vessels' activities in China's*



*exclusive economic zones strictly in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Law on the Exclusive Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf of the People's Republic of China, and the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on the Management of Foreign-related Marine Scientific Research."*

**6 May 2009** Beijing - Vice-Premier Wang Qishan left for the second Sino-European Union (EU) high-level trade and economic dialogue in Brussels on May 7 and 8, and to pay an official visit to Britain from May 8 to 12 at the invitation of British Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling. Wang will co-chair the dialogue with Catherine Ashton, EU Trade Commissioner and personal representative of the European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, said Jiang Yu, spokeswoman of the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

**6 May 2009** Beijing – Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, and top Chinese political adviser Jia Qinglin met Portuguese parliament speaker Jaime Gama. Gama, who is visiting China from May 5 to May 9 at the invitation of Wu, expressed hopes of furthering Portugal-China cooperation.

Earlier Jia, chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, also met Gama. Jia said the CPPCC hoped to enhance friendly relations with the Portuguese parliament and play an active role in promoting the development of bilateral relations. Gama said Portugal is willing to strengthen Portugal-China cooperation and exchanges in the fields of politics, economy, culture and science and technology.

**6 May 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie held talks with his Mozambican counterpart Filipe Jacinto Nyusi. They agreed to promote closer military ties between the two countries. Liang told Nyusi the Chinese armed forces are willing to deepen military cooperation with Mozambique. Nyusi said his current China trip aims to promote even closer exchanges and cooperation between the two countries and armed forces. Nyusi is on a six-day official good-will visit as guest of Liang.

Yan Junqi, vice-chairwoman of the Standing Committee of the NPC also met Nyusi.

**6 May 2009** Beijing - Vice-Premier Hui Liangyu called for expanded cooperation with Laos, while meeting visiting Lao Deputy Prime Minister Somsavat Lengsavad. Hui highlighted the rapid growth of bilateral relations and suggested the two countries should work closely to formulate guidelines on economic and trade cooperation, according to a press release from the Ministry of Commerce after the meeting.

**6 May 2009** Langfang - During talks with Langfang Mayor Wang Aimin, the president of the (Bosnian) Serb Republic (RS), Rajko Kuzmanovic, sought to attract Chinese investors for his republic. The talks in China focused on the RS's and Bosnia-Herzegovina's European integration process and the implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU.

**6 May 2009** Almaty - Officers of the Kazakh National Security Committee's Almaty department (NSCAD) have stopped a drugs smuggling ring, which organized the transportation of Afghan heroin to China via Kazakh territory. According to the NSCAD's press release, the Kazakh security service carried out:

*"a large scale, multi-step international special operation code-named 'Safari-Transit', some parts of which were conducted in China in close cooperation with the Chinese Ministry of Public Security."*

The operation, which ran from September 2008 to March 2009, caught 19 active members of the transnational criminal group, nine of whom were detained in Almaty (three Mongolian citizens, five Afghan citizens and a Ghanaian citizen) and 10 people in (China's) Guangzhou

(seven Nigerian citizens, a Mongolian and an Uzbek citizen).

**6 May 2009** Wellington – New Zealand Trade Minister Tim Groser welcomed the resumption of trade talks with Hong Kong which are taking place in Wellington this week, saying he was hopeful negotiators would be able to take positive steps forward to finalise a Closer Economic Partnership:

*"Hong Kong is a very important partner for New Zealand - both commercially and strategically as a key services and investment hub for the North Asia region. Hong Kong is the world's 12th largest trading economy. It is also the second largest source of foreign direct investment in Asia."*

**6 May 2009** Hong Kong - Independent Hong Kong media have alleged that Beijing is behind a Hong Kong university student leader's recent remarks critical of 1989 Tiananmen Square student protesters. University of Hong Kong (HKU) student union chairman Chan Yi-ngok incited controversy recently when he criticized 1989 Tiananmen student protest leaders and defended Beijing's 4 June 1989 response to the protests.

Willy Lam Wo-lap, a professor of political science at Japan's Akita University and a *Ping Kuo Jih Pao* commentator, claimed on 26 April that he had noticed some mainland Chinese students at the eight Hong Kong universities participating in CCP-organized gatherings. Lam surmised that most of these students would stay in Hong Kong following their graduation and might go into local politics, weakening Hong Kong's autonomy.

Pan-democratic Hong Kong lawmaker Lee Cheuk-yan, a guest speaker at one of the HKU forums on Tiananmen, was cited in a 10 April report in respected independent Hong Kong daily *Ming Pao* as surmising that the mainland students who spoke at the forum in defence of the Tiananmen crackdown were instructed to do so by the CCP or the Central Government Liaison Office.

**6 May 2009** Taipei - SEF Chairman Chiang Pin-kung said that he has officially tendered his resignation, but President Ma Ying-jeou appears ready to try and retain him in the post he has held for nearly a year. The 77-year-old Chiang said the decision was made in light of his age and declining physical strength. Ma, who has made it a priority to ease tensions and improve relations with China, appointed Chiang to head the SEF soon after his inauguration on 20 May 2008. Chiang has negotiated nine agreements with Beijing since then, but he has been dogged by conflict of interest accusations over his family's business interests in China and his own role as the chairman of the Sinocon Industrial Standards Foundation, a nonprofit cross-strait IT development association, a position he later resigned. MAC Chairwoman Lai Shin-yuan called the allegations "unfair" to Chiang and said she hopes Chiang continues to serve the SEF.

**6 May 2009** Taipei - The Ministry of National Defence opposes the return to Taiwan of World Bank Senior Vice President Justin Yifu Lin, who defected to China nearly 30 years ago when he was a Republic of China Army officer, a deputy defence minister said.

**6 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu made clear that China opposes honorary citizenship due to be given to the Dalai Lama next month, agreed last year by the Paris City Council.

**6 May 2009** Chinese economic newspaper *Zhongguo Jingji Shibao* worries that the "Negative Impacts of the Large-Scale Return of Farmer Workers to Rural Areas Should Not Be Overlooked", with a view to the internal security situation:

*"This will give prominence to problems that will affect public order. As the current is the "high-incidence season for conflicts" in our work of maintaining social stability, we should never lower our guard in this respect. According to a survey in a certain place,*

*along with the large-scale return of farmer workers, the incidence rate of mass conflicts, labour disputes, and public order-related criminal cases have showed an upward trend."*

**7 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu rejected Japan's accusation about China's nuclear activities:

*"We do not know what exact purpose the Japanese leader intended to achieve by referring to China's nuclear issue under the current circumstances. China's nuclear policy is very transparent. China's position on the nuclear disarmament is obvious to all."*

In a speech during his visit to Germany, Aso said that recent activities in China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea were threatening security in the Asian region.

**7 May 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao sent a message to Jacob Zuma congratulating him on his election as president of South Africa.

**7 May 2009** Beijing - A team of US government officials led by Stephen Bosworth, the US special representative for North Korea policy, arrived in Beijing for talks on reviving the stalled six-party talks for denuclearizing North Korea. The officials arrived for the first stop in a four-nation, nine-day visit that will also take them to South Korea, Japan and Russia. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said Bosworth is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, the chair of the six-party talks later. The trip is aimed at discussing strategy for bringing North Korea back to the multilateral negotiations at a time when it has stepped up its missile and nuclear rhetoric.

**7 May 2009** Dhaka - Bangladeshi Prime Minister Shaykh Hasina said that her government wants to strengthen all kinds of cooperation with China. While meeting Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xianyi at her official residence, Hasina said she welcomes more Chinese companies to invest in Bangladesh to help develop its economy. Hasina said Bangladesh is facing a power crisis at the moment and the government is looking for new energy to solve the crisis. She expressed hopes that China could be involved in the development of new energy in the country.

**7 May 2009** Sydney - China Radio International (CRI) and the Australian Chinese Education Centre jointly launched the On-air Confucius Classroom in Sydney with the hopes of attracting more Australians to learn Chinese language and culture. CRI first launched the On-air Confucius Institute in December, 2007 and now there are 11 On-air Confucius Classrooms under the institute overseas. The Confucius Classroom Sydney is the first such on-air classroom in southern hemisphere.

**7 May 2009** Brussels - The second China-EU economic and trade high-level dialogue opened at the EU headquarters in Brussels. Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan and EU Trade Commissioner Ashton co-chaired the dialogue. Wang made clear that China wishes the EU to share its technology: *"We hope that the EU will relax its restrictions on technology exports to China so as to jointly promote sustainable development."* Ashton reiterated the EU's commitment to partnership with China: *"The EU is firmly committed to further developing China-EU comprehensive strategic partnership..."*

**7 May 2009** New York - The Chinese Permanent Mission to the United Nations presented a note to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, urging the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) not to review the joint submission of information by Malaysia and Vietnam on the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, a Chinese mission spokesman told Xinhua. The joint submission came about one week before the May 13 deadline set by the United Nations for countries to submit claims over extended

continental shelves. According to the CLCS Rules of Procedure, "in cases where a land or maritime dispute exists, the commission shall not consider and qualify a submission made by any of the states concerned in the dispute." With the opposition from China, the CLCS will not consider the joint submission in line with the Rules of Procedure, the spokesman added.

**7 May 2009** Hong Kong – According to *Zhongguo Tongxun She* news agency Vietnam will buy six Kilo class submarines from Russia. This is perceived by China as an attempt to 'occupy some of China's island reefs in the South Sea either through legislation or strengthening their armament'. The submarines are described as "quietest submarine in the world", known as a "black hole in the ocean" and the agency accuses Vietnam of attempting to gain "unsymmetrical superiority" against the Chinese Navy so as to gain the upper hand in contention for China's islands in the South Sea. (It admits China has tried to do the same vis-à-vis the US Navy.) The report further chronicles the recent Vietnamese arms build up with Russian technology:

*Russian newspaper Kommersant recently reported that Vietnam had reached a principled agreement with Russia on the procurement of six Kilo class conventional submarines, with a contract totalling 1.8bn dollars. In addition, according to an agreement signed by Vietnam and Russia in early 2007, Vietnam has started to build 10 Russian-type Molniya class missile boats by applying Russian technology. Russia will also deliver two Gepard 3.9-class frigates to Vietnam before 2010. In air force building, Vietnam has spent 3.8bn dollars on procurement of 17 Su-27 and four Su-30 fighter planes from Russia. These advanced fighter planes will form the capability of air-to-sea combat covering most of Nansha [Spratly] waters.*

It concludes with the assessment that a military clash in the South Sea would only benefit an un-named "certain third party" and that bilateral talks were "the only way out". It further accuses the US of using the "9/11" attack as a pretext to follow a policy of "returning to Southeast Asia" and winning over South East Asian militaries. It analyses Russia's arms-sales to Vietnam as an attempt to "gain strategic benefit" and apparently "returning to Cam Ranh Bay has been a goal long cherished by Russia".

**7 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu announced that the US Navy surveillance ship "Victorious" recently violated relevant provisions of international and Chinese laws by entering and conducting activities in China's exclusive economic zone in the Yellow Sea without permission, according to a report by Chinese newspaper *Xinwen Chenbao* website.

Ren Xiao, Associate Dean of the Institute of International Studies and deputy director of the Centre for Chinese Foreign Policy Studies at Fudan University, told *Chenbao* on 6 May that such incidents will likely continue and that the establishment of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs was related to such incidents.

The US Department of Defence said on 5 May that two Chinese fishing vessels confronted the "Victorious" in the Yellow Sea on 1 May 2009. As disclosed by Pentagon officials, this is the fifth confrontation between Chinese and US vessels in the past two months. The "Victorious" encountered the Chinese fishing vessels about 170 miles (about 274 kilometres) off China's continental shelf and vessels from both sides came within 30 yards (about 27 metres) of one another at one point. Quoting unnamed US officials, the US media said Chinese vessels followed the "Victorious" for nearly an hour and one of the vessels came to a dead halt in front of the "Victorious" at one point, causing the latter to come to a dangerous sudden stop. The "Victorious" crew sounded its alarm and shot water from its fire hoses to drive the Chinese vessels away but to no avail. The US vessel had no alternative but call for help via bridge radio from a nearby Chinese military ship. It was only through the intervention of this Chinese vessel, whose radio call sign was "WAGOR 17", that the two fishing vessels sailed away.

Ren Xiao admitted that under international law, it was a "grey area" under which the US would argue "that international law does not specifically prohibit such behaviours". China insists US ships have violated the Interational Law of the Sea.

**7 May 2009** Accra - Ghana's acting President John Mahama met Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the CCP Central Committee and discussed bilateral ties between the two countries and parties. During the meeting, Wang conveyed the warm greetings of Chinese President Hu Jintao and Vice-President Xi Jinping to President John Atta-Mills and Mahama. On behalf of Atta-Mills, Mahama expressed appreciation and conveyed sincere greetings to the Chinese leaders.

**7 May 2009** Bishkek - Kyrgyz Prime Minister Igor Chudinov said his country's trade and economic ties with China are growing rapidly despite the impact of the global financial crisis. During a meeting with China's new ambassador, Wang Kaiwen, Chudinov said Chinese direct investment in Kyrgyzstan is increasing and some large projects are already underway. Positive progress has been made in the work with regard to construction of the China-Kyrgyzstan-Uzbekistan railway, Chudinov said.

**8 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said that China rejected Vietnam's submission on the outer limits of the continental shelf to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf:

*"China has indisputable sovereignty over the Xisha and Nansha Islands and their adjacent waters, and has sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the seabed and subsoil in the region."*

Malaysia and Vietnam presented a joint submission to the United Nations, and Vietnam later presented a separate report.

**8 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said China sincerely hopes all parties in Nepal can maintain unity and work together to push forward the peace process. Ma said the issue was an internal affair for Nepal, but China, as a friend and neighbour, hoped Nepal could realize political stability and economic development.

**8 May 2009** Beijing - President and Chairman of the Central Military Commission Hu Jintao signed a decree awarding merits to 15 organizations and 28 individuals with the PLA. Three classes of merits were meted out in accordance with the receivers' contribution. Ten units and individuals were cited for their relief efforts after the 8.0-magnitude earthquake struck southwestern China on May 12 last year, two for "remarkable troop building," five for "achievements in major scientific experiments," two for artist creations and the rest for achievements in scientific researches, according to the decree.

**8 May 2009** Brussels - The European Union and China agreed to promote trade and investment as a way to counter the world economic crisis. The Vice Premier Wang Qishan, standing with EU Trade Commissioner Ashton, also called for joint efforts with the EU to push for a swift conclusion of the long-stalled Doha Round of global trade talks.

**8 May 2009** Taipei -Taiwan's top negotiator with China, Chiang Pin-kung, announced that he has decided to stay on as chairman of the SEF, just days after voicing his determination to resign.

President Ma Ying-jeou suggested that it may be time for the two sides of the Taiwan Strait to consider the feasibility of exchanging offices to deal with certain issues. Ma broached the idea during a visit to the SEF, a quasi-official intermediary authorized to handle cross-strait affairs in the absence of official ties between the two countries.

**8 May 2009** Hong Kong - Hu Jintao and US President Obama conducted a telephone conversation on 6 May, according to a report by *Zhongguo Tongxun She*. In the meantime, Chinese and US ships had a standoff in the Yellow Sea. An AFP report said that the telephone conversation was the first direct conversation announced to the public after the Chinese and US heads of state met each other during the London G20 Summit, and it was also the first conversation conducted after a tense situation emerged in Chinese and US naval relations. According to the article both avoided mentioning the South Sea incident: *“Hu Jintao and Obama exchanged views on China-US relations, the financial crisis, and influenza A/H1N1.”* The article considered the maritime incidents as being related to US fears of China’s growing strength:

*“Recent maritime frictions are directly related to US frequent spying attempts to probe into China’s naval strength and the sea chart. These also have something to do with the change in China’s sea defence gradually becoming strong.”*

A concluding remark noted the restrained approach in Beijing to the the 10th anniversary of the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in former Yugoslavia:

*“There have been very few responses within China. Only Huanqiu Shibao, a newspaper on international current affairs affiliated with Renmin Ribao, published serial articles commemorating the 10th anniversary of the embassy bombing in the Serbian locality, as well as articles on the relevant personnel’s recollections of the incident.”*

**8 May 2009** Beijing - China is likely to send a special envoy to the DPRK to act as a "mediator" and make efforts for the resumption of the six-party talks, according to an informed source reported by Hong Kong-based news agency *Zhongguo Tongxun She*. The special envoy to the DPRK has not yet been chosen; however *“some reports said that China will send a senior official from the CPC Central Committee’s International Liaison Department, not from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.”* If this is the case, International Liaison Department Director Wang Jiarui is suggested as being the most likely candidate. He apparently:

*“held friendly talks with Kim Jong Il when he visited the DPRK in January this year. He left a deep impression on Kim Jong Il. He is a most desired candidate for the special envoy to the DPRK.”*

Nevertheless, China maintains that the key to getting the DPRK to return to the six-party talks is an improvement in DPRK-ROK relations. The article also outlined China’s strategic dilemma vis-à-vis the DPRK:

*“Public opinion pointed out that the DPRK’s pursuit of tough measures for years has forced China - a country that has long understood and helped the DPRK - into a dilemma. Apart from enduring US and Japan’s pressure, China’s national security has also faced great threats. Whether China will adjust its strategy and policy towards the DPRK has drawn the attention of various countries in the world.”*

Recently China and Japan agreed to strengthen cooperation and restart the six-party talks on the DPRK nuclear issue. Earlier, the DPRK openly indicated that it refused to have Japan in the six-party talks. In recognition of this, the article suggested that four-party talks might be a temporary solution: *“China, the ROK, the DPRK, and the United States may conduct four-party talks, but this may evoke Japan’s dissatisfaction.”*

**9 May 2009** Edinburgh - State Council Vice Premier Wang Qishan, currently in the UK on a visit, met Alex Salmond, first minister of Scotland.

**9 May 2009** Beijing - Guo Boxiong, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission, left for official visits to Turkey, Germany and Finland. Guo was invited by Turkish Chief of General Staff Ilker Basbug, German Defence Minister Franz Josef Jung and Finnish Defence Minister Jyri Hakamies.

**9 May 2009** Praia - Prime Minister Jose Maria Pereira Neves of Cape Verde met Wang Jiarui, visiting head of the International Department of the CCP Central Committee, for talks on relations between China and Cape Verde.

**9 May 2009** Taipei - Liu Te-shun, deputy chairman of the MAC, said that Taiwan would like to open a representative office in China to handle general matters arising from the increasing exchanges between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait and believes Beijing should reciprocate.

**9 May 2009** Taipei - Taiwan reaffirmed its sovereignty over several island groups in the South China Sea in the wake of recent bids by Malaysia and Vietnam to extend the outer limits of their continental shelves to include the disputed region. In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the Republic of China has "unquestionable" sovereignty over the Spratly Islands, the Paracel Islands, the Macclesfield Bank and the Pratas Islands and their surrounding waters, from the perspective of history, geography and international law.

*"The ROC is entitled to all due rights in these four island groups and their waters, seabed and subsoil. The ROC government does not recognize any claims over or occupation of the islands by any country for any reason."*

The region, which is rich in oil deposits and marine biodiversity, is claimed either entirely or in part by Taiwan, China, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines.

**10 May 2009** Beijing - China and Kuwait signed five agreements in an effort to further bilateral relations to a higher level. President Hu Jintao and visiting Kuwaiti Emir Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah witnessed the signing ceremony after they conferred on bilateral ties and other issues of common concern. The agreements covered fields of energy, finance, telecommunication, transportation and education, according a press release from the Chinese Foreign Ministry.

**10 May 2009** Caracas - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez hailed the agricultural cooperation with China aiming at boosting cereal production in the country. At present, two Chinese delegations are in the country to help diversify its agriculture in Barinas, a plain area in southeastern Venezuela. Venezuela's agriculture has long been neglected as the nation was focusing on oil production in the past. Venezuela and China agreed early this year to set up a fund worth 12 billion dollars to finance joint development projects including agriculture.

**10 May 2009** Moscow - Chinese Ambassador to Russia Liu Guchang made clear that the construction of the China-Russia oil pipeline conforms with the strategic goals of China and Russia to diversify the former's energy imports and latter's energy exports. Under the agreement reached between both countries, China and Russia will jointly build and operate the pipeline from Russia's Siberian city of Skovorodino to China's northeastern city of Daqing as its terminal via China's border city of Mohe.

**11 May 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met his Egyptian counterpart Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, and said that the Chinese armed forces are willing to advance cooperation with Egypt. *"China and Egypt have enjoyed deep traditional friendship. Political mutual trust between our two countries remains unchanged since we forged diplomatic ties in 1956."* Tantawi said the Sino-Egyptian constructive cooperation had developed smoothly in various fields. Egypt hoped to deepen military cooperation with China.

**11 May 2009** Tunis - The third seminar on China-Arab relations and civilizations within the

framework of the Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum (SACF) is held. The meeting will bring together representatives from China and 22 Arab countries, whose dialogues and discussions are expected to focus on enhancing cultural exchanges between the two sides and promoting bilateral friendly relations. Since its establishment in 2004, the SACF has so far been held twice, first in Beijing in 2005 and the second in Riyadh in 2007.

**11 May 2009** Madang, PNG - A fight between Chinese and Papua New Guinean workers at the Ramu nickel project in Madang [northern mainland PNG] has left three Chinese seriously injured and properties extensively damaged. The fight occurred on 8 May at the Basamuk refinery site, and work there has halted.

**11 May 2009** Beijing - The State Council Information Office has released China's first disaster-relief white paper. It primarily concluded that with climate change, economic growth and urbanization, China faced increasing pressure on its resources and environment. China's last magnitude-8.0 earthquake, with its epicentre in Wenchuan in Sichuan Province, left more than 87,000 people dead or missing and more than 374,640 injured. Zou Ming, director of the disaster relief department under the Ministry of Civil Affairs, told a press conference:

*"Based on the lessons we learned and problems found in rescue and relief work for winter storms in south China in early 2008 and the May 12 earthquake, we have made efforts to improve the country's disaster management system."*

Pilot training programmes have been held in 13 provinces so far this year and training will be offered to 30,000 to 50,000 officials in total this year. Zhou expected about 300,000 officials would be trained in the next three years. China also planned to increase the number of state-level storage facilities for relief materials from 10 to 24, he said.

**11 May 2009** Taipei - President Ma Ying-jeou reiterated that Taiwan will continue to exchange views with China on the need for an Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement and that the issue might be mentioned in the fourth round of cross-Taiwan Strait talks later this year. Ma argued that Taiwan required a certain amount of economic integration with the PRC in order to avoid economic marginalisation: *"The government will work very carefully on the issue so as to prevent Taiwan from becoming marginalized amid an economic integration in the region."* However the issue is deeply opposed by Taiwan's main opposition party – the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP); which considers it to be a step further towards full integration into the PRC. Ma said, however, that if he wins a second term in 2012, he would not rule out the possibility of conducting talks with China on forging a cross-strait peace treaty. *"Not ruling out the possibility does not mean we will definitely do it. It will depend on what the top priority issues are at that time."*

**11 May 2009** Beijing –Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu said that China's permanent mission to the UN had submitted "initial information on the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles" and pledged to "delimitate maritime boundary through peaceful negotiations". Ma said the document includes the outer limit of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles of some sea area of the East China Sea. *"China has indisputable sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction over South China Sea islands and their adjacent waters."*

**11 May 2009** Beijing – Vice-President Xi Jinping met a delegation of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) headed by Ha Thi Khiem, member of the CPV Secretariat and chief of the Commission for Mass Organization of the CPV Central Committee. CCP Central Committee's International Liaison Department Deputy Chief Liu Hongcai was present. Xi Jinping vowed to push forward friendly ties with Vietnam, and pledged joint efforts with the country to counter the global slump. China and Vietnam have completed the work of land border demarcation and erecting border markers, paving the way for further development of



bilateral ties, he said. Invited by the CCP, the CPV delegation is on a visit from May 10-16.  
**11 May 2009** London - British Prime Minister Gordon Brown met visiting Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Qishan. Brown appears to have sought China's cooperation over the Copenhagen Conference on climate change. Wang praised the "complete success" of the second China-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue.

**11 May 2009** New York - Zhang Yesui, the Chinese permanent representative to the United Nations, spoke at an open Security Council meeting on behalf of Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. Zhang supported the resumption of the Middle East peace talks and insisted: "*Political negotiation is the only way to lasting peace in the Middle East.*" Zhang also voiced support for the Palestinians and for the establishment of an independent state of Palestine, saying: "*The ultimate way out for the Palestinian issue is the realization of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side-by-side in peace.*" Zhang said China supports the efforts of the Quartet, a diplomatic group of the United Nations, the European Union, Russia and the United States in search of the Middle East peace, and Russia's proposal to hold an international conference on the Middle East in Moscow.

**12 May 2009** Beijing –Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu denied an Indian media report accusing China of interfering in Nepal's internal affairs and causing political interference there; calling it "*sheer unfounded rumour*". The report came after Nepali Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, also chairman of the UCPN-M, resigned on 4 May after President Ram Baran Yadav overruled his move to sack Chief of Army Staff Gen. Rookmangud Katawal for alleged insubordination.

**12 May 2009** Beijing – Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon met Vice-President XiJinping and described his visit to China as "*very fruitful*"; and said that his aim had been to "*build a constructive and forward-looking partnership*". At meetings with his counterpart Yang Jiechi, Cannon discussed the Korean nuclear issue.

**12 May 2009** Beijing – Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu called for "*the maintenance of the peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula*" in response to a question about whether the DPRK might conduct nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests.

**12 May 2009** Beijing – Ma Zhaoxu claims that the Hambantota port project in Sri Lanka undertaken by a Chinese company is "a normal commercial activity". This came in response to a question about a *Times* article which claimed that the Chinese government is building a naval supply port at Hambantota in the south of Sri Lanka.

**12 May 2009** Hainan – According to the Chinese financial journal *Caijing*, Qatar Petroleum International will set up an ethylene project with Chinese partner Hainan Petrochemical Investment Co. in southern China's Hainan Province.

**12 May 2009** Chad - Chadian President Idriss Deby denounced the unfriendly behaviour of Libya and China during an extraordinary UN security council meeting. In reference to China, Deby had expected its unconditional support – "which was not the case". According to Radio France Internationale, the Chinese ambassador to Chad presented a letter to Deby but the letter was void of any detailed explanation.

**12 May 2009** Taipei - Health officials from Taiwan and China will meet formally for the first time under a United Nations framework at this year's WHA. Taiwan received an invitation April 28 from Margaret Chan, director-general of the WHO, to take part as an observer under the name "Chinese Taipei" in this year's WHA meeting, which is scheduled for May 18-27 in Geneva. It will be the first time that Taiwan will attend an annual meeting of the decision-making arm of the WHO, after 12 failed attempts to do so. It will also be the first time since 1972 that Taiwan will participate in a meeting or activity of a UN specialised agency. Department of Health Minister Yeh Ching-chuan will lead a 15-member delegation of health

officials and experts on international health regulations.

**12 May 2009** Ankara - Turkish President Gul met General Guo Boxiong, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission. Later in the day, Guo Boxiong also met Turkish Defence Minister Gonul. Also present on the occasions were Chinese Ambassador to Turkey Gong Xiaosheng and main members of Guo Boxiong's entourage, including Deputy Chief of General Staff Ma Xiaotian, Beijing Military Region Commander Fang Fenghui, Deputy Naval Commander Ding Yiping, Second Artillery Corps Chief of Staff Wei Fenghe, and Defence Ministry Foreign Affairs Office Director Qian Lihua.

**12 May 2009** Beijing - He Yong, member of the Secretariat and deputy secretary of the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of the CCP Central Committee, received a delegation of the Burundian Force for the Defence of Democracy led its chairman Jeremie Ngendakumana.

**12 May 2009** Beijing - A CCP delegation led by Du Qiwen, deputy director of the Central Foreign Affairs Office left to attend the 12th National Congress of Kazakhstan's "Glory of Motherland" People's Democratic Party.

**12 May 2009** Tunis - The third seminar on China-Arab relations and civilizations within the framework of the SACF concluded with a final report calling for the expansion of Sino-Arab friendly ties and communications. The two-day meeting brought together representatives from China and 15 Arab countries. Bai Lichen, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, addressed the opening ceremony. Representatives discussed three major topics at the seminar, namely, China in Arabian culture and the Arab world in Chinese culture; the humane values and nature in Arabian and Chinese cultures; and the Sino-Arab cooperation in the areas of science, technology and new media. China Central Television will open an Arabic channel by the end of the year and the Chinese Secretariat of the Forum will build a website on China-Arab cooperation, which was welcomed by the representatives.

**12 May 2009** Beijing - Assistant Foreign Minister Hu Zhengyue and Pakistani Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir co-chaired the third China-Pakistan strategic dialogue from 12-13 May. Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi also met Bashir on the sidelines of the dialogue.

**12 May 2009** Hangzhou – According to Chinese army newspaper *Jiefangjun Bao* website, a work conference on 'safeguarding national defence interests by law' was held in the capital of Zhejiang Province. 44 advanced units and 46 advanced individuals, and 5 units including the 'Leading Group of the Hangzhou Municipality in Safeguarding National Defence Interests' were present. Sun Zhongtong, deputy director of the General Political Department (GPD), was present at the conference and delivered a speech praising Zhejiang's experience in campaigning for servicemen's rights.

The Zhejiang Provincial Committee of the CCP and the Zhejiang Provincial People's Government had made a plan to coordinate economic interests and national defence construction; this along with their defence of 'the legitimate rights and interests of the servicemen and their dependants' was promoted by the Political and Legislative Affairs Committee of the Central Committee of the CCP and the GPD of the PLA. Leaders from the Political and Legislative Affairs Committee of the Central Committee of the CCP, the Supreme People's Court of the PRC, the Ministry of Justice of the PRC, the Military Court of the PLA, the Nanjing Military Area Command and the Zhejiang Provincial People's Government were present at the conference.

**13 May 2009** Beijing - Liu Yunshan, head of the Publicity Department of the CCP Central Committee met Ri Jin, deputy editor-in chief of the newspaper of the workers (Rodong Sinmun) of the DPRK and his delegation. Ri Jin said the Rodong Sinmun would promote exchanges with the People's Daily to develop relations between the two countries and

parties. The DPRK delegation is visiting China at the invitation of the People's Daily.

**13 May 2009** Beijing - Wang Gang, a member of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee and vice chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, pledged to intensify relations with "all friendly parties in Sudan". The Sudanese delegation, which consists of members from six of Sudan's political parties, is headed by Mohamed Al-Mahadi Mandor, political secretary of Sudan's ruling party National Congress and member of the party's bureau of leadership.

**13 May 2009** Beijing - The MoC announced that China has signed eight free-trade agreements, which contributed to one-fifth of the country's foreign trade in 2008. They involved 16 countries and regions, including ASEAN, Chile, Pakistan, New Zealand and Singapore.

**13 May 2009** Beijing - Hu Jintao, general secretary of the CCP Central Committee, invited Kuomintang Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung to visit Beijing; which Wu has accepted.

The PRC Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits announced its support for both sides engaged in the cross-straits talks to set up offices on both sides.

**13 May 2009** Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, met Russian President Dmitri Medvedev. Li Jianguo, vice chairman and secretary general of the National People's Congress Standing Committee, was also present. Noting that both are permanent UN Security Council members, Medvedev praised Sino-Russian ties: "*Russia attaches great importance to developing relations with China.*" According to Russian official state television channel *Rossiya*, Medvedev suggested that Russia and China should coordinate their foreign policy to fight the crisis:

*"Therefore I find these consultations vitally important during the global economic crisis, when we have to synchronize our foreign policy, when we are in permanent contact discussing different issues, responses to the problems our economies are facing."*

The Russian president said he expects Hu to pay a state visit to Russia in June. Medvedev also expects to meet Hu during the SCO summit and the summit of "BRIC" countries later this year.

Wu Bangguo met Sergey Mironov, chairman of the Federation Council at his hotel. They also jointly attended the third meeting of the Cooperation Committee between China's NPC and Russia's Federation Council. Mironov noted the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sino-Russian diplomatic relations and averred the Sino-Russian 'strategic partnership': "*Russia and China enjoy a strategic cooperative partnership both in name and in reality.*"

Li Jianguo, vice chairman and secretary-general of China's NPC Standing Committee and other members of the Chinese entourage were present at the talks, as was Alexander Torshin, first vice chairman of the Russian Federation Council.

**13 May 2009** Washington DC - Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei and US Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg held talks on the current global financial crisis and stability in the Asia-Pacific. Vice Minister He and Steinberg also exchanged views on other topics such as the Korean Peninsula and Iran nuclear issues, stability in South Asia, and climate change. Vice Minister He held a separate meeting with James Jones, national security adviser to President Obama.

**13 May 2009** Brasilia - Michel Temer, head of Brazil's Chamber of Deputies, met a delegation from China's Tibet Autonomous Region led by Zhang Qingli, member of the 17th

Central Committee of the CCP and secretary of the CCP committee of the Tibet Autonomous Region. The Chinese delegation held talks with Carlos Lupi, chairman of Brazil's Democratic Workers Party and labour minister, and met separately with Brazil's Workers' Party Chairman Ricardo Berzoini and Chairman of the Communist Party Jose Renato Rabelo.

**14 May 2009** Beijing – Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu announced that China will give \$1 million in emergency humanitarian aid to Pakistan. The aid comes in response to Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's appeal for international aid to help more than 500,000 civilians displaced by the conflict in the country's northwest frontier province.

**14 May 2009** Tunis - Bai Lichen, Vice-Chairman of the CPPCC, met Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Ghannouchi, President of the Chamber of Advisers Abdallah Kallel and Foreign Minister Abdelwaheb Abdallah. Following his visit to Tunisia to attend the third seminar on Sino-Arab relations, it was announced that the CPPCC will enhance its cooperation and exchanges with Tunisia's parliament.

**14 May 2009** Hong Kong - Pan-democratic legislators walked out of the Legislative Council chamber after the chief executive, Donald Tsang, said many people shared his judgment that the mainland had made great progress since the 1989 crackdown against the pro-democracy movement. Mr Tsang later backtracked on his comments, telling reporters that he did not mean to say that his views represented those of the people of Hong Kong, and he offered an apology to those who may have misunderstood what he said.

**14 May 2009** Beijing – On *Nanfang Zhoumo*, Huang Zuoping from the Ministry of Agriculture's Fishery Bureau of the South China Sea, accused the US survey ships 'Impeccable' and 'Victorious' of jeopardizing Chinese fishery resources, by using high frequency sonic in China's exclusive economic zone.

**14 May 2009** Ulan-Ude – Russian Railways is renovating its line near the Chinese-Russian border. Partial excavation in a mountain on the Buryatskaya-Sedlovaya section is being carried out as part of the complex reconstruction of the 365-km Karymskaya-Zabaykalsk southern branch of the Trans-Siberian Railway. Russian Railways has invested some R10bn in the implementation of the Oil for China project in 2008. As a result of the reconstruction it will be possible to increase annual transportation of oil to China from the present 10m tonnes to 15m tonnes, and in the long run to 30m tonnes. The Transbaykal Railway is the main transport link between Russia and China. Over 13m tonnes of cargo were transported via the Transbaykal - Manchuria railway border crossing point last year.

**14 May 2009** Florianopolis – Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva announced that he was “very optimistic” of vigorously strengthen its strategic partnership with China. Lula told *Xinhua* at a tourism conference that: *"Brazil-China cooperation is of strategic importance for both sides."* Lula further called for increased trade ties – *"China is now Brazil's largest trading partner, but the potentials for their cooperation could be 10 times bigger than the current trade volume between the two countries."* Lula, who is scheduled to visit Beijing on 18 May, said he hoped his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao could make a tour to Brazil within the year.

Government representatives and medical and tourism experts from more than 30 countries met in Brazil's Florianopolis for a two-day Global Travel and Tourism Summit. Top on the agenda were the impacts of the current A/H1N1 [influenza] virus on global tourism as well as sustainable development of the tourism industry.

**14 May 2009** A deputy chairman of the board of Uzbekneftegaz, Shavkat Majitov, told an international oil and gas conference in Tashkent, that the Uzbekistan-China gas pipeline, which is designed to transit gas from Turkmenistan to China, will be fed with Uzbek gas. He did not mention the volume of gas to be supplied. According to Vladimir Atalyants, director of the UzLITneftegaz limited liability company (a design Institute of Uzbekneftegaz) this is: *"in addition to the traditional routes - northern and southern routes - in the eastern direction as*

well".

**14 May 2009** Guangzhou - *Nanfang Zhoumo* reports on the newly established Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs under the Foreign Ministry. A source within the new department revealed that it has 40 staff working for four subsidiary bureaux: land, boundary control, oceanic affairs, and general issues.

**14 May 2009** According to *Tibet Xizang Ribao* website, Zhang Yijiong, deputy secretary of the Tibet CCP Committee, met Cui Jinglong, deputy political commissar of the Headquarters of the Chinese People's Armed Police Force, and his delegation in Lhasa. Cui Jinglong urged the armed police troops in Tibet to "*severely crack down on the separatist activities*". Li Zhao, vice-chairman of the Tibet Regional Government and party committee secretary and director of the Regional Public Security Department, and Guo Yili, commander of the Regional People's Armed Police Corps, also attended the meeting.

**14 May 2009** According to Hong Kong-based news agency *Zhongguo Tongxun She*, China will launch around 10 Beidou satellites to form an all-round system of navigation in 2009 and 2010. It claims that the US military has reacted negatively because it "*might neutralize the military advantage of the United States' GPS*". According to *Zhongguo Hangkong Bao*, the second Beidou-2 (Compass) navigation satellite was launched into the predetermined orbit on 15 April using the Long March 3C carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch. The article claims that four powers are contending for supremacy in space – China, Russia, Europe and the US; and gives a short history of each of their satellite systems. It admits that currently "*China's civilian vehicle navigation systems are basically all covered by the US GPS*"; but quotes *The Space Review* in the US as saying: "*China's Beidou can greatly promote the Liberation Army's precision strike capability.*" *Zhongguo Tongxun She* praises the European Galileo system as having "*an accuracy 10 times higher than that of the (US) GPS and a margin of error within one metre*". It argues that at present China is subject to US control over GPS and quotes *The Space Review* to support the Chinese Baidou system:

*"The Chinese space sector is trying to draw lessons from Europe's Galileo system and neutralize the military advantage of the US satellite navigation system by emitting M-code frequency signals similar to those of US navigation satellites."*

**15 May 2009** Moscow - Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, concluded his three day visit to Moscow. Wu met Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, Federation Council Chairman Sergei Mironov and State Duma Chairman Boris Gryzlov. Wu arrived in Moscow on Wednesday 13 May 2009 on the first leg of his three-nation tour, which will also take him to Austria and Italy.

**15 May 2009** Vienna - Wu Bangguo met Austrian President Heinz Fischer for talks. Wu pushed for Austria to represent China's interests in the EU: "*Austria will play a constructive role in advancing China-EU relations*". Wu is the first chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC to visit Austria since 1994. China has become Austria's top trading partner in Asia and its third largest source of imports, while Austria is one of the major sources of advanced technology for China. So far, China has bought \$4.67 billion worth of technology in health, occupational education, fire fighting and environmental protection from Austria.

**15 May 2009** Beijing – Vice-President Xi Jinping and visiting Egyptian Defence Minister Mohammed Hussein Tantawi agreed to increase relations between their armed forces. Tantawi emphasised: "*We will work with China to push forward relations between the two armed forces and the two nations.*" Tantawi arrived in Beijing on 8 May for an official visit as a guest of Defence Minister Liang Guanglie.

**15 May 2009** According to Hong Kong newspaper *Apple Daily* (Ping Kuo Jih Pao) website, former student dissident Bao Pu, son of Bao Tong, former secretary of the late general

secretary of the CCP Central Committee, will publish English and Chinese versions Zhao Ziyang's memoirs. 'Prisoner of the State', a book edited and translated into English by Bao and his wife based on 38 cassette tapes of recordings secretly made by Zhao Ziyang when he was put under house arrest, would come out on the 19th. The Chinese version was being delayed; however Bao denied any political pressure to stop the release of the book. In 1989, Bao Tong, a member of the CCP Central Committee and assistant to CCP General Secretary Zhao Ziyang, was suddenly placed under custody by the authorities for "security protection", as a result of Zhao Ziyang's failure in the CCP political power struggle. He was secretly detained at Qincheng Prison - a special jail for political prisoners. Three years later, in March 1992, the CCP removed his CCP Central Committee membership and CCP membership. In July 1992, he was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment on charges of "leaking state secrets" and "conducting counterrevolutionary propaganda and agitation". He was released from prison in May 1996 and has lived on relief ever since. At the end of 2008, Bao Tong signed Charter 2008 - a document aimed at overthrowing one-party dictatorship and conducting a constitutional reform.

**15 May 2009** Li Gao, director of the Climate Change Department of the National Development and Reform Commission, announced that China's submission had been sent to the United Nations ahead of the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December 2009. Li reiterated that China wants developed nations to cut emissions by up to 40 per cent. The Chinese government has said it would avoid promising a cut in greenhouse gas emission during 2013 to 2020. Instead, China will consider setting a goal to improve energy efficiency by 2020, which decreases greenhouse gas emission, a source close to Li's commission said. The government has also said that China, as a developing nation, would undertake to improve energy efficiency and that less developed nations should receive financial assistance to combat climate change. The first round of climate change negotiations took place in Bonn, Germany, in April. There will be four more UN sessions before the Copenhagen conference.

**15 May 2009** Moscow - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi attended a ministerial summit of the SCO. Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov, Kazakh Foreign Minister Tazhin, Kyrgyz Foreign Minister Sarbaev, Tajik Foreign Minister Zarifi, Uzbek Foreign Minister Norov, and SCO Secretary General Nurgaliev were also present. The foreign ministers signed resolutions on preparations for the Yekaterinburg Summit, and praised progress since the previous SCO Dushanbe Summit. Russian President Medvedev later met the foreign ministers.

Yang also separately met the Tajik Foreign Minister Zarifi and Uzbek Foreign Minister Norov to exchange views on strengthening bilateral friendly cooperation and developing the SCO.

**15 May 2009** New York - Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei announced that China aimed to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations, at a meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. He also backed plans to "*promote the reform of the UN Security Council*".

**16 May 2009** Hong Kong – According to Hong Kong newspaper *South China Morning Post* website, thousands of internet users have castigated Chief Executive Donald Tsang on Facebook. More than 3,500 people have joined a group entitled "*Donald Tsang Your View on 64 (June 4) is not my view*"; while another 520 internet users joined the group entitled "*Shame on Donald Tsang! He doesn't represent me*", while 75 signed up for one entitled "*Pray for God to get back Donald Tsang before 2012*". Some internet users have proposed raised raising funds to buy newspaper space to advertise their opposition to Mr Tsang's remark. Mr Tsang's comments also came under fire from most callers to RTHK's phone-in programme Talkabout yesterday. Mr Tsang was forced to apologise after claiming to speak for "Hong Kong people" in expressing hopes for an "objective assessment" of the 1989 crackdown in light of China's economic development since then.

**16 May 2009** Vienna - Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, and

Austrian Vice Chancellor and Federal Minister of Finance Josef Proll met and agreed to expand trade. According to *Xinhua*, Proll said Austria will actively transfer advanced technology to China in a bid to expand cooperative areas and carry out large-scale projects. Wu also met Barbara Prammer, president of the Austrian National Council.

**16 May 2009** Brasilia - President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, in a written interview with *Xinhua*, admitted that Brazil is interested in increasing finished industrial products to its exports to China which currently consists mainly of raw materials. As examples Lula mentioned current joint-ventures in the aerospace industry. In January 2003, China Aviation Industry Corporation II and Embraer jointly contributed to the establishment of the Harbin Embraer Aircraft Industry Co. China and Brazil in 1988 launched an earth resources exploring satellite programme known as CBERS, and three satellites have so far been launched. The information collected by the satellites is offered to other developing countries for free. Lula also supported China's idea of creating a supra-national reserve currency to replace the dollar: "*Brazil considers a new international reserve currency could help improve market flows, reduce future market uncertainties and reliance on the US dollar.*"

**16 May 2009** Washington DC - President Barack Obama named named Utah Governor Jon Huntsman as the new US ambassador to China. Huntsman, who speaks fluent Standard Chinese Mandarin, is 49 years old and was re-elected governor of Utah in 2008. Under President George H.W. Bush, he served as US ambassador to Singapore; and as deputy US trade representative under President George W Bush. Huntsman will succeed Clark Randt who has served as ambassador to China since 2001. Huntsman attended the University of Utah and received a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Pennsylvania. Huntsman and his wife have seven children, including a daughter adopted in China.

**16 May 2009** Xiamen - Chen Chu, the mayor of Taiwan's southern port city Kaohsiung and a leading figure in Taiwan's main opposition party, will visit the mainland on 21 May, as the highest-ranked representative of the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party to visit the mainland. Wu Nengyuan, director of the Fujian-based Institute of Taiwan Studies, has described Chen's visit as evidence that the cross-straits thaw was "irresistible".

**16 May 2009** Xiamen - The first Cross-Strait Forum at the Xiamen Exhibition Centre in Fujian was opened by Jia Qinglin, member of the Standing Committee of the CCP Central Committee Political Bureau and chairman of the CPPCC National Committee. Wang Yi, director of the CCP Central Committee Taiwan Affairs Office [TAO] and the State Council TAO, and Chu Li-lun, vice-chairman of the Chinese Kuomintang and county magistrate of Taiwan's Taoyuan County, both spoke at the forum. Zhou Tienong, vice-chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee and chairman of the Central Committee of the Chinese Kuomintang Revolutionary Committee; Qian Yunlu, vice-chairman and concurrently secretary general of the CPPCC National Committee; Lin Wenyi, vice-chairman of the CPPCC National Committee and chairman of the Central Committee of the Taiwan Democratic Self-Government League; Luo Haocai, vice-chairman of the 10th CPPCC National Committee; Chen Yunlin, president of the Association of Relations Across the Taiwan Strait; Lu Zhangong, secretary of the Fujian Provincial CCP Committee; Yok Mu-ming, chairman of the New Party; Chin Chin-sheng, secretary general of the People First Party; Lin Pin-kuan, chairman of the Non-Partisan Solidarity Union; and Hsu Hsin-liang, former chairman of the Democratic Progressive Party; as well as more than 6,500 personalities from various circles on both sides of the Strait attended the opening ceremony, which was officiated by Fujian Provincial Governor Huang Xiaojing. The Forum will be held from 15 to 22 May in Fujian's Xiamen, Fuzhou, Quanzhou, and Putian, with 18 large-scale cross-Strait economic and cultural exchange activities in four major categories. More than 8,000 people from various circles and all counties and cities in Taiwan will participate in a series of activities during the Forum.

**16 May 2009** Xiamen - Eric Chu, a vice-chairman of Taiwan's ruling Kuomintang, met

CPPCC Chairman Jia Qinlin. They discussed increasing ties in the private sector and the opposition to China posed by Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party. Eric appears to have told Jia, "*this is normal in a pluralistic society*".

**17 May 2009** Beijing - Wang Gang, a member of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee and president of the China Economic and Social Council, announced that "*China and the European Union can play even bigger role in confronting global challenges, achieving development and safeguarding world peace*", in a meeting with with Mario Sepi, president of the European Economic and Social Committee.

**17 May 2009** Beijing - State Councillor and Minister of Public Security Meng Jianzhu left for Russia to attend meetings of the SCO between ministers on public security and interior affairs.

**17 May 2009** Hong Kong – Legislator Cyd Ho called on the audience of his radio show "*Letter to Hong Kong*" to attend a vigil to protest the 4 June incident of 1989:

*"I urge you to spread the message to friends and ask them to come along to light a candle on the 4 June vigil. Let us stand united to tell Beijing and the chief executive we will speak our conscience, with pride and dignity."*

He argued that the PRC has been trying to impose its system on Hong Kong -

*"In the recent months, the central and HK government has been testing the persistence of Hong Kong people on our core values..."*

*First, it was the ten-points-agreement asking the SAR government to appoint more delegates of the Chinese Peoples 'Political Consultative Conference to public office. When people responded strongly against it, the Beijing government denied the discussion of such agreement.*

*Then it's the article of Mr Cao Erbao on a second governing team for Hong Kong, comprised of mainland officials dealing with Hong Kong affairs."*

**17 May 2009** Xiamen - Wang Yi, director of the Taiwan Affairs Office of China's State Council told the cross-straits forum that China is willing to start negotiations with Taiwan as soon as possible on the economic cooperation framework agreement proposed by President Ma Ying-jeou.

**17 May 2009** Beijing – The State Council and the Central Military Commission have issued a joint circular on improving the protection of military facilities. The military and local governments must reserve areas around military bases to be free of development; and local governments should consult the military about urban development plans that would affect military facilities. Security in and around military bases should be tightened - barriers, warning signs and other security devices should be set up.

The Central Military Commission has released an advisory approved by Chairman Hu Jintao to cadres – "Opinions of the Central Military Commission on Further Enhancing the Work Style of High-and Medium-Ranking Cadres in the Armed Forces". It urges cadres: "*To tackle the current situation wherein the struggle in the ideological field is getting increasingly acute and complex.*" This suggests that the CCP is worried about loyalty within the forces to the party –

*"focus on strengthening the capabilities and enhancing the advanced nature of party organizations in military troops; concentrate their efforts on getting rid of the serious problem of individualism."*



It further urges a return to 'principles' and the need to prevent 'extravagance'; suggesting corruption is a major issue for party members of the military: "*concentrate their efforts on getting rid of the problems of extravagance and waste and of selfish pleasure-seeking.*" To combat these problems, it imposes stricter supervision over the cadres to ensure their obedience to orders, with appraisals once a year: "*put into effect an accountability system for leading cadres, with a view to putting an end to the problem of failing to take strict actions against dereliction of duty and blunders,*" and specifically threatens 'inspection tours' to higher Army officers:

*"making inspection tours... with a view to strengthening effective supervision over party committees and their members, especially their principal members, at and above the army level."*

It suggests what the cadres should be doing to enhance their influence within and over the armed forces:

*"the system of setting up liaison points at the grassroots level, the system of service promises to the grassroots level, and the systems of taking up a post in an acting capacity, staying at a selected grassroots spot for fact-finding purposes in military troops, and serving in a military unit at the company level;"*

*Xinhua* interprets the circular as pledging: "*strict punishment in cases of breach of duty and regular inspection of their work*". *Xinhua* also claims that military units higher than regiment level of the PLA must review the work of their commanding officers at least once a year. It will tighten inspection on senior officers to see whether they strictly follow the military disciplines and show loyalty to the CCP. Commanding officers from regiment to army corps levels are usually regarded as middle and senior ranking PLA officers.

**18 May 2009** Beijing - Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva arrived on his three day visit to China.

**18 May 2009** Beijing – According to plans published by the General Office of the State Council on its official website: [www.gov.cn](http://www.gov.cn), China plans to build three to four major oil refining plants in the Yangtze River Delta in eastern China and the Pearl River Delta in southern China by 2011. Each plant would be capable of processing 20 million tonnes of oil annually, and would result in annual crude oil processing capacity of 405 million tonnes by 2011. Capacity last year was 342.1 million tonnes, according to the January 2009 figures from the National Bureau of Statistics. In February 2009, the Cabinet unveiled initial plans to boost the country's petrochemical industry in a bid to shore up the economy. China produced 189 million tonnes of crude oil last year. Net imports of crude oil totalled 175.16 million tonnes.

**18 May 2009** The first Airbus A320 plane assembled in China's northern city of Tianjin took off at 10:45 a.m. for a test flight, from Tianjin Binhai International Airport. Jean Luc Charles, General Manager of the Airbus (Tianjin) Final Assembly Company Ltd announced that the plane is due to be delivered to the domestic Sichuan Airlines by the end of June. Airbus has taken a gamble by transferring its technology to China; hitherto final assembly of parts was only done in Europe. The Tianjin-based assembly company is expected to deliver a total of 11 A320 aircraft this year. Starting from 2011, the company will be able to produce 48 A320 planes every year.

**18 May 2009** Milan - Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, began his tour in Italy at the invitation of Italian Senate President Renato Schifani and Chamber of Deputies President Gianfranco Fini. Wu is scheduled to visit a research and development centre of the Italian National Agency for New Technology, Energy and the Environment (ENEA), which shows China's interest in using European technologies to improve energy efficiency of its economy. His visit also coincides with the G8 Environment Ministers meeting

on 22 May 2009. Italy is the current rotating President of G8. Wu is also scheduled to meet Italian President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi. Besides Milan, Wu is also to visit Rome, Florence and Venice.

**18 May 2009** Mohe, Heilongjiang – Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Qishan attended the start of the Chinese section of the Sino-Russian oil pipeline. Construction of the Russian section of the pipeline started on April 27. The pipeline is expected to be put into operation by the end of 2010. It is expected to transport 15 million tonnes of crude oil annually from Russia to China between 2011 and 2030.

**18 May 2009** Beijing – According to a *Huanqiu Shibao* article, China should expose more foreign spies to counter Western publicity. It claims that “a dozen so-called “Chinese spying” incidents have been publicly reported in the United States” and that through “sensationalisation” China’s external environment has been adversely affected: “a picture of “Chinese spies” reaching all over the world has been falsely blown up.” To counter this ‘false image’; and to propagate the fact that China is suffering “the most damage by human espionage in particular” the article recommends that:

*“so long as it can ensure against a secondary leakage of secrets, the agency handling a case should, after investigation and verification, promptly share the information with the media.”*

It argues that China pursues foreign spies in a low-key manner because units that have been infiltrated are unwilling to ‘lose face’ in public. It suggests that foreign spies have appeared in: “military, intelligence, and research institutions and some important enterprises as well as various government organs in China.” It admits that Chinese citizens have been seduced by foreign intelligence agencies using “money and attractive women” and that the CIA and FBI have “markedly strengthened the work to monitor and win over Chinese students in the United States” since 2002.

**19 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu commented on Sri Lanka’s humanitarian crisis, by announcing that China has provided \$1 million in cash and 20 million yuan worth of tents, to aid the Sri Lankan government’s efforts to resettle displaced civilians.

Ma Zhaoxu commented favourably on the convictions of Xu Chaofan, former president of the Bank of China branch in Guangdong’s Kaiping; Xu Guojun; and some other people who had fled to the United States after embezzling public funds; as evidence of “positive progress in law enforcement cooperation between China and the United States. China welcomes the US verdict.” Ma further called on the US to recover the stolen money and to extradite those convicted to China.

Ma Zhaoxu did not respond to a question as to which Chinese military officials would be sent to attend the Shangri-la dialogue on Asian Security in Singapore.

Ma Zhaoxu stated that the China-related provisions in the US House of Representatives bill entitled “State Department Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011”:

*“violate the basic norms governing international relations, the principles of the three Sino-US joint communiques, and related US commitments and interfere in China’s internal affairs on the Taiwan, Tibet, and Hong Kong issues.”*

Ma added: “China firmly opposes them, and it has made serious representations to the United States”.

Ma Zhaoxu commented on anti-Chinese violence in the PNG cities of Lae, Madang, and Goroka by local residents. “According to the Chinese Embassy in Papua New Guinea, nine Chinese-owned shops were looted.” Ma stated that the Chinese government had demanded

better protection for Chinese enterprises and nationals.

Ma Zhaoxu reiterated, in response to a question as to whether the Chinese government would demand Aung San Suu Kyi's release, that China respects Burmese sovereignty: "*I would like to point out that it is up to the Burmese people to decide matters in Burma.*"

Ma Zhaoxu claimed to have no information as to whether Chinese officials met with the DPRK foreign minister on a stopover in Beijing.

**19 May 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao and his Brazilian counterpart Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva issued a joint communiqué agreeing to "*boost their strategic partnership*", from strategic dialogue to political consultation between the two foreign ministries and parliamentary bodies. Most importantly, they agreed to "*increase space cooperation and continue joint work on satellite research*". They agreed to hold their second strategic dialogue in the latter half of this year; and to map out a joint action plan from 2010 to 2014, which would cover all the fields of existing bilateral cooperation. Hu accepted Lula da Silva's invitation for him to visit Brazil at a convenient time.

Premier Wen Jiabao met the Brazilian President. Wen considered Brazil to be: "*China's first strategic partner among the developing countries and its biggest trading partner in Latin America.*" Lula was similarly most interested in economic interests: "*In 2009, China became Brazil's first trading partner. Now we still face the challenge of exploring the full potential of investments that our economies can offer to each other.*" Proclaiming their economies to be complementary he listed their joint-ventures: "*we have been able to enhance our cooperation in several areas, such as energy, aviation, exploitation of mineral resources.*" Lula also called for reform of the IMF and the World Bank in Brazil and China's favour:

*"this should be reflected...in a greater participation of countries such as Brazil and China in the decision making process of institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank."*

Brazil's Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Commerce said trade with China in April 2009 reached \$3.2 billion, compared to \$2.8 billion with the United States.

It is Lula da Silva's second state visit to China since he assumed presidency in 2003, which coincides with the 35th anniversary of the establishment of China-Brazil diplomatic ties.

Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the CCP Central Committee, and General Secretary of Brazil's Labour Party Jose Eduardo Cardozo, opened a joint-seminar on party building and party relations. The two-day seminar would focus on the cause and impact of the global financial crisis, labour socialism in Brazil, party politics and 2010 election in Brazil, neoliberalism's influence on Brazil and ruling ideal and practice of Brazil's current administration. It was the second such seminar between the CCP, with 70 million members, and the Labour Party which has 800,000 members. The first seminar was held in Sao Paulo in May 2008.

**19 May 2009** Brussels - Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, told a seminar on EU-China relations (organised by thinktank Friends of Europe), that the 11th summit of the European Union and China to be held in Prague will be "*a milestone in our common journey*".

Chinese Ambassador to the EU Song Zhe was also present and confident of significant results from the Prague EU-China summit: "*It will testify to the strategic nature and global significance of our partnership. I am confident that the summit will be a success and another landmark in the history of our relations.*"

**19 May 2009** Moscow – According to China’s Ministry of Civil Affairs, a group of Chinese firemen and earthquake relief workers arrived to take part in a disaster-relief drill in Russia organized by the SCO. The drill, the first of its kind organized by the SCO, is set for the Moscow-area city of Noginsk from 19-22 May 2009. Four SCO member states - China, Russia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan - will participate in the drill, which is geared towards improving each nation's earthquake response. SCO observing states India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan will also send observers. SCO members signed a mutual assistance agreement in disaster relief in October 2005.

**19 May 2009** Beijing - Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jieyi reiterated China’s support for a “*nuclear-free world*” at an international seminar co-sponsored by the Chinese government and the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. Liu expressed hopes that the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty would “*become effective as soon as possible*”. The seminar will run from 19-23 May 2009.

**19 May 2009** Berlin - German Defence Minister Franz Josef Jung held talks with a high-level Chinese military delegation headed by General Guo Boxiong, Vice-Chairman of China's Central Military Commission. Guo and Jung apparently discussed anti-piracy efforts in the Horn of Africa, as well as the security situation in northeast Asia. According to *Xinhua*, Guo claimed that “*China attaches great importance to its relationship with Germany*” and hoped that “*the two militaries could further strengthen relations*”. According to the German Defence Ministry, both sides spoke out for stronger coordination between China and the EU-led Atalanta mission. On 18 May 2009, Generalleutnant Rainer Glatz, commander of the *Einsatzführungskommandos*, welcomed General Guo Boxiong to his headquarters in Potsdam. Canrong Ma, ambassador of the PRC to Germany and Vice-Admiral Wolfram Kühn, representative of the General-Inspector and Inspector of the Armed Forces, were also present.

**20 May 2009** Prague - Premier Wen Jiabao attended the 11<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit in Prague; which included EU rotating President - Czech President Vaclav Klaus; EU Commission President Jose Barroso, Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy Benita Ferrero-Walder, and Commissioner for Trade Baroness Catherine Ashton. The 11th summit was originally set for December 2008, but was postponed because of a meeting between the Dalai Lama and French President Nicolas Sarkozy in Poland, whose country was then holding the rotating EU presidency.

Wen Jiabao denied that China and the US will dominate world affairs as a G2 – “*Some say that world affairs will be managed solely by China and the United States. I think that view is baseless and wrong.*”

At the EU-China summit, China and the EU signed three agreements: the Joint Statement on China-Europe Clean Energy Centre, the China-EU SMEs Cooperation Point of Consensus, and the China-EU Science and Technology Partnership Scheme. At the summit, Wen urged for the implementation of a “*China-EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement as soon as possible*”; as well as urging for China to be given ‘market-economy status’ and for the arms embargo to be dropped. Wen further “*expressed the hope that the EU would relax its export restrictions of high tech products to China*”. The EU is China's largest trading partner. Last year bilateral trade amounted to \$425.6 billion. In the past five years, EU exports to China have increased at an annual rate of over 20 per cent, making China one of the most important export markets for the EU. The two sides agreed to hold the 12th summit in the second half of this year in Beijing.

The summit ended with a joint press communiqué: point no. 4 is perhaps the most important:

*“4. Discussions focused on China-EU relations, the global economic and financial crisis, climate change and energy security as well as an exchange of views on*

*regional issues (Korean Peninsula, Myanmar, Iran, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Pakistan).*

*Leaders expressed their determination to strengthen cooperation, further work together to address global challenges including the financial crisis and climate change, and remain actively committed to enhancing coordination and cooperation in international affairs."*

Wen Jiabao called for closer relations between China and the Czech Republic at meetings with Czech President Vaclav Klaus and Czech Prime Minister Jan Fisher.

**20 May 2009** Beijing - Minister of Science and Technology Wan Gang claimed that the signing of the "China-EU Programme on Scientific and Technological Partnership" would serve to strengthen scientific and technological cooperation.

*Xinhua* claimed that the main fields of successful EU-China technical cooperation so far were "nuclear fusion, satellite navigation, and the Deep Sea Drilling Project and Ocean Drilling Project." The new agreement will:

*"change this cooperation model to allow both sides to jointly select and decide on scientific research topics, make scientific research inputs jointly, and share the results and IPR [intellectual property rights] of their scientific research projects."*

Wan Gang accompanied State Council Premier Wen Jiabao in attending the 11th China-EU Summit, and signed the "China-EU Programme on Scientific and Technological Partnership" on behalf of the Chinese side.

An exclusive interview with Ma Zhengang, director of the international affairs research institute of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and former Chinese ambassador to Britain, analysing the 11<sup>th</sup> EU-China Summit has appeared on *Guangdong Nanfang Zhoumo* website. Ma considers the greatest problem between China and European countries to be that "some European countries and politicians cannot correctly treat China's development and take China's development as a threat." He considers of the six China-related documents published by the EU, the last to be negative. Ma acknowledges another major problem for China: "The other major problem between the European Union and China is that the European Union always tries to change China." He mentions conflicts over issues such as human rights, environmental issues and Taiwan – on the latter he sees "no room for any bargaining". Ma accuses the EU of not providing enough funding to improve the environment, because they are "worried that China might surpass them if China succeeded in development".

**20 May 2009** Beijing – China and Brazil have agreed to provide satellite observation data for African countries through a joint space programme. The Earth receiving stations of Hartebeeshoek in South Africa, Aswan in Egypt and Maspaloms in Spain will process and distribute data from the China-Brazil Earth Resources Satellite-02B to African states. Guo Jianning, general director of the China Centre for Resources Satellite Data and Application, noted that "It's also for the first time China became an exporter of Earth observation data." According to Guo, prior to this agreement, China could only buy or share processed information such as satellite pictures from or with other countries.

Zhang Qingjun, top Chinese designer of the project, noted the project's importance:

*"The CBERS satellites have become an important data source for the world and we will continue and expand cooperation with Brazil, as well as some other countries that have show interest."*

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva finished his three day state visit to China, having signed 13 agreements on cooperation in the fields of oil, financing, loans, science, space, law, port and agricultural products.

**20 May 2009** Hong Kong – According to the *South China Morning Post*, Blogger.com, Google's free blog service, has been blocked by mainland authorities since late last week and thousands of users have complained. It is the second time in less than two months that users have been unable to access popular platforms.

**20 May 2009** Taipei – Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou has reiterated on the anniversary of his inauguration that his administration will continue to build cross-straits ties based on the following principles: "*no reunification, no independence and no use of force.*" Ma said he would not rule out the possibility of initiating talks with Beijing on a peace agreement or military confidence building measures in the future. But the precondition for such talks was that China remove or dismantle its missiles targeted at Taiwan.

**20 May 2009** Rome - Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, met Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi.

**20 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu has refuted claims by the *Times of India* on 15 May, that China had suggested that "*it could look after the Eastern Pacific while Washington concentrated on the Western Pacific*": "*China did not and will not raise the so-called 'proposal' to anyone.*"

**20 May 2009** Beijing – According to Chinese army newspaper *Jiefangjun Bao*, Vice Admiral Sun Jianguo, deputy chief of the general staff of the PLA headed a delegation to attend the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Security Policy Conference in Phuket, Thailand. Sun chaired the China-ASEAN Breakfast Meeting and proposed cooperation in disaster relief, anti-terrorism and maritime security. Sun also introduced China's security policy and the active practice in participating in international security cooperation.

**21 May 2009** Moscow - State Councillor and Minister of Public Security Meng Jianzhu met with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev to discuss bilateral ties and the development of the SCO.

**21 May 2009** Khabarovsk – Russian President Medvedev arrived in Khabarovsk to attend the 2009 Russia-European Union summit.

At a meeting on cooperation between Russia, China and Mongolia that was attended by federal and regional officials, Medvedev praised China as "*one of the pivotal economic and trade partners of Russia*" and said that Chinese investment in Russia's Far East should be encouraged. Medvedev further claimed that the development strategy of the Far East to be drafted soon by the Russian government will be connected with China's plans of rejuvenating old industrial bases in the north-east of China.

*"Furthermore, we have proceeded from the principle that the programmes to develop the Far East and the Transbaykal region should be coordinated at a working level with the development programmes for China's northeast."*

Medvedev said he and his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao had already discussed the issue.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Igor Sechin said during the meeting that the government planned during Chinese President Hu Jintao's upcoming state visit to Moscow to propose selling gas supplies to China.

**21 May 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met a delegation of Japan's Forum on China's Politics and Economy led by chief representative Furusho Koichi. Koichi, who is

also the former Chief of Staff of Maritime Self-Defence Force of Japan, said his delegation is here to see for themselves the changes and development of China. Koichi spoke highly of the defence exchanges and cooperation between the two countries over recent years. He suggested the two sides enhance exchanges among young officers to increase mutual trust and advance strategic and mutually beneficial relations. The delegation arrived on 19 May as guests of the China Association for International Friendly Contacts. The forum was formed by retired senior officers of Japan's self-defence forces and has sent 31 delegations to China.

**21 May 2009** Beijing – Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu announced that China's position on the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen in December 2009, was that by 2020: “developed nations should collectively cut their greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent from 1990.” Ma said China had recently issued a position paper, “*Implementing the Bali Roadmap - China's position on the Copenhagen Conference*,” which was available at [www.sdpc.gov.cn](http://www.sdpc.gov.cn), the website of the National Development and Reform Commission, the country's top economic planning body.

**21 May 2009** Beijing – In an interview with *China Daily*, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva called for Brazil and China to “ditch the US dollar in their bilateral trading and replace it with their own currencies”: “I believe it's extremely important that we should not rely and be dependent on the (US) dollar only to make our financial transactions.” China agreed on 19 May 2009 to lend \$10bn to Brazil's state-owned oil giant in exchange for guaranteed oil supply for the coming decade. In September, Brazil and Argentina signed an agreement under which importers and exporters in both countries may make and receive payments in local currency, although they may also continue to use the US dollar if they prefer.

**21 May 2009** Beijing – Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu reiterated that the Chinese government “opposes Taiwan having official exchanges with any country”, when questioned on Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou's Central America tour next week with scheduled stopover in the United States.

**21 May 2009** Bogota - Colombian Ambassador to China Guillermo Velez told local radio station *Radio Caracol* that Colombia is seeking to increase investment from China in its infrastructure to reduce its trade deficits.

**21 May 2009** Beijing – On the programme “*Oriental Horizon*” on CCTV-13, the 11<sup>th</sup> EU-China summit is discussed by host Zhang Quanling and Zhao Junjie, research fellow with Chinese Academy of Social Sciences for European Affairs, and Wang Botao, CCTV correspondent based in the EU. When commenting on how to make the EU lift its sanctions on arms sales to China, Zhao said that lifting the arms ban will only result in the promotion of trade relations between China and the EU and that the EU would be the biggest beneficiary.

**21 May 2009** According to the *China Daily*, Shenzhen is taking the lead in pioneering ‘intra-party democracy’. Qiu Zhankai from the city's municipal bureau of civil affairs has become the first directly elected secretary of the party committee at a local government organization in China. Qiu was selected on 15 May after seven months of public recommendation, and the whittling down of 75 candidates to 26 finalists, who gave speeches and answered questions from the audience. Previously, intra-Party democracy was only practised in China's rural areas where village leaders are elected by public recommendation and direct election from villagers. Now, the party has encouraged more local government organizations to take up this model if conditions allow, said Ren Tieying, professor at the Party School of the Central Committee of the CCP.

**21 May 2009** Hong Kong newspaper *Wen Wei Po* has supported Wen Jiabao's denial of a G2 hegemony, quoting Wang Fan, Director of the International Relations Research Institute of the Foreign Affairs College, that if China accepted such a thesis: “it would not only cause concern to Europe, but would also cause discomfort to Japan and other economic powers,

*China's neighbouring countries in Asia, and even African countries."*

Shi Yinong, director of the United States Research Institute of the People's University of China, went further to denounce the G2 theory as an updated version of the China threat.

Several famous American think tanks and former senior US government officials have predicted that a G2, with global affairs being managed jointly by China and the United States in a new bi-polar structure, would soon take shape and replace the G8 or G20 structure.

**21 May 2009** Guangzhou – An analysis of Obama's new anti-terrorism strategy has appeared on the *Guangzhou Yangcheng Wanbao* website. Ge Tengfei at the Nanjing Institute of International Relations claims that the strategy "*indicates a change in the US antiterrorism tactics*". Ge suggests that the US: "*localize the antiterrorism war by allowing the US government to provide money and weapons.*" This would allow US troops to: "*reduce their direct involvement in battle and... mainly be responsible for conducting airstrikes against the terrorists' hideouts and providing technical assistance.*" Ge approves of using the Pakistani army against the terrorists, but that the US "*needs to pay for the aid in the dollar*". Comprehensively, Ge considers the change of strategy to be "*particularly intertwined with great power geopolitical competition*"; as is the entire US presence in Central Asia – "*anti-terrorism efforts must be persisted while promoting the US position in the international power structure*". Ge specifies what he considers to be the underlying assumptions behind the US strategy:

*"First, the Pakistani government will conduct long-term antiterrorism cooperation with the United States;*

*Second, Pakistan and Afghanistan will maintain political stability and build an antiterrorism consensus and the corresponding coordination relations;*

*Third, the United States will be able to successfully perform what it calls reconstruction missions in Afghanistan and, in a certain degree, also in Pakistan;*

*Fourth, other countries in the region, particularly India, will understand the assistance the United States provides for Pakistan."*

Ge concludes that these assumptions are flawed and unstable in the long run and therefore pose a threat to the success of US strategy in Central Asia; particularly because of: "*the fundamental differences in target between the United States and Pakistan, the enormous suspicions in the United States about its reconstruction mission in Afghanistan.*"

**22 May 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao called for a "*powerful air force to meet the demands of the PLA for missions in the 21st century*" during a meeting with delegates of the 11th CCP Congress of the PLA Air Force in Beijing. He urged the acceleration of air force modernisation and that the Air Force should enhance the message of loyalty to the Party among all officers and soldiers as an essential part of their military training.

**22 May 2009** Florence - Wu Bangguo, chairman of the NPC Standing Committee, visited a research and development centre under the Italian National Agency for New Technology, Energy and Environment. He inspected a high-temperature solar heating system. Wu expressed the wish that research institutes and companies of the two countries would increase cooperation and mutual investment so as to jointly exploit the renewable energy market.

**22 May 2009** Bucharest - Romanian Chamber of Deputies Speaker Roberta Anastase met visiting deputy secretary of the CPC Gansu Provincial Committee Liu Weiping, who is leading a CPC delegation in Romania. They agreed to "deepen cooperation". Liu also met



Anca Boagiu, vice president of the Democratic Liberal Party and vice president of the Senate.

**22 May 2009** Beijing – A two-day regional meeting of the International Commission on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament is being held so that the region's views could be incorporated in an overall report the commission plans to compile later this year. Former Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi and former Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans are co-chairs of the commission. Kawaguchi stated that the stalled six-party Korean denuclearisation talks would be “a central theme”. The commission, funded by Australia and Japan, was launched in September 2008. In addition to plenary meetings, the commission is holding regional consultations, including the ongoing event in Beijing.

The proposed report by the commission is expected to deal with nuclear disarmament, nonproliferation and the future of civil nuclear energy in the run-up to the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

**22 May 2009** Beijing - Zhou Xi'an, director of the General Affairs Department of the National Energy Administration, has announced that the Chinese government is planning to “boost nuclear power development in coastal areas while scientifically planning nuclear power stations inland”. China's mainland has 11 nuclear reactors at six plants, all on the east coast. They have a combined installed capacity of 9.07m kw.

Zhang Guobao, head of the National Energy Administration, in the April 2009 edition of *Qiu Shi* (Seeking Truth, the primary theoretical journal of the Central Committee of the CCP) wrote that China should “vigorously develop nuclear power”. In the 11th five-year plan (2006-2010) the wording was “actively develop nuclear power”.

**22 May 2009** Taipei – Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou reiterated his support for an economic cooperation framework agreement (ECFA) with China and expressed his hope that a deal be reached by the end of this year or no later than 2010. The president expressed his hope that Taiwanese industries expected to be hurt the most by the ASEAN plus one and ASEAN plus three (China, Japan, and South Korea) processes, including the petrochemical, automotive, textile and machinery sectors, will be included on the agenda for “early harvest” negotiations. “An ECFA is vital to Taiwan's economic development and ECFA negotiations are urgently needed for Taiwan.” Taiwan has been blocked by China from engaging in the free trade zone negotiations between ASEAN and other East Asian countries and worries that this will marginalize the country and cripple its trade-dependent economy. On opposition voices saying that an ECFA would compromise Taiwan's sovereignty, Ma insisted that the framework agreement would be totally different from the closer economic partnership arrangement that Hong Kong forged with Beijing under a “one China” framework.

**22 May 2009** Urumqi - Li Li, deputy director of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region Public Security Department's Spokesman Office, admitted that the Chinese government still faced problems maintaining stability in Xinjiang:

*“Xinjiang is still facing a grim situation in maintaining stability in 2009. ‘East Turkestan’ terrorist forces are still actively plotting new sabotage activities. Xinjiang will continue to strengthen its precautions and crack down on all kinds of terrorist activities to ensure social stability in region.”*

Li accused the “East Turkestan Islamic Movement” (ETIM) and Rabiye Kadeer’s “World Uighur Congress,” of “actively training personnel and planning to launch new terrorist attacks against China.” Li further accused them of “spreading rumours and slanders” to internationalise the “Xinjiang issue”. However, Li welcomed the United States’ financial sanctions against ETIM’s leader Abdul Haq and admitted that prior to the 2008 Olympics, East Turkestan terrorists had “engaged in serious violent terrorist attacks, including an

*aborted bombing of an aircraft, an attack against the Kashgar police, and a number of explosions in Kuche”.*

**23 May 2009** Beijing - Wang Jiarui, head of the CCP's International Department, told Kuniko Inoguchi, a House of Representatives member from the Japanese Liberal Democratic Party, that China is willing to consider various options for restarting the six-party talks for denuclearizing North Korea, including mediating between Washington and Pyongyang.

According to Japanese news agency *Kyodo*, Wang also mentioned:

*“the possibility of holding a three-way meeting [between] China, North Korea and the United States as well as carrying out working group meetings under the six-way framework as a way to resume the negotiations.”*

Wang said *“it is essential that relations between the United States and North Korea be improved to resume the six-party talks”*. Wang visited North Korea in January and met North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

**23 May 2009** Beijing - Gareth Evans, co-chair of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND), told a press conference on the sidelines of the North-east Asia Regional Meeting of the ICNND, that the issue involving the DPRK occupied a lot of time in the discussions.

Yoriko Kawaguchi, the other co-chair of the ICNND, added that China has played an important role as an intermediary.

**23 May 2009** Shanghai - Ye Peijian, chief designer of the lunar probe with China's Chang'e Project, said at a science lecture in Shanghai that Chinese scientists are considering the feasibility of a manned lunar landing mission at an appropriate time between 2025 and 2030. Ye predicted that China will launch the second lunar probe Chang'e-2 in 2010 to conduct research at a 100-kilometre-high moon orbit as the preparation for a soft landing by Chang'e-3. *“By 2013, China will send the landing craft and rover vehicle to the moon.”* Ye added that Chang'e-3 will use variable thrusters to make a vertical landing on the surface near the moon's equator area. The lunar rover will work on the moon's surface for three months. He added that an isotope technique generator will be used to provide energy for the rover during lunar nights when temperatures drop to 200 degrees below zero.

China launched its lunar mission in 2007 by successfully sending a unmanned probe Chang'e-1 to lunar orbit. The spacecraft managed to transmit some pictures of the moon's surface back in January 2008. Chang'e-1 ended its 16-month mission on 1 March 2009 by impacting the moon, bringing the first phase of the nation's three-stage lunar mission to an end.

**23 May 2009** Weihai, Shandong - Chen Bingde, member of the Central Military Commission and chief of the General Staff of the PLA, attended the final meeting to discuss the *“Draft Plan for the Entire Military's Informatization Construction of Border and Coastal Defence Before 2015”*. Chen pushed for *“the integration and sharing of information among the army, the police, and the people”* and strengthening *“the construction of the legal system, improve and perfect various rules and the overall system regarding the construction, management, and use of the information system”*. Previous meetings had been held in Heilongjiang, Jilin, and Shandong.

**23 May 2009** Guangdong's fishing administration's largest patrol vessel, the Yuzheng 44183, intercepted four foreign fishing boats crossing into the area claimed by China as its 'exclusive economic zone'; before escorting the foreign ships out of China's maritime waters.

**23 May 2009** Beijing - *Guoji Zaixian* (China Radio International) website accused the US of supporting separatist elements in China. While acknowledging that *"the US has imposed sanctions on ETIM and an ETIM leader"*, it alleged that the National Endowment for Democracy in the US Congress was financially supporting the 'World Uighur Youth Congress'. It felt that in contrast to claims of 'change' in US foreign policy – *"The US core interests and values have had no fundamental change"*.

**24 May 2009** Beijing - *Guoji Xianqu Daobao* (International Herald Leader) reported Ye Hailin of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, as saying that sanctions on Abdul Haq would *"create a good atmosphere for China and the US to cooperate against terrorism"*.

**24 May 2009** Beijing - President of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma arrived in China for his 7-day state visit to China. Koroma will hold talks with President Hu Jintao, and will meet Premier Wen Jiabao and Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC.

**24 May 2009** A delegation of the CPPCC, led by Zhang Meiyong, vice-chairperson of the National Committee of CPPCC, has left on a three nation tour to Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro and Turkmenistan.

**24 May 2009** Hanoi –Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi is attending the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers' Meeting. The meeting, slated for May 25 to 26, is expected to draw foreign ministers and delegations from 45 ASEM members. Participants will discuss measures on forging closer Asia-Europe partnership to address the international economic and financial crisis as well as other global challenges.

**24 May 2009** Beijing – Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu expressed condolences for the death of Roh Moo-hyun, former president of the ROK. *"The Chinese government and people will remember the active efforts and great contributions he had made to promote the overall development of the China-ROK relations."*

**25 May 2009** Beijing – The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement resolutely opposing the nuclear test by the DPRK. *"The DPRK ignored universal opposition of the international community and once more conducted the nuclear test. The Chinese government is resolutely opposed to it."*

Hong Kong news agency *Zhongguo Tongxun She* has reported Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi's response to the DPRK nuclear test – that one must respond calmly and realize Korean non-nuclearization through the Six-Party Talks. *"China has stressed that, even though the DPRK has conducted a nuclear test again, it is still important to realize Korea's non-nuclearization through the Six-Party Talks."*

CCTV-1 on its *"News 30 Minutes"* carried a 1.5-minute report on DPRK's nuclear test, featuring its correspondent in the DPRK quoting from the DPRK's press communiqué. It announces that the DPRK launched its nuclear test at 1200 local time *"to enhance the DPRK's self-defensive nuclear deterrent"*.

South Korean news agency Yonhap claimed that North Korea gave advance notice of its second nuclear test to China:

*"Whether Pyongyang informed its closest ally of the test plan appears to be significant, as Chinese officials were reportedly upset over the North's short notice before its first atomic weapons test in 2006."*

Hanoi – A Japanese Foreign Ministry official had revealed that Japanese Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone sought support from Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi over a UN Security Council resolution in response to the DPRK's second nuclear test. However Yang

remained non-committal, only reassuring Nakasone that China was “.seriously listening to Japan's position and wants to continue talks with Japan”. The meeting came on the sidelines of a two-day Asia-Europe foreign ministerial conference. Nakasone and South Korean Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Yu Myung Hwan called for immediate UNSC deliberations on Pyongyang's latest test. Nakasone told reporters after meeting with Yu in the Vietnamese capital: “*The nuclear test violates a UN Security Council resolution. (We) strongly denounce and protest against it.*” Nakasone and his counterparts from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia “*condemned the second nuclear test proclaimed by North Korea,*” and demanded that the North “*give up all nuclear weapon related activities as it committed within the six-party talks,*” the five foreign ministers said in a joint press statement after a meeting in Hanoi. The foreign ministers also agreed that the nuclear test constituted “*a grave challenge to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and clearly violates the relevant UNSC resolutions, in particular the UNSC Resolution 1718,*” which bans any ballistic missile and nuclear activity by Pyongyang.

CCTV-13, the 24-hour news channel of PRC official state television, commented on the DPRK's nuclear test in its 30-minute news programme “*Oriental Horizon*”. Host Zhang Quanling discussed the situation with Liu Jianguo, professor from the Institute of International Studies at Qinghua University, and Shi Yuanhua, director of the Centre for Korean Studies at Fudan University. Liu said that the DPRK hopes to make breakthrough in DPRK-US ties and draw more attention from the United States after the inauguration of the Obama administration. He added that he is not very shocked by the DPRK nuclear test because he believes that the DPRK has in fact begun implementing its plan to conduct a nuclear test when it withdrew from the Six-Party Talks.

Moscow - An article in *Izvestiya* alleges that the DPRK's nuclear test may have an Iranian link and China's “tacit support”:

*“the present nuclear test occurred against the background of Iran's launches of its own ballistic surface-to-surface mid-range missile conducted last week... The synchronicity of the tests makes one wonder whether they were a coordinated response to Washington for the threats against Pyongyang and Tehran.”*

The article quotes South Korean media that suggest China was warned beforehand of the nuclear test by the DPRK. The fact that China warned none of its fellow ‘Six-Party’ members is taken by *Izvestiya* as suggesting “*that the authorities of the Celestial Kingdom set a course to give tacit support to their troubled neighbour*”.

**25 May 2009** Beijing – According to the Chinese army newspaper *Jiefangjun Bao*, the Armament Department of the PLA Air Force and the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC) held a launch ceremony to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the founding of the PLA Air Force. Xu Qiliang, member of the Central Military Commission and commander of the PLA Air Force, and Deng Changyou, political commissar of the PLA Air Force, were present. It was announced that on 11 November 2009, the PLA Air Force will hold an exhibition to display the achievements of the PLA Air Force in weapons and equipment construction at the China Aviation Museum in Beijing. It will mainly exhibit 30-odd representative aircraft and other equipment used by the PLA Air Force. Separately, the PLA Air Force will also publicly display a batch of latest weapons and equipment independently produced by China, including new-type aircraft, ground-to-air missiles and radars. The Armament Department of the PLA Air Force and the AVIC have agreed to jointly build the China Aviation Museum.

Zhang Honghe, Deputy Director of the Air Force Armament Department, announced that China's Air Force will put new types of aircraft, surface-to-air missiles, radar, and other weapons and equipment on display at the Chinese Air Force Museum for the anniversary of the founding of the PRC Air Force on 11 November 2009/

**25 May 2009** Beijing - Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the CCP Central Committee, met Secretary-General of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Muhammad Jehangir Bader. The two sides exchanged views on implementing the Memorandum of Understanding on Exchanges and Cooperation between the CCP and the PPP, which was signed last year.

**25 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ma Zhaoxu commented that Premier Wen Jiabao had sent a congratulatory message to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on his re-election; saying that China would work to strengthen its strategic partnership with India.

**25 May 2009** Beijing - Zhou Tienong, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, met a delegation of the ROK's National Assembly, led by Kim Seong Won, director general of the Assembly's Legislative Counsel Office.

**25 May 2009** Canberra - Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has announced that his government will take an "energetic approach" to promote cooperation with China, during a meeting with Chen Zhili, visiting vice-chairperson of the Standing Committee of National People's Congress. Chen is visiting Australia at the invitation of the Federal parliament. She will leave for New Zealand on 26 May.

**25 May 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao held talks with his Sierra Leone counterpart Ernest Bai Koroma. The two heads of state agreed to explore cooperation in the areas of infrastructure construction and resource exploitation. China forged diplomatic ties with Sierra Leone on 29 July 1971 and overall has invested \$33.9 million there. Sierra Leone rolled out its first CDMA [Code division multiple access network] in the country last month with help from Chinese equipment vendor Huawei Technologies. Sierratel, the country's government-owned telecommunication company, received a delivery of \$16.6 million worth of wireless telecommunication equipment from Huawei, funded by the Chinese government's preferential loan.

Chinese ambassador to Sierra Leone Qiu Shaofang said China would build two hydropower dams in Sierra Leone in the next three years.

**25 May 2009** Beijing - State Councillor Dai Bingguo pledged to push forward a new type of strategic partnership with African countries, at a reception held by African envoys in Beijing to mark the 46th anniversary of Africa Day. According to Dai, this new type of strategic partnership has been deepening since its inception at the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in November 2006.

**25 May 2009** Hong Kong - The online version of a liberal magazine on the mainland - *Yanhuang Chunqiu* (yhqcw.com) - has been suspended since 23 May. The primary reason is thought to be the fact that its publisher, Du Daozheng, was one of the key planners of Zhao Ziyang's memoir. Du, a veteran journalist and former director of the General Administration of Press and Publications, one of the mainland's official censors, was among four Communist Party veterans - all of them former subordinates of Zhao, the ousted party general secretary - who urged Zhao in the early 1990s to record his first-hand perspective of the Tiananmen Square crackdown on tape. Zhao's memoirs, "*Prisoner of the State*", were released in mid-May. Du also wrote the preface, *Journey of the Reforms*, for the Chinese edition.

**25 May 2009** Hong Kong - Joseph Cheng, a professor of political science at City University, an organiser of the Beijing pro-democracy movement, said that three US-based dissidents had been denied visas to enter Hong Kong. Wang Dan and Yang Jianli had previously been denied permission to visit Hong Kong, although Chen Ziming was allowed to come here for research in 2007.

**25 May 2009** Beijing - Kuomintang (KMT) Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung arrived in China for an

eight-day visit on the mainland. Wang Yi, director of the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, welcomed him at the airport.

Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC met Chairman Wu and praised the historic “breakthroughs” in the cross-straits relationship. Wu is leading a delegation comprised of KMT Deputy Secretary-General Chang Jung-kung, party spokesman Lee, and the KMT's three deputy chairmen - Lin Feng-cheng, Wu Den-yih, and John HY Chiang. Leaders of the KMT and the CCP are scheduled to review the development of exchanges and interactions between the two sides of the Taiwan Straits in the past year. Wu is in the mainland at the invitation of Hu Jintao, general secretary of the CCP Central Committee.

**25 May 2009** Hanoi - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi attended the 9th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting. Yang called for “*a new energy security concept*” which would provide “*common security through coordinated supply*”. Later, in a thinly veiled defence of the DPRK, Yang promoted that the international community should: “*fully respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the countries concerned, provide active and constructive help, and avoid willfully applying pressure or sanctions*”.

**25 May 2009** Shanghai – United States House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi is leading a delegation of US lawmakers for an eight-day visit to China for climate talks. Accompanied by four Democrats and one Republican - all members of the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming, Pelosi met Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng. According to the *Washington Post*, Pelosi is understood to be seeking support for a global pact on reducing carbon emissions in advance of the Copenhagen Conference in December:

*"It is the purpose of the trip to follow up on meetings that we have had here with representatives of China's government on the subjects of climate change and energy and how that relates to our economy."*

**25 May 2009** Almaty - Kyrgyz Minister of Foreign Affairs Kadyrbek Sarbaev met Zhang Meiyang, Vice-Chairperson of the CPPCC in the Kyrgyz foreign ministry building. According to the Kyrgyz Ministry of Foreign Affairs Russian-language press-statement, Sarbaev and Zhang discussed “*further strengthening bilateral cooperation between the Kirghiz Republic and the Peoples Republic of China*” on the basis of the previous agreement on “*good neighbourhood, friendship and cooperation*”.

Zhang separately met Speaker of the Kyrgyz Supreme Council Aitibai Tagayev.

**26 May 2009** Beijing – According to the *China Daily*, the DPRK's "successful underground nuclear test" on 25 May was “shocking” to China and the world. Su Hao, director of China Foreign Affairs University's Centre for Asia-Pacific Studies, was quoted as saying that the ‘six-party talks’ were the “only channel”: “*But I don't see the talks reopening in the foreseeable future (because) other parties won't accept DPRK's status as a nuclear power.*”

This suggests a key demand by DPRK towards the other members of the ‘six-party talks’ – recognition as a nuclear power – has been rejected leading to stalemate. It is unclear whether China should be included in this category; despite its denunciation of the DPRK's most recent nuclear test. The DPRK gave no details of the test or the site where it was conducted. But ROK officials said an “artificial earthquake” was detected near DPRK's northeastern town of Kilju, about 10 km from the site where it conducted its first nuclear test in October 2006. Yesterday's test came about a month after the UN Security Council adopted a statement condemning the April 5 rocket launch by the DPRK and asking it “not (to) conduct any further launch”. Pyongyang responded in late April by quitting the ‘six-party talks’, and announcing that it would reopen its disabled plants and strengthen its nuclear

deterrent.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu called for a calm response to the DPRK's nuclear test, while condemning the DPRK's actions:

*"We called on all parties concerned to seek calm and proper response, and to pursue peaceful resolution of the issue through consultation and dialogue. China strongly demands that the DPRK live up to its commitment to non-nuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, stop any activity that might worsen the situation and return to the track of the six-party talks."*

Commenting on the UN Security Council's reaction, Ma continued: *"We think the relevant actions of the Security Council should be conducive to achieving the non-nuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."* Ma pledged: *"China would continue its unremitting efforts to this end with all parties concerned."*

China's ambassador to Australia Zhang Junsai condemned the DPRK's nuclear test on *Radio Australia* as going *"against efforts for peace in the region"*. Zhang is not sure whether China will use its UN Security Council veto; but reiterates that China is *"opposing what North Korea did"*.

Russian ambassador to China Sergey Razov tells *Interfax-China* that the DPRK's second nuclear test had disrupted previous agreements and:

*"such actions on the part of Pyongyang are leading only to the aggravation of the situation in northeast Asia and can by no means contribute to resolving the North Korean nuclear issue. On the contrary, they can disrupt the ongoing process which, with all the difficulties, problems and braking mechanisms, however was moving forward."*

**26 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ma Zhaoxu announces that China and the US have agreed to cooperate over Darfur *"to promote the settlement of the issue at an early date"*. Ma made the remarks in reply to a question about US special envoy on Sudan Scott Gration's ongoing visit to China. According to Ma, Gration met Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jieyi and Liu Guijin, the special representative of the Chinese Government for the Darfur issue. *"They exchanged views on issues such as the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA),"* Ma said.

Ma Zhaoxu announced that China will provide \$4.4 million (30 million Yuan) in humanitarian aid to Pakistan, in the hope that it *"help the Pakistani government maintain social stability"*. More than 1.6 million people have fled from the Swat Valley in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province where government forces have been battling armed Islamic militants.

Ma Zhaoxu said that Wen Jiabao had sent a congratulatory message to his new Nepalese counterpart Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal (a senior leader of the Communist Party of Nepal - Unified Marxist-Leninist).

**26 May 2009** Hanoi - Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee Nong Duc Manh met Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on the sidelines of the 9th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting. The two sides have agreed to maintain the stability of the situation in the sea – where the two countries have been involved in a fishing dispute. Yang Jiechi had also met his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Gia Khiem on 25 May.

**26 May 2009** Beijing - Wang Gang, a member of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee met a visiting Pakistan People's Party (PPP) delegation headed by Secretary-General Muhammad Jehangir Bader. The PPP would support further exchanges and cooperation with the CCP and play an active role in the development of Pakistani-Chinese ties. Both agreed to *"jointly push the Sino-Pakistani strategic partnership of cooperation to*

*scale new heights continuously*".

**26 May 2009** Canberra - Chinese Ambassador to Australia Zhang Junsai told a conference that China is "*not trying to take control of Australia's resources industry through Chinalco's bid for Rio Tinto*". Zhang said that Chinalco might be state owned but it wasn't state run and its primary aim, like most commercial enterprises, was making money.

His views were echoed by Rio Tinto chief executive, Sam Walsh, who said people concerned about China having a greater control or influence on Rio Tinto's operations through the deal with Chinalco "need to get a grip".

**26 May 2009** Beijing – According to a *China Daily* article, the law enacted by Hangzhou municipal government in Zhejiang province on 1 May 2009 which requires internet portals under its administration to ask for the real identity of their users, is not being enforced. A recent online survey by qq.com found about 78 per cent of those polled, or more than 35,000 people, were not in favour of the law. The major reason given is that the relative freedom on the internet has helped reveal government corruption: "*The Internet has played a key role in the supervision of government work and in the fight against corruption in recent years.*"

**26 May 2009** According to Hong Kong newspaper *Ming Pao*, a thousand demonstrators protested opposite Beijing's Supreme Court's Office for Letters and Visits From the Public. The protest coincided not only with US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's arrival in Beijing from Shanghai, but also occurred not short of the anniversary of the student protests of 4 June 1989. However, it appears to have passed by peacefully:

*"Nevertheless, most of the petitioners left peacefully around noon and no serious clashes took place during the interval. It is yet unknown whether this massive protest event was organized behind the scenes by anyone."*

Despite a foreign reporter being arrested among others, the protest appears to have been under control at all times:

*"foreign media rushed there around 10 o'clock after receiving the news. There is information on the Internet that says a foreign reporter was taken away for interrogation but was soon released. It was almost 12 noon when the police drove the petitioning public from the road and took away a few of them for interrogation."*

That the protest was largely peaceful, included people from all over China and appears to have been coordinated to coincide with Pelosi's arrival, suggests that the protest may have been 'officially organised' to rebut Pelosi's previously strident criticism of China on human rights' grounds.

**26 May 2009** According to *The Standard* website, the Hong Kong Legislative Council has set a controversial precedent by allowing the politically sensitive phrase "one-party dictatorship be ended" to be included in a motion debate on the June 4 crackdown. Jasper Tsang Yok-sing in a surprise move on 25 May allowed the inclusion in an amendment to the motion to be debated on 27 May. Tsang's approval must have surprised League of Social Democrats' "Long Hair" Leung Kwok-hung who proposed the amendment, which read in part:

*"The responsibility for the crackdown be ascertained, political prisoners be released, one-party dictatorship be ended, and democratic elections by universal suffrage be held for the whole nation."*

**26 May 2009** Beijing - Hu Jintao, general secretary of the CCP Central Committee, met visiting KMT Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung. According to *Xinhua*, they agreed to "*avoid internal struggle in foreign affairs*". Hu added that the Chinese mainland expects talks about a cross-



Strait economic cooperation agreement to start in the latter half of this year.

**26 May 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie told his ROK counterpart Lee Sang Hee during their talks that China was willing to "*deepen military ties*". Lee said he hoped his current visit would help push forward exchange and cooperation between defence departments and militaries of the two countries, to jointly safeguard peace and stability in northeast Asia. This is Lee Sang Hee's first visit to China since becoming ROK Defence Minister in February 2008.

**26 May 2009** Beijing – CCTV-4's "*Today's Focus*" broadcast a 30-minute programme discussing the Korean peninsula with Gao Haorong, Xinhua correspondent in Pyongyang, via telephone. Gao sees two reasons for the nuclear test – "*the DPRK felt that its sovereignty was violated, its people were humiliated, and its demand for an UN apology has not been answered*" when the UN Security Council condemned the launch its Kwangmyongsong-2 satellite in April. Secondly, the test was part of the DPRK's effort to "*open up the gate as a strong power in 2012*" and to raise moral in its "150 day struggle".

The CCTV correspondent in Seoul Sun Yan was quoted calling the test an act to "underline its status as a nuclear-armed nation" and to encourage bilateral relations with the US - the DPRK is "anxious to open up a channel for DPRK-US dialogue."

Shi Yinhong described the test as a reaction to counter US and Japanese surveillance of its nuclear facilities, and said that it may also serve to punish the ROK decision to join the Proliferation Security Initiative.

Zhang Zhaozhong said the DPRK fired land-to-air missiles to deter US, Japan, and ROK aircraft from approaching and collecting relevant data of its nuclear test. Adding that the DPRK scored poorly in its past firing of the Minghe land-to-sea missiles, purportedly with a range of 130 to 160 km, Zhang surmises that the DPRK probably failed again this time.

**26 May 2009** Beijing – John Kerry called for US-China cooperation to make the Copenhagen Conference a success at a press conference on the China-US Clean Energy Forum. According to Kerry, the Obama administration is sending a negotiating team here in the next two weeks or so. The US president's top science adviser John Holdren and the designated negotiator for climate change Todd Stern will be coming. The China-US Clean Energy Forum is a non-profit entity consisting of leading figures and energy experts from China and the United States. Its mission is to recommend specific and transformational actions to the governments of the two countries to improve energy efficiency, accelerate the deployment of clean energy and thereby reduce carbon emissions.

**26 May 2009** Beijing - Premier of the State Council Wen Jiabao and Chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC Jia Qinglin separately met visiting President of Sierra Leone Ernest Bai Koroma.

**26 May 2009** Beijing - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met his counterparts from the European Union on the sidelines of the 9th Foreign Ministers' Meeting of the Asia-Europe Meeting. Yang met Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn, European Commissioner for External Relations Benita Ferrero Waldner, a representative of his British counterpart, and his counterparts from Poland. He also met his counterpart from the Republic of Korea on the sidelines of the meeting.

**26 May 2009** Beijing - Chang Wanquan, member of the Central Military Commission of the PRC and director of the General Armaments Department of the PLA, returned to Beijing after visiting Austria, Belarus and Russia, according to the Chinese army newspaper *Jiefangjun Bao*. Members of the delegation including Zhang Zhannan, deputy commander of the PLA Navy, Jing Wenchun, deputy commander of the PLA Air Force, Wang Jiurong, deputy commander of the Second Artillery Force, and Yu Jianguo, director of the International

Cooperation Department under the General Armaments Department of the PLA, also arrived via the same flight.

A six-member PLA goodwill delegation led by General Liu Yongzhi, deputy director of the General Political Department of the PLA, returned to Beijing after visiting Spain and Bulgaria. Ci Guowei, deputy director general of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Ministry of National Defence of the PRC, Li Fengshan, deputy secretary-general of the General Political Department of the PLA, and some leaders from the related departments greeted the delegation at the airport.

**27 May 2009** Beijing – China fears US and Japanese military pressure on the DPRK poses a threat to Chinese security, according to a report by Su Hao, director of the Strategic and Conflict Management and Study Centre of the China Institute of Foreign Affairs, in Huanqiu Shibao. He states the nature of the threat that the DPRK indirectly poses for China: *“If the United States and Japan step up military pressure on the DPRK, their military deployment objectively will pose a threat to China.”* Su further calls on western countries not to *“shift pressure of DPRK nuclear issue to China”*. He reiterates China’s claim that the cause of the Korean peninsula’s nuclear crisis lies in the West’s failure to recognise and acknowledge the DPRK’s security concerns:

*“the reason the DPRK has repeatedly taken risky moves is because its security concern - Western countries' recognition of it - has not received any response from and heeded by Western countries headed by the United States.”*

**27 May 2009** The DPRK’s leader Kim Jong-il is described in the Hong Kong newspaper *Sing Tao Jih Pao* as *“becoming more and more prone to taking risks”* in an effort to secure his own legacy. The article assesses Kim’s foreign policy strategy as one of nuclear blackmail in order to gain nuclear security, direct bilateral ties with the US and wealth through nuclear proliferation:

*“Kim Jong-il is determined to strengthen North Korea's nuclear power to increase his bargaining chips... On the other hand, just as Obama has taken office, he wants to force the US to change its policy and go from the six-party nuclear talks to bilateral talks in the US and remove sanctions on North Korea.*

*If negotiations do not turn out right, North Korea will continue with its nuclear research and development to become a nuclear power with sufficient threat. Then it will not need to slavishly depend on others or be afraid of being engulfed by South Korea. It could even offer its nuclear technology in return for wealth.*

*This nuclear foreign policy is continually testing the bottom lines of China, Russia, US, Japan, etc. Every time North Korea test fired its missiles or breached its promise to remove nuclear facilities, it would draw condemnations from the international community. It has turned a deaf ear to these and focused its attention to the concessions that will be made during the negotiations after the condemnations. At present, the countries seem unable to find a good strategy to counter this repeatedly used trick.”*

The paper suggests that this legacy is under threat because his rule has left the DPRK with *“its people poor and financial situation weak. It is facing both internal and external woes, in severe comparison with South Korea.”* The nature of rule within the DPRK is described as:

*“Internally, North Korea's political power is maintained by military force and personal worship. Externally, North Korea has to face isolation and sanctions by the international community.”*

This negative evaluation must be contrasted with the praise lavished on Kim Jong-il's father, Kim Il-sung, who *"had done a great deed in fighting off American troops. He is the founding father of the country."* It argues that Kim Jong-il missed his chance to *"attract capital from South Korea and gradually take steps like China in opening up and reforms towards affluence"* by failing to make reforms alongside the former ROK aid flow entitled the "Sunshine policy".

**27 May 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao met visiting US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to discuss bilateral ties.

Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, held hour-long talks with Pelosi at the Great Hall of the People. Wu emphasised issues important to China, referring to the Taiwan and Tibet issues as *"the most important and sensitive ones."*

Vice-President Xi Jinping met John Kerry, Chairman of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to discuss US-China bilateral relations. Xi addressed climate change concerns and suggested that the two countries *"cooperate on energy efficiency, new, renewable and clean energies"*. Vice-Premier Li Keqiang also met John Kerry to discuss the economic situation.

**27 May 2009** Wellington - New Zealand Prime Minister John Key met Chen Zhili, visiting Vice-Chairperson of the Standing Committee of the NPC. Chen also met Parliament Speaker Lockwood Smith and Pansy Wong, minister of ethnic affairs and women's affairs.

**27 May 2009** Canberra - Australian mining magnate Clive Palmer announced a massive coal deal with China that will require building the country's largest thermal coal mine. The deal should be considered in the context of China's accelerating program of securing 'energy security'. The project called "China First" will mine 1.4 billion tonnes of coal in the Galilee Basin, southwest of Mackay in central Queensland in east Australia. It will require 490 kilometres of new rail lines and extensive port construction. Palmer, who returned to Brisbane from China this week, said his company Waratah Coal had entered into a memorandum of understanding with China's Metallurgical Corporation of China (MCC) to develop the project. As a result, MCC has guaranteed that it will purchase 30 million tonnes of coal per annum, which equates to \$55 billion over the 25-year lifespan of the project.

**27 May 2009** Papua New Guinea – Construction of the \$1.4 billion PNG-China Ramu nickel project in Madang Province is continuing after previous issues between Chinese and PNG mine workers were resolved. Operating company Ramu Nico, a subsidiary of Chinese metals multinational MCC, has taken delivery of most of the heavy items of processing plant, to extract nickel and cobalt. The mine site at Kurumbukari and the processing plant at Basamuk Bay are to be completed on schedule to start exporting to China in 2010.

**27 May 2009** Guangzhou - Eight human traffickers, including five Chinese and three foreigners, were arrested by frontier guards in south China for the attempted smuggling of 18 foreigners into Hong Kong. The three foreign traffickers were identified as Sarifulslam from India, Krishna Kumar Adhikari from Nepal and Bobby (nickname) from India, according to Chen Senyang, a spokesman from the frontier police detachment of Shenzhen, Guangdong Province. Frontier guards from the detachment, who had been tipped off, stopped a speedboat at sea about one nautical mile (1,852 metres) from Hong Kong. The 18 stowaways, including 15 men, one woman and two children, are from Pakistan, Ghana, Bangladesh and India.

**27 May 2009** Beijing - Yang Yi, spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, announced that both the PRC and Taiwan could at some point "conduct military exchanges" and in the interim "explore ways for setting up a mechanism of mutual trust on military security".

*"General Secretary Hu Jintao also talked about this question at a meeting with KMT"*

*Chairman Wu Poh-hsiung on 26 May. General Secretary Hu Jintao said that the two sides of the straits can first contact each other in preliminary forms to accumulate experiences and then to resolve tough issues step by step."*

**28 May 2009** Beijing – US Senator John Kerry said that China agrees with the United States that North Korea needs to face "consequences" for its nuclear test, and will therefore support a "measured response" from the United Nations:

*"China's leaders made it very clear to me that they will shoulder responsibility to find a solution through dialogue. Foreign Minister Yang (Jiechi) agreed with us that North Korea's actions are wrong, and there needs to be consequences."*

However, Kerry admitted that Chinese officials had not shared with him what their idea of 'consequences' was. Despite officially coming to discuss 'climate change and clean energy issues' it is probable that his mission was to gain Chinese support for a UN Security Council resolution against the DPRK following its second nuclear test.

Shi Yinhong, professor at the Department of International Relations under the People's University of China, suggests in an interview with Hong Kong newspaper *Ta Kung Pao*, that China has two options for dealing with the DPRK and warns against military clashes between the DPRK and ROK. Either China-DPRK negotiations succeed or China will be forced to put harsher pressure on the DPRK –

*"When the DPRK is willing to listen to China's opinions, both sides can carry out consultation behind closed doors; when the DPRK is not willing to listen to China's opinions, this will, no doubt, force China to adopt a tougher measure."*

Shi suggests that although Panmunjom representative office of the DPRK People's Army had threatened not to abide by the truce agreement, no withdrawal actually occurred. Sea clashes were to be expected as opposed to full-scale war between the DPRK and the ROK: *"Military provocations and conflicts are likely to occur in the northwest sea areas in particular."* Commenting on rumours of a succession struggle being responsible for the DPRK's most recent actions, Shi indirectly confirmed that the DPRK's young hardline military officers are strengthening their military leading position:

*"The DPRK issue has its intrinsic logic. At present, the attitude of the DPRK is still mainly affected by the issue of DPRK successor. Kim Jong Il is striving to make these high-ranking young military officers loyal to the successor designated by him."*

**28 May 2009** Beijing - Vice-President Xi Jinping met visiting ROK defence chief Lee Sang Hee. Both pledged to work more closely for regional peace and stability. Lee, on his first visit to China since becoming ROK Defence Minister in February 2008, said the ROK would like to work closely with China in all fields and safeguard regional peace and stability. During his brief stay in Beijing, Lee met his Chinese counterpart Liang Guanglie.

**28 May 2009** Nairobi - Vice-President Kalonzo Musyoka met Hong Jiexu, the vice governor of China's Fujian Province. Also present at the meeting were Director General of Fujian Foreign Affairs Office Song Kening, Director General of Fujian Overseas Chinese Affairs Zeng Xiaomin and the head of China Wu Yi (K) Company.

## **June 2009**

**1 June 2009** According to the Chinese weekly journal *Liaowang*, a survey has shown that online and offline mass incidents have become *"entangled and magnified, making it harder to cope with and prevent mass incidents"*. It argued that *'Persons of interest'* believed the

Internet had become “a primary means of mobilizing and a major channel of spreading some mass incidents”. This stood in contrast to pre-Internet times, when protest had been “localized, with limited publicity and social visibility”. According to Prof Tong Xin of Nanjing University Social Risks and Public Crisis Management Research Centre, in both the Nanjing Zhou Jiugeng incident and the Shenzhen Lin Jiaxiang incident, statistics showed that one million and 1.8 million online users participated in the discussion of the two incidents. The Zhou Jiugeng incident was primarily caused by online users who “denounced” inappropriate remarks on housing prices as well as the extravagant and wasteful use of public funds by officials. The Lin Jiaxiang incident primarily concerned a molested girl and her parents. However, the article does not acknowledge these ‘incidents’ as protests born of popular disaffection with the authorities; it cites ‘experts’ who proclaim the reason is “all types of direct and non-direct conflicts of interest”. “The taxi drivers’ massive strikes that broke out in several cities were typical mass incidents involving conflicts of interest.” This is a broad generalisation – the taxi drivers strikes were caused by authorities seeking to renew licences for a high charge, when many drivers had still not paid off debts for the last levy. Authorities denied licences cost much; but drivers claimed high bribes were essential in addition to the low official licence cost. However, that these ‘mass incidents’ often become violent is acknowledged:

*“In the Chizhou mass incident in Anhui, a boss whacked a child for scratching his car... (public outrage) eventually led to the storming of the government as well as the burning and smashing of patrol cars.”*

It concludes with 3 suggestions for quelling the public resentment to authority:

*“combating corruption” and dealing with “abuse of power for personal gain; increase the public credibility of personnel appointment; reform and supervise wage distribution”.*

**4 June 2009** According to *Guoji Xianqu Daobao*, the recent US Treasury Department sanctions imposed on ETIM leader Abdul Haq, and the subsequent Obama administration decision to free the Uighur Guantanamo detainees “has no doubt exposed once again the double standards of the US on the issue of counter-terrorism.”

**4 June 2009** Beijing – Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met Mohlabi Kenneth Tsekoa, the minister of foreign affairs of the Kingdom of Lesotho. Towards the end of the meeting, the foreign ministers of the two countries signed the “Economic and Technical Cooperation Agreement Between the Government of the People’s Republic of China and the Government of Lesotho Kingdom.”

**5 June 2009** Hong Kong – According to the *South China Morning Post* website mainland Chinese are using various forms of protest to mark the anniversary of the Tiananmen Square incident in 1989. Tens of thousands of internet users on social networking websites changed their birthdays to 4 June 1989; pictures were posted of T-shirts popular among dissidents and overseas dissidents launched a campaign for the public to wear white and to pay a silent tribute to the dead.

Beijing University professor Xia Yeliang said the silence could be deafening. “We can’t say anything, but silence is a kind of protest,” Professor Xia wrote on his blog on an overseas server.

**5 June 2009** *Xinhua* published an analysis on Obama’s Cairo University speech by Matthew Rusling entitled: “Can Obama Mend Relations With the Muslim World?”. It is basically a round-up of quotes from western analysts and gives no Chinese opinion on the speech.

*Renmin Ribao* website ran an article on the Cairo University speech, entitled: “Rebuilding ‘Trust Reserve’ in the Middle East”. It emphasises Obama’s policy of reconciliation:

*"It clearly reveals the new stance of the Middle East policy of the United States in focusing more on reconciliation, in taking more proactive actions, and in paying more attention to a balanced position."*

It praises Obama's multifarious method of attacking the problem – describing the region as 'tied up in knots':

*"...the new US administration has taken several diplomatic actions simultaneously. All the actions are aimed at loosening up and eventually untying the dead knots that are the Middle East problems from different angles. If this truly happens, then progress in the Middle East will have the effect of clearing the way for the advance of the United States' global strategy."*

The article considers the strategy to have had limited success already in restarting the Israel-Palestinian peace talks, preventing Israel from attacking Iran and in the fact that "Hamis which controls the Gaza Strip sent a message to Obama inviting him to visit the Gaza Strip and also calling for direct talks with the United States." Chinese analysis of the region describes the problem nations as:

*"Iran, Iraq, Palestine and Israel, Syria and Israel, Lebanon and Israel, and others represent a huge body of interlocking and mutually restraining interests and contradictions in which one factor could be addressed while another overlooked."*

It considered the "Palestinian-Israel and Iran issues are the most outstanding"; and Iran as pivotal to US-favourable resolutions of the

*"Palestinian-Israel and Iraq problems, as well as to the new US strategies on Afghanistan and Pakistan. A United States that is anxious to get out of Iraq needs Iran to play a role in stabilizing the Iraqi security situation and other aspects, and at the same time, it needs Iran which has close ties with Hamas and with Lebanon's Hezbollah Party to help push for peace talks between Palestine and Israel. It also needs help from Iran in order to carry out its new strategies on Afghanistan and Pakistan. It can be said that unless this problem is resolved, little can be done with the overall situation."*

The commentator however, also notes a subtle change in US policy towards Israel: "not long ago, top US government officials had openly called on Israel to join the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty". It concludes that the US was simply waiting for the right time to tackle Iran: "At present, the United States is quietly observing the presidential elections to be held this month in Iran as it awaits a new opportunity to resolve the tough Iranian problem."

**5 June 2009** Beijing – an article on Chinese International affairs daily *Huanqiu Shibao* website by Xu Shiquan, senior research fellow at Centre for US-China Relations at Tsinghua University: "Nobody Is a Winner in the North Korean Nuclear Crisis", defends the Chinese governments participation in the six-party talks against accusations of failure:

*"North Korea conducting its second nuclear test after "permanently" withdrawing from the Six-Party Talks demonstrates the failure of China's diplomacy and its limited influence over North Korea."*

Xu warns against states abandoning the six-party talks and that China will not support any initiatives that would undermine China's 'core' interests:

*"If a member of the six parties, or two members, for that matter, insists on abandoning the Six-Party Talks, believing they have the ability to address the issue single-handedly or through bilateral transactions, China will give its blessing as long as the action is beneficial to the Peninsula's peace and stability. However, if the*

*unilateral operations and bilateral transactions endanger China's core interests, China was duty-bound to safeguard its national interests."*

Xu emphasises that *"China never uses arm-twisting, a kind of rule by force, to exert its influence."* Xu further attacks critics who have argued that China *"connives at" North Korea's actions in order to use North Korea as its "buffer zone."* because China does not want to see a pro-US regime appearing in the Peninsula. Xu further asks: *"can an unstable area, an area that can trigger a crisis at any time, serve as a buffer zone? The second question is, does "pro-America" necessarily mean "anti-China"?"*

**6 June 2009** Islamabad - Pakistani daily *The News* website reported that Pakistan had extradited 10 ETIM activists to China. The paper quoted an Interior Ministry spokesman as saying

*"the ETIM militants were arrested after they had attacked Pakistani security forces in the tribal areas. Ten of the over two dozen arrested Chinese were handed over to Beijing after it was established that they belonged to the ETIM."*

**6 June 2009** Shanghai - Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China Ltd. (COMAC) unveiled its manufacturing and assembling centre for its large aircraft programme. COMAC's general manager Jin Zhuanglong said the Final Assembly Centre's new base in Shanghai's Pudong area will be constructed within this year. By 2010, the centre will be able to produce 30 ARJ21-700 model planes a year, and the capacity will be expanded to 50 jets by 2012, Jin said. The ARJ21, an acronym for "Advanced Regional Jet for the 21st Century," is the first regional jet that China has fully developed independently, in accordance with the standards set by General Administration of Civil Aviation of China, Federal Aviation Administration and Joint Aviation Authorities.

**6 June 2009** A *Xinhua* analysis identified a 'warming up' of European-US relations following Obama's 'Europe Tour' -

*"during Obama's current visit to Europe, he adopted an approach of "touching people with affection" - he repeatedly stressed the traditional friendship and cooperation between the United States and Europe".*

Xinhua further felt that *"Since Obama took office a few months ago, political dialogue and economic cooperation between the United States and Europe have visibly strengthened",* and that Obama's increased dialogue was paying dividends with the US' allies in Europe: *"Now, the policy "listened to and led by" Obama has won European countries' positive response."* Nevertheless the article noted Europe's longstanding 'sense of superiority' vis a vis the US:

*"France, Germany, and other long-founded European countries, while psychologically maintaining a sense of superiority towards the United States, hope to be respected by the United States and to step up cooperation on international affairs with the United States."*

Xinhua also identified Turkish membership of the EU as a factor of disagreement between Europe and the US.

**6 June 2009** Tokyo – The Japanese edition of CCTV-7 "*Defence Review Week*", a 30-minute panel discussion programme on national defence issues that is broadcast on Saturdays and Sundays at 2003-2033 local time, featured a discussion about Japan's tough reaction to the DPRK nuclear test. Programme host Wang Ding talked with Professor Zhang Zhaozhong of the National Defence University and Professor Liu Jiangyong of the Qinghua University. Zhang Zhaozhong said that Japan "is justified" to be nervous about the DPRK

nuclear test, however, he estimated that it will take several years before the DPRK materialises its ambition to develop nuclear warheads for missiles. Liu warned of Japanese Prime Minister Aso's recent comments 'his country cannot rule out launching preemptive strikes against the DPRK', because Japan may take the DPRK threat as an opportunity and amend its National Defence Programme Outline by the end of this year to allow its Self Defence Forces to engage in preemptive strikes. Zhang however, made clear, that Japan did not have the capability to hit North Korea:

*"Japan is not capable of striking DPRK missile bases at the moment because it does not have medium-range guided missiles, nor cruise missiles. Although Japan can use its fighter jets, they are not properly equipped with long-range surface-to-ground missiles."*

Liu warned that any military build-up in Japan would be countered by South Korea:

*"any Japanese military buildup will prompt the ROK to strengthen its military accordingly, fuelling arms race in the region and countering the global trend of non proliferation and disarmament."*

Liu similarly warned that commercial pressures were making an arms-build up in Japan more likely: *"Japanese companies, such as Fujitsu, Hitachi, Toshiba and others, are already pressuring the Japanese government to lift bans on overseas arms trade"*.

**7 June 2009** Tokyo - Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi called for the swift adoption of "an appropriate and balanced" UN Security Council resolution in response to North Korea's nuclear test, according to a Japanese Foreign Ministry official. It signalled China's reluctance to accept the imposition of tougher sanctions on the North. During talks between Yang and his Japanese counterpart Hirofumi Nakasone in Tokyo, Nakasone sought cooperation from China for the adoption of a tough resolution:

*"The UN Security Council must adopt swiftly a strong resolution that will make North Korea understand that its nuclear test is unacceptable. If not, the UN Security Council's authority will be hurt."*

Yang stressed that China is "firmly" against the possession of nuclear weapons by North Korea and that North Korea should also return to the six-party talks aimed at denuclearizing the country.

The two foreign ministers failed to achieve progress on the issue of a Japan-China joint gas exploration project in the disputed East China Sea. The nearly one-hour talks were held on the sidelines of the Japan-China high-level economic dialogue; Nakasone and Yang also agreed to hold a bilateral working-level dialogue on human rights in early July in Tokyo.

**7 June 2009** Paris - The Dalai Lama received the title of honorary citizen of the city of Paris, a distinction presented by the capital's mayor, Bertrand Delanoë.

**7 June 2009** Beijing – China will hold a national anti-terror exercise "Great Wall-6" beginning on 9 June, according to official sources. A spokesman of the headquarters of the "Great Wall-6" said that the exercise, composing a series of specialized drills, will be carried out in the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region and Shanxi and Hebei provinces that surround Beijing. The exercise will last through the middle of this month.

**8 June 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie announced that China hopes to reinforce defence exchanges with Japan, while meeting Japanese military officers with the Sasakawa Japan-China Friendship Fund led by Yohei Sasakawa.



**8 June 2009** Beijing - Vice Premier Li Keqiang met US special envoy for climate change Todd Stern and called for more dialogues and substantial cooperation with the United States on climate change. Li said China approves the fulfilment of the Bali Roadmap as the key mission of the Copenhagen Conference, and also approves promoting the implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol in a comprehensive, efficient and consistent way. China would like to maintain the principle of "common but differentiated responsibilities" among developed and developing countries, actively participate in negotiations and play a constructive role to promote positive results from the conference, Li added.

**8 June 2009** Beijing - *Renmin Wang*, web portal of *Renmin Ribao*, carried a report by Wang Hongru entitled: "China Has Been the Biggest Creditor of the United States for Nearly a Year, Holding \$767.9 Billion US Treasury Bonds." The report cites analysis by CASS academic Xiao Lian that China has strategic consideration in purchasing US treasury bonds, though its holding surpasses the total amount of holding by the seven developed nations of the West.

**8 June 2009** Beijing - Vice Foreign Minister Li Hui and German Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Reinhard Silberberg co-chaired the third round of strategic dialogue. The two sides exchanged views on promoting ties amid the global financial crisis and other international and regional issues of common concern.

**8 June 2009** Canberra - Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith made clear that Australia still welcomes Chinese investment, despite the recent collapse of the Chinalco-Rio Tinto deal, when Rio Tinto revealed it would join its Pilbara iron ore operations with its rival BHP Billiton.

**8 June 2009** Tokyo - Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso sought China's cooperation in adopting a UN Security Council resolution against North Korea's second nuclear test from Chinese Vice Premier Wang Qishan: *"If North Korea comes to possess nuclear weapons, it would have a serious impact on this region."* On the bilateral front, Aso requested Wang's cooperation to seeing progress in such issues as a joint Japan-China gas exploration project in the disputed East China Sea and food-poisoning cases in Japan caused by tainted dumplings imported from China, but Wang only said he would convey Aso's interest to Hu.

**8 June 2009** Bukavu – According to the Chinese army newspaper *Jiefangjun Bao* website, 218 officers and men of the 9th batch of the Chinese peacekeeping troops to the Congo received UN medals from the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC). The 9th batch came from the Lanzhou Military Area Command, consisting of the engineering detachment and the medical detachment. They entered the mission area of MONUC in October 2008.

**8 June 2009** Taipei - Sergey N Gubarev, head of the Representative Office in Taipei for the Moscow-Taipei Coordination Commission on Economic and Cultural Cooperation, said that: *"Bilateral relations between Taiwan and Russia are progressing now. Compared to 15 years ago when there was not much contact, the relations are moving in a very good way."* He cited as an example the fact that Taiwan's Foxconn Technology Group, the world's largest provider of electronics manufacturing services, has invested US\$50 million to build a computer assembly plant in St Petersburg.

**9 June 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang protested the awarding of "honorary citizen" to the Dalai Lama by the Paris mayor, saying it posed "grave interference in Sino-French relations".

*"We feel strongly disgruntled and resolutely opposed to Paris' award for the Dalai Lama, regardless of China's opposition. Such a move evoked strong indignation of the broad masses of Chinese people, will unavoidably do serious harm to the*

*cooperation between Paris and relevant Chinese cities, and has constituted serious interference in China-France relations."*

Paris should bear all the blame, Qin said, urging Paris to take right attitude towards Chinese people's voice, and stop its offence to the Chinese people, in a bid to create essential conditions for cooperation with Chinese cities.

The municipal government of Beijing, sister city of Paris, voiced its "strong discontent" and "firm opposition" that Paris had honoured the Dalai Lama.

*"We strongly demand the municipal authorities of Paris take concrete actions to correct the wrongdoing so as to avoid harming the friendly ties between the two cities. Such a move by the city of Paris is a gross interference in China's internal affairs and an open provocation against the 16 million citizens of Beijing and 1.3 billion Chinese at large. It severely hurt the feelings of the Beijing people and the whole of the Chinese people."*

Beijing and Paris became sister cities on 23 October 1997.

According to a poll conducted by *Huanqiu Wang*, which is under "*Huanqiu Shibao*," over 87 per cent of the respondents resolutely opposed the behaviour of the Paris City Government and some 'netizens' had even called for cancelling the relationship of friendship cities between Beijing and Paris. Although Qin acknowledged that the "farce" did not represent all of Paris' residents, he called on the city to:

*"face squarely China's popular will, pay great attention to China's popular voices, immediately correct the mistake in actual action, and stop all acts of interfering in China's internal affairs and offending the Chinese people."*

**9 June 2009** According to South Korean news agency Yonhap, China agreed to a draft resolution against North Korea for its nuclear test on 25 May 2009. "*China has agreed on a compromise draft resolution presented by the US and the Western countries.*" The draft calls for UN member states to escort any North Korean vessels deemed to carry parts of weapons of mass destruction to their territorial waters for cargo inspections if the North Korean craft resist interdiction in international waters. However, China has demanded any inspections be made within the framework of existing international law, which prohibits cargo interdictions in international waters unless approved by the country of the flag carried by the vessels. The draft resolution also bans member states from funneling to North Korea financial assistance or any other resources that may contribute to the North's nuclear, ballistic missile and any other programmes related to weapons of mass destruction. China had previously, along with Russia, thwarted a bid by Washington and its allies to adopt a resolution after North Korea's April 5 rocket launch. A largely symbolic Security Council presidential statement was adopted at that time. The five veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council, plus South Korea and Japan, have met several times since the North's May 25 nuclear detonation, but have failed to narrow differences over the level of sanctions, although they have agreed on the need to adopt a legally binding resolution against the North. Emerging from a meeting of the P-5 plus 2 that also involves the US, China, Russia, Britain and France, Susan Rice, US permanent representative to the UN, said that progress has been made, but added, "We're not done yet." State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said in Washington that another P-5 plus 2 meeting will be held to work out "a number of technical details."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a regular press briefing that China favoured a "*balanced and moderate*" resolution and that it should be conducive to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Qin Gang said that China urged parties in the Korean nuclear talks to resume dialogue, hours after ROK chief nuclear negotiator Wi Sung-Lac arrived in Beijing

to discuss nuclear issues with Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi and chief negotiator Wu Dawei. Qin said China resolutely opposed the nuclear test by the DPRK. *"Under the current circumstances, we believe all parties should focus on seeking a Korean Peninsula without nuclear facilities and refrain from any actions worsening the situation."* Qin urged the DPRK to honour its commitment to removing nuclear facilities from the peninsula and other parties to remain cool headed and restrained: *"China will keep close communication with other parties, play its due role and make sustained efforts."* On the DPRK's latest move to sentence two US female journalists to 12 years in labour camps, Qin said, *"We hope the US and the DPRK can properly settle this issue."*

**9 June 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao will attend the annual summit of the SCO and the first meeting of BRIC leaders in Russia's Yekaterinburg ahead of a state visit to the country next week. He will then pay state visits to Slovakia and Croatia from June 18 to June 20, Foreign Ministry officials said.

**9 June 2009** Beijing – Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang said that China had a right to ban summer fishing in the South China Sea to protect marine resources within its own territorial waters. This statement came in response to Vietnam's request to overturn China's ban on fishing. China officially imposed the ban on 16 May to prevent overfishing, and it has sent eight patrol ships to monitor 128,000 square kilometres of the South China Sea. Vietnam government spokesman Le Dung said that Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs had called the Chinese embassy in Hanoi in urging China to cease operations in the sea.

**9 June 2009** Beijing - Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya will pay an official visit to China from 10 to 11 June at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi.

**9 June 2009** Beijing – According to an article published by *China Daily* website, courts will be increasingly used to help local governments deal with *"a sharp increase in mass incidents especially in the mediation of demonstrations"*. The Supreme People's Court (SPC) issued a new guideline that instructed local justice departments to *"establish an early warning mechanism"* to monitor incidents that might harm social stability. Yu Lingyu, director general of the SPC's enforcement bureau, said that the recession had made a "huge impact" on the country's courts because of the massive increase in businesses going bankrupt and increasing labour disputes. Last year, 286,221 labour disputes were heard by the country's courts, a 93-per cent rise on 2007, while the number stood at 98,568 cases in the first three months this year, a 59-per cent year-on-year rise, SPC figures showed.

**9 June 2009** Shanghai - Chen Changya, a researcher with the Shanghai Institute of Satellite Engineering, was quoted by *Zhejiang Daily* as saying that China's first Mars probe Yinghuo-1 is ready to be transported to Moscow for compatibility tests, and will blast off atop a Russian launch vehicle from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan in October 2009. According to earlier reports, Yinghuo-1 will separate from the Russian landing craft after a 10-month journey and stay in a Martian orbit while the latter continues on to Phobos, the larger and the closer of the planet's two moons. Though China is relying on Russia for the launching, tracking and controlling of the micro-satellite, the Mars probe project is still regarded as a milestone that will take the country one big step further in deep-space exploration. Yinghuo-1 is expected to provide clues as to whether the sun turned Mars dry by studying the relationship between oxygen molecules and solar winds. The probe will carry several cameras, a magnetic field sensor and an ion detector. However, the project is unlikely to achieve optimal results because its orbit entry point is not close enough to Mars, Ye Peijian, chief designer of the nation's first moon probe, told *China Daily* earlier. The country could explore Mars independently if it developed launch technology, and use the tracking experience from the lunar mission, he said.

**9 June 2009** Beijing - the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology announced that all computers produced or sold in China after 1 July would be pre-installed with filter software to

protect minors from "unhealthy information" from the Internet. Computers produced outside China would also be subject to such a requirement before they could be sold inside China.

**9 June 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang announced that China had lost 'a good and respectable friend' on the death of Gabonese President Omar Bongo Ondimba, who was described as: "a brilliant leader and was also an outstanding African statesman who enjoyed high prestige and commanded universal respect."

**9 June 2009** Beijing – the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) issued a circular on the pre-installation of Green Web Filtering Software on Computers.

*MIIT Software Document No 226 (2009)*

*To all units concerned: In order to build a green, healthy, and harmonious cyber environment and prevent undesirable information on the Internet from influencing and poisoning young people, in accordance with the pertinent requirements of the "Government Procurement Law," the MIIT, the Office of the Central Guidance Committee on Ethical and Cultural Construction, and the Ministry of Finance have drawn on central fiscal funds to buy out a one-year licence and related services for "Luba-Huaji Huhang" [Green Dam - Chaperone for Minors] green web filtering software for free distribution to society at large. Comprehensive tests and pilot runs show that this software product can effectively filter out undesirable text and image content on the Internet and have met the conditions for preinstallation by computer manufacturers. In order to reinforce the outcomes of the special campaign to rectify the low and vulgar [di su] ethos on the Internet, persist in combining punishment with prevention, substantively protect the healthy growth of minors, and push forward the healthy and orderly development of the Internet, in accordance with the master agenda for the national special campaign to rectify the low and vulgar ethos on the Internet, you are hereby notified of the specific requirements concerning the preinstallation of green web filtering software on computers, as listed below.*

*I. Computers produced and sold within the boundaries of our country shall be preinstalled with the most up-to-date applicable version of the "Luba-Huaji Huhang" software when leaving the factory; imported computers shall be preinstalled with the most up-to-date applicable version of the "Luba-Huaji Huhang" software prior to domestic sale.*

*II. The "Luba-Huaji Huhang" software shall be preinstalled in the computer hard disk or a bundled compact disc and, as a backup document, in the recovery partition or a recovery compact disc.*

*III. The "Luba-Huaji Huhang" software provider shall take active measure to support computer manufacturers in their preinstallation-related work.*

*IV. Computer manufacturers and vendors shall complete testing and other work related to the preinstallation of the "Luba-Huaji Huhang" software before the end of June 2009. Computers delivered and sold from 1 July 2009 onward shall be preinstalled with the "Luba-Huaji Huhang" software.*

*V. Computer manufacturers and the "Luba-Huaji Huhang" software provider shall, throughout the remainder of 2009, submit to the MIIT Department of Software Service Industry, on a monthly basis, the previous month's computer sales volume, number of filtering software preinstallations performed, and recommendations for work. From 2010 onward, data from the previous year shall be so submitted before the end of February each year. Those that fail to preinstall the software before the deadline, fail*

*to submit the said data on time, submit false data, or refuse to submit the said data shall be ordered by MIIT to make a late submission or put it right before a prescribed deadline.*

19 May 2009

**10 June 2009** Koror - President Johnson Toribiong said Palau's decision to accept the temporary resettlement of the Uighur Guantanamo detainees "*is a humanitarian gesture*" and had nothing to do with the upcoming review of the Compact of free association with the USA financial provisions, which Palau wants extended. Last week Toribiong met US special envoy Dan Fried and his delegation to discuss the issue.

**10 June 2009** Beijing - Zhou Yongkang, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee met Pakistani Interior Minister Rehman Malik. They agreed to enhance cooperation on law enforcement and anti-terrorism. Zhou made clear that: "*We hope to work with Pakistan to fight the crimes concerning the citizens of the two countries to ensure safety of the Chinese people in Pakistan.*" Malik said that Pakistan valued friendship and a strategic and cooperative partnership with China, and would promote security cooperation to ensure the safety of Chinese people and organizations in Pakistan. Chinese State Councillor and Minister of Public Security Meng Jianzhu also attended the meeting.

**10 June 2009** Beijing - Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta attended a forum hosted by the China Institute of International Studies and spoke at a seminar on Afghanistan's role in the region. Spanta praised China's assistance to Afghanistan: "*Since the beginning of the new era in Afghanistan in late 2001, China has been among our most committed and generous friends.*" According to *Xinhua*, Spanta also acknowledged China as 'the largest investor in the war-hit country'. *Xinhua* listed China's current aid to Afghanistan as 170 million US dollars worth of aid to Afghanistan since 2002, with another 50 million yuan (about 7.35 million US dollars) pledged last year. Spanta down-played Afghanistan's security situation and lack of infrastructure reconstruction; Afghanistan was not "*in a state of crisis as has been projected by some international mass media.*" He focussed on their common interests as: "*Combating terrorism, narcotic trafficking, regional cooperation and economic partnership,*" with Afghanistan in particular facing significant security threats: "*a triangle of terrorism, comprising Al-Qaeda, Taleban and external supports and sponsorship.*" Spanta felt that Afghanistan's security would need international help: "*As such, the solution must be comprehensive, regional and international.*" Spanta also mentioned his own "*personal wish, which is opening the Vakhn Corridor between Afghanistan and China*". Spanta also stated that it was not in Afghanistan's own interest to allow the country to be a permanent base for foreign militaries.

Fu Xiaoqiang, a senior researcher on South Asian studies at China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations said in response: "*From the geographic point of view, there's no benefit to the fight against terrorism even if it is open.*" The corridor lies deep in the mountains and is only accessible by camel during a few months of the year.

**10 June 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met Jean-Baptiste Bokam, Cameroon's secretary of state at the Ministry of Defence in charge of the national gendarmerie. Liang made clear that the Chinese armed forces are willing to advance friendly cooperation with Cameroon and that China is ready to work together with Cameroon to raise bilateral military ties of friendly cooperation to a higher level.

**10 June 2009** Maldives - Chinese ambassador, Ms Yang Xiuping, paid a courtesy call on President Nasheed, who thanked China for the generous assistance that the country had extended to the Maldives, according to the President's Office website, Male.

**10 June 2009** Beijing - Chen Bingde, Chief of the General Staff of the PLA, met Ernst Mercuur, Commander of the Suriname Armed Forces. They agreed to deepen bilateral military communication and cooperation, particularly in personnel training. At Chen's invitation, Mercuur was on a week-long visit to China. Surinamese Defence Minister Ivan Fernald paid a visit to China in April 2008. China and Suriname established diplomatic ties 33 years ago.

**10 June 2009** Beijing - He Guoqiang, China's anti-graft chief, will pay friendly visits to Egypt, Spain, Jordan and Mongolia from June 13 to 27. He is a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee and secretary of the CCP's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

**10 June 2009** Beijing – An article on the *China Daily* website denies the claims made by a *Wall Street Journal* article, that spyware will be installed on all computers to control Chinese Internet users: *"Pornography filtering software will be installed on all computers sold in China from July 1, but authorities say that it is not advanced enough to act as spyware."* The MIIT has invested 41.7 million yuan (\$6.1 million) on the software, which will be pre-installed on new computers.

Zhang Chenmin, general manager of the Zhengzhou-based Jinhui Computer System Engineering Co, which won the bid to develop the "Green Dam-Youth Escort" filtering software last year, said: *"Our software is simply not capable of spying on Internet users, it is only a filter."* Zhang said he complained at the Beijing office of the *Wall Street Journal*. However, the *China Daily* article also highlighted the problems China has faced enforcing government controls over the internet:

*"In 2007, Chinese online game operators were ordered to install anti-addiction software in games. However, young people quickly found a way around this law by registering multiple accounts so the amount of time they spent online could not be monitored. Meanwhile, government regulations in 2003 and 2006 required that Internet users and bloggers reveal their real names when logging on are yet to be enforced."*

**10 June 2009** Beijing - Fan Liqing, spokeswoman of the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office told a press conference that the Chinese mainland's telecommunications department is planning to build a undersea optical cable across the Taiwan Strait.

**10 June 2009** Beijing - Wi So'ng-rak, South Korea's chief nuclear negotiator said that *"Broadly speaking, China is moving in sync with international society,"* referring to China's support for a draft UN Security Council resolution to punish North Korea for its nuclear test with financial sanctions and an expanded arms embargo. The sanction had to be put on hold at the last minute due to objections from Russia on 9 June; Wi also noted: *"China appears somewhat concerned about a possible vicious cycle that may be triggered by excessive international sanctions on North Korea."* Wi also said that he did not hear of any talk of Beijing moving to send a special envoy to Pyongyang in the near future.

A diplomatic source quoted by South Korean news agency Yonhap said:

*"The five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the US, Britain, France, China and Russia, and South Korea and Japan have agreed on a draft resolution on North Korea's second nuclear test."*

The 35-point draft resolution bans any further nuclear and ballistic missile tests and calls for overall arms embargoes and financial sanctions on North Korea.

**11 June 2009** A Chinese submarine and an underwater sonar array towed by the US

destroyer USS John S McCain in the South China Sea collided. CNN television reported the incident on 12 June. Its sonar array, used to listen and locate underwater sounds, was damaged in the incident, but fortunately the sub and ship did not collide, an unnamed military official told CNN. The official said the US Navy does not consider the incident a harassing move by Beijing, as it would have been extremely dangerous had the array got caught in the submarine's propellers.

**11 June 2009** Beijing – Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang asked that the US extradite 17 Chinese Uighur detainees from the Guantanamo Bay detention facility in response to reports that the Pacific island state of Palau had agreed to temporarily resettle the Uighurs.

*"China demands the US side implement relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council as well as live up to international anti-terrorism obligations, stop the transfer of these suspects to any third country and repatriate them to China. China opposes any third country accepting these suspects."*

Qin reiterated Beijing's claim that the men are members of the East Turkistan Islamic Movement, which is on the sanction list of the UN Security council. The men are part of a group of 22 Uighurs captured in 2001 by US troops in Afghanistan, but who were later cleared for release after the Pentagon determined them not to be "enemy combatants". Five from the group of 22 from Xinjiang were accepted by Albania several years ago, but efforts to resettle the remaining 17 were unsuccessful until now.

Munich - US-based Uighur leader-in-exile Rebiya Kadeer released a statement on the World Uighur Congress website praising Palau for being willing to take the Uighur Guantanamo detainees: *"it is a joy to know that a country has finally boldly stepped out, wanting them at a time when many countries are not sure because of Chinese pressure."*

As reported by Radio Australia, Palau Minister of State Sandra Pierantozzi said that Palau was now waiting for the US to accept its offer to take the 17 detainees.

*"We have a very good relationship with the United States. We have diplomatic, friendly relations with Taiwan as opposed to mainland China. I understand that if these people go back to China their lives would be in danger."*

Pierantozzi denied that Palau had received financial incentives and claimed that financial aid compact received from the US was already being negotiated prior to the decision.

**11 June 2009** Beijing - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met Afghan Foreign Minister Rangin Dadfar Spanta. Spanta emphasised that Afghanistan attached great importance to ties with China and appreciated China's active participation in the economic reconstruction of Afghanistan. Spanta came to China for an official visit from June 9 to 12 at Yang's invitation.

Vice President Xi Jinping met Spanta at the Great Hall of the People. Xi made clear China's interest lay in reconstructing Afghanistan and encouraged Chinese businesses to participate:

*"China has always attached great importance to and actively participated in Afghanistan's economic reconstruction and will continue to encourage Chinese enterprises to make investments and start businesses in Afghanistan."*

**11 June 2009** Beijing – Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang rejected India's allegation that there were increasing border-crossing incidents by Chinese military forces. The China-India border has never been officially determined although leaders of both sides say the matter is among the top ten priorities concerning bilateral ties. Indian media reported earlier this week that India would add troops and build infrastructure, including airports, along the border with China.

Qin Gang said that China strongly condemned the terrorist bombing in Peshawar.

Qin Gang announced that Myanmar State Peace and Development Council Vice-Chairman Maung Aye will pay an official visit to China from June 15-20 at the invitation of Vice-President Xi Jinping.

**11 June 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met the Bolivian Vice Defence Minister Jose Prudencio; both pledged to further military ties. Liang elaborated: *"China-Bolivia relations have made great process since the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties."*

**11 June 2009** Dushanbe – According to the privately-owned Tajik *Avesta* website, a contract to reconstruct roads in Khujand has been awarded to the China Road corporation, which specializes in the construction of roads and bridges. The Tajik local administration allocated 7m somoni (about 148,000 dollars) for the project.

**11 June 2009** Beijing – a report by *Zhongguo Xinwen She* describes the scenarios of China's "Great Wall 6" national antiterrorism exercise held on the 9th of this month in Hohhot. Training exercises began on 9 June and continue to mid-June in places in Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, and Hebei. The exercises address three subjects: dealing with a "nuclear dirty bomb" explosion set off by terrorists; dealing with a chain of terrorist attacks at numerous locations in a city; and dealing with a terrorist attack in the form of the bombing of a chemical plant.

*"A band of 'terrorists' has infiltrated Hohhot City and is hiding in some location near the city square. The police raided the site. The 'terrorists' detonated a radioactive 'nuclear dirty bomb' inside a house, and radioactive dust has spread over a wide area. An antiterrorism organization received a report of the situation, quickly set up antiterrorism headquarters at various levels, and brought together and closely coordinated the efforts of the forces handling the situation: Public Security, Armed Police, environmental protection, health, etc. Under long-distance direction by antiterrorism experts at the national level, they succeeded in checking, measuring, and dealing with the scene of the 'dirty bomb' terrorist attack."*

**11 June 2009** Beijing - China Central Television CCTV-4 screened a 30-minute discussion on possible reactions of the DPRK to a new UN Security Council resolution, entitled *"Today's Focus"*. Lu Jian hosted Zhang Liangui, a professor at the International Strategy Research Institute at the Central Party School, and Jin Canrong, deputy director of the International Relations Institute at the Chinese People University. Jin suggested that the DPRK might launch medium range missiles to threaten Japan; but discounted suggestions of intercontinental missiles because of DPRK's failures in this field last year and in April. Zhang reassured viewers that DPRK's reaction will *"be limited to verbal actions, and that the possibility of taking specific actions is not great because the DPRK has only a few cards left."* DPRK's reaction would be muted because the present UN resolution was *"only a written document without specific action"*; however if DPRK's vessels were to be inspected in the future 'drastic' measures might be taken. Zhang felt that the DPRK would not make compromises in the face of the UN resolution. Jin was more optimistic for compromises - the two Koreas held discussions in Kaesong on 11 June; and the DPRK's paper *Rodong Sinmun's* carried an editorial on 11 June whose tone signifies room for manoeuvre.

**12 June 2009** Beijing - Vice President Xi Jinping mourned the late Gabon President Omar Bongo on behalf of the Chinese government at Gabon's embassy in Beijing. Xi expressed deep condolences over the death of Bongo, Africa's longest-serving president, and presented a wreath. Gabon's ambassador to China Emmanuel Mba-Allo expressed appreciation of Xi's condolences. Bongo visited China eleven times.

**12 June 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao accepted credentials presented by the new



ambassadors to China from Djibouti - Ahmed Mohamed Hassan, New Zealand - Carl Robinson Worker, Afghanistan - Sultan Ahmad Baheen and Nigeria - Aminu Bashir Wali.

**12 June 2009** Beijing - Five parliamentary delegations of the Pacific island countries will pay an official goodwill visit to China from 14-21 June at the invitation of Wu Bangguo. The five delegations will be led by Isaac Figir, Speaker of the National Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia; Tu'ilakepa, Speaker of the Parliament of the Kingdom of Tonga; Manu Korovulavula, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee in Fiji; Billy Talagi, Chairman of the Bills Committee of the Parliament of Niue and Lino Bulekuli Dit Sacsac, Clerk of the Parliament of the Republic of Vanuatu.

**12 June 2009** Astana - A Chinese parliamentary delegation headed by Zhang Bailin, deputy director of the law committee of the Chinese NPC, visited Kazakhstan from 9 -12 June 2009 at the invitation of the Kazakh parliament. During the visit, the delegation met separately with Kopeev Muhambet, deputy chairman of the Kazakh Senate, and Zhanybek Karibzhanov, deputy chairman of Mazhlis, Lower House.

Astana - Deputy Foreign Minister Nurian Yermekbayev discussed the SCO in a recent interview with Xinhua and other Chinese media. He highlighted the strategic significance of moving towards a single energy market and common transportation corridor within the SCO. On Afghanistan, he revealed a bigger role for the SCO, which will strengthen its efforts to build an "*anti-terrorist security belt*" around Afghanistan, adding that: "*We believe the SCO could play an important role in defusing tension in Afghanistan.*"

**12 June 2009** Beijing – According to a report by *China Daily*, CCTV prime-time anchor Fang Jing denied rumours about spying. The 38-year-old face of China Central Television's prime-time military programme *Defence Watch* said the speculations by guest speakers and some CCTV staff are "not true". Fang told *China Daily* she had been questioned for spying. "*No personnel from any department has questioned me on any issue whatsoever,*" and that her absence from the programme since March was "*not related to any spying investigation*". Sources who work with Fang closely said Fang was under suspicion for "spying for Taiwan" and her case is "still under investigation" and "no conclusion has been reached so far". Fang, who started working for CCTV in 1994, had been member of the all-star line-up at some of the largest live broadcasts in CCTV history, including the three-day live coverage of the return of Hong Kong to the mainland in 1997 and live coverage of the millennium celebrations.

According to both *CCTV-4* and Hong Kong newspaper *Sing Tao Jih Pao* website, Fang Jing is accused of being a US spy. The article quotes former CCTV host and incumbent Beijing University professor Ah Yi who on the weblog "Ah Yi GG" outed Fang:

*"Young sister Fang Jing, who is graceful, natural, and poised, applied to host the 'New Defence Observation' for the convenience of seeking military intelligence to divulge to outsiders and was finally arrested on the evening of 12 May."*

In 2002 Fang Jing was sent to the United States to study. She spent four months at Fox News for visits and exchanges and another four at Harvard University as a visiting scholar. There is news that Fang Jing was instigated to defect in the year she went to the United States for advanced studies.

However, both the Foreign Ministry and serving staff members of CCTV denied having any information or knowledge of the affair.

**12 June 2009** Beijing – According to *China Daily*, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) has published a roadmap for the development of China's space technology, as part of a report titled "Creation 2050: Science, technology and China's Future". It suggests that China may send manned flights to the moon and set up a base there by 2030 and it could land on

Mars by 2050. On the topic of deep-space exploration, the roadmap estimates that China's probes may reach Mars by about 2020 and be used to explore other planets like Jupiter by 2030. It suggests that the probes may fly out of the solar system and enter cosmic space by 2050. As for a manned flight mission, the roadmap said China could have the capacity to develop technology that would guarantee astronauts' long-term survival in low-Earth-orbit space stations by about 2020. Guo Huadong, leader of a CAS space technology strategy research team, said the roadmap is "not an official plan, but more of a strategic suggestion to the decision makers." The central government has not announced any plan or timetable for sending astronauts to the moon or building a moon base.

**12 June 2009** Beijing – According to *China Daily*, Zhu Zhigang, a senior legislator of the NPC has been stripped of his membership of the CCP, the CCP disciplinary watchdog said for "severe violation of disciplines and the law". The legislator was expelled from the NPC last December, and two months earlier, the NPC Standing Committee endorsed Zhu's resignation from the positions of NPC Standing Committee member, director of the Budgetary Affairs Commission of the NPC Standing Committee, and vice-chairman of the NPC Financial and Economic Affairs Committee.

**12 June 2009** New York - Zhang Yesui, Chinese Permanent Representative to the United Nations announced China's support of Resolution No 1874:

*"China supports the UN Security Council's appropriate and balanced reaction to the nuclear test conducted by the DPRK. It shows the stance and determination of the Security Council to resolve the DPRK nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue and negotiations. In this context the Chinese delegation voted in favour of the resolution."*

However, Zhang also defended the DPRK's need for security:

*"The DPRK's sovereignty, territorial integrity, and reasonable security concerns should be respected. It should enjoy the rights of a signatory nation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy once it returns to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."*

**12 June 2009** Beijing – *Xinhua* marshals support for the new internet filter 'Green Dam'. According to its survey "by a relevant party" of more than 2.6 million existing users of the "Green Dam - Youth Escort" software; the results showed "widespread satisfaction". An online survey of 1,813 users, showed 92 per cent of the users expressing support and more than 70 per cent expressing satisfaction with the product.

The article continued with the argument that the protection of minors from "*vulgar information on the Internet*" was more important than freedom of expression: "*more important than the need of those holding an opposing opinion for Internet information.*"

**13 June 2009** Beijing – A member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee and secretary of the CCP's Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, He Guoqiang has left for goodwill visits to Egypt (Egypt's National Democratic Party), Spain, Jordan (to visit Prime Minister Nader Al-dahabi) and Mongolia.

**13 June 2009** According to *China Daily*, police and other law enforcement officers in Shanghai are finding themselves on the receiving end of more and more assaults; in the first five months of the year, prosecutors dealt with 117 cases involving 150 suspects accused of disrupting law enforcement. Some 67 per cent of perpetrators were from other provinces, unemployed and with poor education.

**13 June 2009** Tokyo – According to newspaper *Tokyo Shimbun*, China has already been reducing crude oil shipments to North Korea, since the DPRK conducted its second nuclear test last month. The PRC has also stepped up its customs inspections on DPRK-bound exports. The PRC has been shipping crude oil produced at Daqing Oil Field in Heilongjiang

Province from stockpiling facilities in the outskirts of Dandong, a city located along the PRC-DPRK border, via a pipeline. Crude oil supplies from the PRC are a lifeline that sways the DPRK's energy situation. In October 2006, when the DPRK conducted its first nuclear test, the PRC reportedly temporarily suspended oil shipments on the pretext of "maintenance and inspection of the pipeline." According to a source concerned with PRC-DPRK affairs and other sources, this time the PRC reduced the amount of crude oil supplies to the DPRK after 25 May, when the DPRK conducted its last nuclear test.

Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang issued a statement on the adoption of resolution No 1874 by the UN Security Council. Qin notes the "unanimous" adoption of the resolution and that the:

*"Chinese government expresses its firm opposition to again conducting a nuclear test by the DPRK. The move by the DPRK violates the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, harms the validity of the international nuclear non-proliferation system, and affects peace and stability in the northeast Asia region."*

Qin also repeated Zhang Yesui's earlier claim that the DPRK deserves respect for its territorial sovereignty and integrity; and that once it has rejoined the NPT, it should be allowed to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Qin finally reiterated that China desires a nuclear-free Korean peninsula.

China Central Television's international channel, CCTV-4, in its daily 30-minute programme "Today's Focus" carried a discussion on Korean and Iranian nuclear issues. Studio guests were Hua Liming, researcher with the China Institute of International Studies and Yan Xuetong, director of the Institute of International Studies at Qinghua University. The programme began with a news report on UNSC Resolution 1874 "condemning in the strongest terms" the nuclear test conducted by the DPRK on 25 May and announced new sanctions against the DPRK. Hua noted that the new sanctions are "much more severe" than previous resolutions and that it "sends a stronger signal to the DPRK that the entire international community opposes DPRK nuclear tests and weapons." Yan highlighted the provision of inspecting DPRK ships for nuclear-related items and said the Resolution "might trigger stronger confrontations" as US military vessels will be allowed to intercept DPRK ships. Both consider the resolution's wording of merely 'calling upon' nations to prevent weapon-related funding and non-humanitarian loans to the DPRK, makes it non-binding. If the DPRK were to return to the 6-Party talks, inspections could be suspended. Yan felt that the DPRK's response to the resolution – the DPRK's vow to weaponize plutonium - is to show its ability to make more nuclear weapons. Yan felt that future military conflicts between the ROK and the DPRK at sea were likely. Yan claimed that the DPRK had had hopes of a bilateral ties with the US after Obama's inauguration, but had been disappointed because they: "found Obama only talks and does not act." The DPRK's subsequent actions came because they had failed "to obtain security guarantee through diplomatic means." Both Yan and Hua think that economic aid will not make the DPRK give up nuclear weapons. Hua says "the fundamental issue is that the United States and the DPRK are in a state of war."

Hua justified President Ahmadinejad's successful re-election to his support for nuclear programmes and his anti-US stance. Comparing Iran with the DPRK, Yan thinks that Iran does not have the ability to make nuclear weapons but desires them to gain regional power status. Commenting on the United States' Iranian policy, Hua said that President Obama recognized the Iranian issue as the key to resolving other regional issues. Knowing that Iran will not give up its nuclear programme, "Obama's bottom-line might be to recognize Iran's right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy," Hua said.

**14 June 2009** Cairo - He Guoqiang, China's anti-graft chief, met Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, pledging to seek stronger bilateral ties. He hailed Mubarak as "a respected old and good friend" of the Chinese people for his great contribution to the development of bilateral

ties. He lauded Egypt's efforts to promote the China-Arab Cooperation Forum and the China-Africa Cooperation Forum, saying that China supported Egypt's wish to play a bigger role in international and regional issues. As Egypt will host the fourth ministerial meeting of the China-Africa Cooperation Forum later this year, He said China and Egypt should work more closely to make the meeting a success.

**14 June 2009** The first Forum on Agricultural Cooperation between China and Sudan started in Khartoum. It appears to be another attempt by China to develop 'food security' in Africa – by bringing Chinese agricultural developers into the Sudan. Sudanese Minister of Finance and National Economy Awad Ahmed al-Jaz said the forum would witness the signing of agreements for joint projects in the agricultural field, noting that Sudan expects Chinese companies and private enterprises to build an industrial base in Sudan for the development of agricultural and livestock products. Zhang Yuxiang, the chief economist in the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture, said Sudan had a great potential in agricultural development since it is the largest country in Africa, rich in agricultural resources and has a large portion of land to be developed. Chinese and Sudanese officials as well as hundreds of representatives of agricultural and business sectors of the two countries attended the inauguration ceremony of the four-day forum.

**14 June 2009** The construction of the Tongjiang-Leninskoye railway bridge connecting China and Russian will begin in early October 2009, according to VS Gulevchey, Vice Governor of the Jewish Autonomous Oblast, at the second International Forum on Northeast Asia Regional Cooperation and Development, in Harbin - capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. "*The bridge will be a pivot of the transport corridor linking Russian with China and the countries of the Asia-Pacific Region.*" Gulevchey said that the 3,000-metrr-long bridge with an investment of 2 billion yuan by both sides, is expected to be completed in 2012. The agreement was signed in October 2008, and each country will offer half of the total cost.

**14 June 2009** President Hu Jintao arrived in Yekaterinburg, Russia, for a summit of the SCO and a meeting of BRIC countries. From Yekaterinburg, President Hu will travel to Moscow for a state visit, his first to Russia since President Dmitry Medvedev took office in May 2008. Chinese foreign ministry officials said that during the visit, Hu will meet Medvedev and other Russian leaders to exchange views on how to further develop the Sino-Russian strategic partnership of cooperation. The Chinese president will also visit Slovakia and Croatia.

According to *Xinhua*, the SCO summit is expected to focus on the financial crisis and security concerns. The article analyses China's financial involvement with its fellow SCO-states:

*"Trade volume between China and the other five SCO countries increased to 67.5 billion US dollars in 2007 from 12.1 bn dollars in 2001, an annual growth of 30 per cent. China's investment in Russia and the other four SCO members had surpassed 13 billion dollars by the end of 2007."*

On security, the article summarised the SCO's need to cooperate further to stem "*rampant drug trafficking and cross-border organized crime*" and praised the SCO's March 2009 'special international conference on Afghanistan' which resulted in promises to tap its "*organization's regional anti-terrorist agency and conduct joint anti-terror military exercises to step up efforts to combat terrorism.*"

*Xinhua* predicted the issues to be discussed at the first summit meeting of BRIC countries, from a series of interviews. Brazilian Deputy Foreign Minister Roberto Jaguaribe said in a recent interview with *Xinhua* that discussions would likely be held on decisions taken at the G20 and G8 plus five summits and the right of emerging countries to have a bigger say in international affairs. According to Professor Sun Lijian, Deputy Dean of the Economic School at Fudan University in Shanghai, BRIC leaders are expected to ask the US and European governments to strengthen supervision of these countries' financial capital and enhance risk

warnings and information disclosure in the financial services. Indian political scientist SK Gupta told Xinhua that the BRIC leaders are expected to discuss such issues as the future orientation of cooperation and ways of handling future financial crises with less reliance on the US dollar. Indian political analyst Ajay Singh said the BRIC countries are playing a more important role in reshaping today's global economic structure. Lev Frainkman, an expert at Russia's Institute for the Economy in Transition warned that the world's emerging economies, including the four BRIC countries, would have conflicts of interests with the developed nations. Sergei Aleksashenko from Moscow's Higher School of Economics (HSE), said that the BRIC countries could pool their respective resources to seek common development in such areas as the aviation industry and software development. In a report in 2003, Jim O'Neill (global head of economic research at Goldman Sachs) predicted that the world economic structure would have been reshuffled by 2050, and the BRICs would overtake most developed Western nations such as Britain, France, Italy and Germany and would stand with the United States and Japan to be the world's six major economies.

**14 June 2009** Beijing – Selling Jian-10 fighter jets overseas is discussed on CCTV-7 "*Defence Review Week*", a 30-minute panel discussion programme on national defence issues, by host Tang Jian, Air Force expert Song Xinzhi, and Associate Professor Li Li from the National Defence University. Song denied a report that China will offer its J-10 fighters at a discount - Song said it is just speculation on the part of the Americans, reflecting their concerns on the issue. Li added that the J-10 could be sold at a much cheaper price compared to other fighters with similar performance produced by western countries, which will hit the potential market for US fighters. She claimed the J-10 possesses many operational superiorities, such as its stronger mid-air mobility and ground attack capability, which are good for close-range encounter and joint army, navy and air force operations. Li cited the US estimation that orders of up to 100 F-16 fighters may be affected. Li claimed that of more importance to the United States will be the detrimental impact to its 'hegemony,' as it will no longer be able to use arm sales to gain political control. Li further claimed that there is a potential market for 3,800 fighters in the next 10 years. She said such a huge market will be taken by other nations if China does not do anything. After the Zhuhai Airshow in October 2008, "*many countries requested to purchase J-10 after being impressed with its performance*". Song was much less optimistic – he pointed out that the United States and Russia have occupied the bulk of the market for third-generation fighters, and it is questionable if countries already owning such fighters would want to buy from China. In addition, China will also have to add in the R&D expenditure for J-10 when selling it to the other countries, just as the United States does. Song does not believe the US claim that China will export J-10 and subsequently enjoy a substantial market share.

**15 June 2009** Yekaterinburg - President Hu Jintao met his Pakistani counterpart Asif Ali Zardari: both agreed to push forward the China-Pakistan Strategic Cooperative Partnership. China has decided to provide 60 million yuan (about \$8.82 million) in additional aid to help the Pakistani government settle homeless civilians. China had previously offered \$1 million in cash as well as materials worth 30 million yuan (about \$4.4 million) in humanitarian aid to Pakistan to help the settlement of homeless civilians. Hu made clear that China appreciates Pakistan's support on issues concerning China's national security and core interests. In return, Zardari emphasised that his government attaches "*great importance to concerns of the Chinese side and Pakistan remains firmly opposed to terrorism*". This suggests that a deal has been made concerning China's muslim terrorist-members of ETIM, whom China accuses of having participated in training camps in Pakistan. Pakistan has previously returned detained suspects to China.

President Hu Jintao discussed bilateral ties with Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiev. Hu made clear that the two sides also work together, to combat the "*three evil forces of terrorism, separatism and extremism in order to facilitate regional security*". Bakiev said that Kyrgyzstan appreciates China's aid for its economic and social development.

President Hu Jintao and Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon agreed to expand cooperation between their nations. Hu emphasised that China was willing to cooperate with Tajikistan in mining, agriculture and other large-scale joint projects, and that China wanted to build an agricultural technology centre designed to increase food output and promote personnel training.

President Hu Jintao and Uzbekistani President Islam Karimov met to discuss ways to expand bilateral cooperation.

President Hu Jintao met Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Hu welcomed President Patil's upcoming visit to China and in principle agreed to establish a hotline between the two countries' prime ministers. Hu further emphasised the need for "*strengthening defence cooperation between the two countries*". Singh maintained that "*China is not a rival; there is adequate room in the world for India and China to achieve their developments.*" Singh also acknowledged that "*contacts between the two countries' armed forces have developed steadily.*" Singh claimed that on the border issue – "*the Indian government will seek a fair and rational plan acceptable to both sides.*"

**15 June 2009** According to an article by Li Xiaokun on the *China Daily* website, it is highly likely that the recent collision of a Chinese submarine and an underwater sonar array towed by a US warship in the South China Sea was due to a mis-judgment of distance. So far, both China's Ministry of National Defence and the Pentagon have yet to comment on the incident. Yin Zhuo, a senior researcher with the People's Liberation Army Navy Equipment Research Centre, said:

*"The destroyer USS John S. McCain isn't a professional anti-sub ship, while such US destroyers stopped carrying sonar arrays after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. According to the CNN report, the US destroyer seems to have failed to detect the sub, while the sub set its distance from the US ship based on the assumption it wasn't carrying sonar arrays. It's highly possible that's the reason for the incident."*

Major General Luo Yuan, a senior researcher with the Academy of Military Sciences in Beijing, said though the collision was accidental, the existence of US ships in the South China Sea is cause for potential incidents: "*The best way to avoid such collisions is for the Pentagon to stop its unfriendly moves towards China in this region*".

According to media reports, the US destroyer, along with three other US warships, was on an annual joint exercise in the South China Sea with navies from six Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines and Malaysia. One of the four US ships is the USNS Chung-Hoon, one of the world's most advanced destroyers. According to the *Kuala Lumpur Security Review*, the participation of four advanced ships is aimed at familiarizing the US navy with the situation in the South China Sea and shows the possibility of the US Navy's joint combat role with Southeast Asian nations. Philippine Navy spokesman Lt Col Edgard Arevalo said on 13 June that to their knowledge the US warship was in international waters at the time of the collision.

**15 June 2009** *Xinhua* analysed the deepening Sino-Russian strategic partnership. Of particular importance are its energy deals and the Russian far east:

*"Under a loan-for-oil deal signed in February 2009, China would offer Russian firms a long-term loan of 25 billion dollars, while Russia would supply a total of 300 million tons of crude to China from 2011 to 2030.*

*Russian President Dmitry Medvedev said in May that Russia should coordinate the development of its Far East region with Chinese efforts to rejuvenate its old northeastern industrial bases."*

**15 June 2009** Beijing - Wang Zhaoguo, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, said he hoped that youth exchanges between China and India would promote bilateral ties, while meeting an Indian youth delegation headed by Minister of State of Youth Affairs and Sports Arun Yadav. The delegation, consisting of 100 Indian young government officials, entrepreneurs, artists, athletes, social workers and college students, will also visit Sichuan and Guangdong provinces.

**15 June 2009** Cairo - He Guoqiang, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee and Secretary-general of the NDP Muhammad Yousuf El-sharif agreed to cement ties between their parties. Later, He met presidents of the Confucius Institute of Suez Canal University, which was jointly established by Suez Canal University and North China Electric Power University in 2008.

**15 June 2009** China has renewed its deployment of riot police in Haiti, with its eighth 125-strong squad arriving in Haiti and the seventh returning home. The seventh squad, also with 125 members, returned home to Urumqi. They came from the border police of the Xinjiang Public Security Department. China has participated in UN peace-keeping missions in Haiti since October 2004.

**15 June 2009** Beijing - Grenadian Prime Minister Tillman Thomas started his week-long official visit to China at the invitation of Premier Wen Jiabao.

**15 June 2009** Beijing - The ninth session of the Standing Committee of the 11th NPC scheduled between June 22 and 27, will discuss two draft laws on island protection and diplomatic agents.

**15 June 2009** According to the Hong Kong newspaper *South China Morning Post* website, Professor Wei Yongzheng, a well-known mainland media law expert, and Zhou Ze, an associate professor with the China Youth College for Political Sciences, have jointly proposed that the State Council review and cancel the compulsory installation of internet filtering software on all personal computers sold in the mainland, saying it would violate laws on competition and consumer rights. Their suggestion came after Li Fangping, a Beijing lawyer, had asked for a public hearing from the MIIT, which introduced the software.

According to *China Daily*, the developer of 'Green Dam' has been ordered to rush software patches to address security problems which have cropped up. Zhang Chenmin, general manager of the Zhengzhou-based Jinhui Computer System Engineering Co. said "*The MIIT told us to make the software safer as soon a series of security vulnerabilities were found.*" The software has been downloaded 7.17 million times from the company's website up to last month, and 2.62 million computers in schools across the country have installed it. Zhang admitted that hackers could attack Internet users through the software due to systemic flaws, "just like any other software of this type". More than four in five internet users have said they will not use the Green Dam software or will have it uninstalled, according to online surveys conducted by sina.com, netease.com, sohu.com and QQ.com, China's most popular web portals.

**15 June 2009** London - Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom Fu Ying claimed that "*China has no intention of scrambling for hegemony or sharing hegemony with anyone*", in an exclusive interview with *Zhongguo Xinwen She*.

**15 June 2009** Beijing - Shen Dingli, executive deputy dean of the Institute of International Studies at Fudan University, has published an article in *Dongfang Zaobao Online*, entitled "Ahmadinezhad's Victory Is the United States' Defeat". It argues that the US entire policy towards Iran has failed, as

*"Iran has refused to heed the demand to halt its uranium enrichment programme but*

*instead has continued to forge ahead with the programme, displaying a very defiant stance, and there was nothing the international community could do."*

It considers the recent Presidential election as legitimate and states: "*Ahmadinezhad's victory shows that the majority of the Iranian people support his policies.*" Most important, however, is Shen's argument that the US' failure towards Iran "*demonstrates one thing: the United States' ability to lead international affairs is clearly on the decline.*" Attempts to counter nuclear proliferation are portrayed as maintaining the nuclear powers' monopoly; anyway the US cannot be taken seriously on this matter, when it is: "*even studying "usable" nuclear weapons and using military threat against another nuclear-weapon state like China.*" Since none of the nuclear-weapon states has disarmed, Shen considers it "*laughable*" to demand that Ahmadinejad and his supporters do just that. It considers the 'great powers' on the UN Security council to be: "*sharing the same bed but dreaming different dreams,*" thus allowing Iran freedom of action. Shen describes Obama as having reached the "*peak of his personal life exactly at a time when the United States as a country is going downhill*"; therefore the US can no longer afford "*to pay a steep price to halt Iran's nuclear development*", proving the US' "*loss of leadership*".

**16 June 2009** Yekaterinburg - President Hu Jintao gave a speech to the 9<sup>th</sup> summit of the SCO, where he urged member states to further promote cooperation in politics, economy, security, culture as well as with the observers. Hu lauded a just-signed document on anti-terrorism that will enable the SCO members to jointly hunt for and repatriate criminal suspects; and proposed expanding security cooperation to the observer countries, to aid in the fight against

*"drug production and smuggling, against cross-border organized crimes, and implementing the agreement among member states on anti-money laundering, and protecting energy transportation pipelines."*

Hu said that China "*sincerely welcomes Belarus and Sri Lanka to become dialogue partners of the organization.*" Emphasising China's financial aid to the SCO – he announced a \$10 billion loan to SCO member states to shore up their economies amid the global financial crisis.

President Hu Jintao met Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad, exchanging views on bilateral relations and other issues of common concern.

Yu Jianhua, Director General of the International Department of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce announced that China supports Russia's bid for membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and hopes for its accession into the alliance at an early date. Russia, which has been seeking WTO membership for more than 15 years, is the largest economy still outside the global trade watchdog.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai was invited to the Yekaterinburg summit, at which the SCO leaders discussed measures to help Afghanistan fight terrorism, drug trafficking and transnational organized crime - threats that have raised concern in member states. In the summit declaration, the leaders stressed the need to step up the interaction of the SCO observer nations with Afghanistan and other interested countries and international organizations, primarily the United Nations. Russian President Dmitry Medvedev underlined the importance of helping Afghanistan economically. Medvedev told a press conference following the summit:

*"The situation in Afghanistan or in certain provinces of Pakistan will never normalize if we fail to resolve urgent economic problems. To this end, it is necessary to implement a number of infrastructure projects in the energy, road construction and other sectors."*



The SCO granted Sri Lanka and Belarus the status of dialogue partners at the Yekaterinburg summit.

**16 June 2009** Moscow - President Hu Jintao and his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev held talks in Moscow to discuss the development of the Sino-Russian strategic partnership of cooperation. Earlier in the day, President Hu met Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

**16 June 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang voiced respect for "the choice of the Iranian people" and called for stability in post-election Iran. Qin made the remarks at a regular press conference.

**16 June 2009** Tokyo – According to *Kyodo*, Kim Jong Un, the third son of North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, secretly travelled to China earlier this month as a special envoy of his father. According to *Asahi Shimbun* quoting unnamed North Korean sources, during his meetings with the Chinese leadership, including one with President Hu Jintao, an aide who accompanied Kim Jong Un told the Chinese side that it has been unofficially decided that Kim Jong Un will succeed his father. The *Asahi* report said President Hu Jintao was believed to have urged North Korea to abandon plans for a third nuclear test and to launch an intercontinental ballistic missile. According to *Asahi*, Kim Jong Un arrived in Beijing on 10 June by air.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang told a regular press conference "*We are not aware of the relevant situation,*" when asked to confirm the younger Kim's trip to China.

**16 June 2009** Beijing - Qin Gang stressed at a regular news conference that China will implement Resolution 1874:

*"UNSC Resolution 1874 has explicit provisions governing the issue of boarding and inspecting the vessels. Just like other member-states, China will earnestly implement the relevant UNSC resolution."*

**16 June 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao will send Jiang Shusheng, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), as his special envoy to attend the inauguration of Mongolian President-elected Tsakhia Elbegdorj on 18 June 2009.

**16 June 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang announced that China's new special envoy on the Middle East issue Wu Sike is to visit Egypt, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Russia from June 20 to July 4, focusing on the current situation in the region. Wu, former Chinese Ambassador to Egypt, was appointed as the special envoy in March this year to replace Sun Bigan. He has been director of the Department of West Asian and North African Affairs of the Foreign Ministry, ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and also the first Chinese plenipotentiary to the League of Arab States.

**16 June 2009** Beijing - Vice President Xi Jinping met Burma's second most powerful general, Myanmar State Peace and Development Council Vice-Chairman Maung Aye. Xi said China valued good-neighbourly relations with Myanmar; while Maung Aye expressed gratitude for China's long-term assistance. Premier Wen Jiabao met Maung Aye earlier in the day. Maung Aye came to China on an official visit scheduled for June 15 to 20 at Xi's invitation.

**16 June 2009** The construction of pipelines that will transport oil and gas to China via Myanmar will begin in September 2009, an insider from PetroChina revealed to *Xinhua*. The project will open the fourth route for China's oil and gas imports, after ocean shipping, the Sino-Kazakhstan crude oil and natural gas pipelines, and the Sino-Russian oil pipeline, according to the insider, who declined to be named. According to an agreement signed in March 2009 between the Chinese and Myanmar governments, the oil and natural gas

pipelines will run in parallel. Both will start in Kyaukryu port on the west coast of Myanmar and enter China at the border city of Ruili in China's Yunnan province. The 1,100-kilometre oil pipeline will end in Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province. It is expected to transfer 20 million tonnes of crude oil to China from the Middle East and Africa annually. Strategically, its importance will be to reduce China's reliance on the Straits of Malacca for oil imports.

**16 June 2009** Beijing - For the first time in more than one year, China reduced its holding of US Treasury bonds, and experts told *Xinhua* that move reflected concern over the safety of US-dollar-linked assets. Data from the US Treasury showed China pared its stake in Treasury bonds by 4.4bn US dollars, to 763.5bn US dollars, as of the end of April compared with March. China, the biggest holder of US Treasury bonds, is highly exposed. In March, Premier Wen Jiabao called on the United States "to guarantee the safety of China's assets." China is not the only nation that trimmed holdings of US Treasury bonds in April: Japan, Russian and Brazil did likewise. Wang Yuanlong, researcher with the Bank of China, said the root of the problem was the years of trade surpluses, which created the huge amount of foreign exchange reserves in China. It left China's assets tethered to the US dollar, he said. He said making the Renminbi a global currency would cut China's demand for the US dollar and reduce its proportion in the trade surplus.

**16 June 2009** Cairo - He Guoqiang and Egyptian Minister of International Cooperation Fayza Abul Naga pledged to enhance their strategic cooperation. The meeting came at the end of the three-day Egypt visit of He, member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee.

**16 June 2009** Beijing - The Defence Ministry announced that a Chinese military team is to hold a joint medical rescue exercise with Gabon. The operation, codenamed "Peace Angel 2009", is scheduled for June 17-30 in the Ogooue-Ivindo Province of Gabon. It is the two countries' first joint medical rescue exercise. The Chinese team consists of 60 medical and epidemic prevention staff from the Bethune International Peace Hospital and the Academy of Military Medical Sciences of the People's Liberation Army. According to the ministry, the operation will have three stages: professional training, a rescue exercise and medical aid. The two defence departments agreed on the operation in 2007.

**16 June 2009** Kampala - Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni asked Chinese businessmen to help Uganda set up an oil refinery and a pipeline that will transport oil from the fields in the western part of the country. Syda Bbumba, Uganda's finance minister, said at the meeting with the delegation that Uganda prefers to refine its oil instead of exporting crude. Oil producing Iran last month promised to jointly fund the construction of an oil refinery and also train Ugandans in relevant fields of petroleum. According to the Ministry of Finance figures, the country currently has an estimated 2 billion barrels of oil.

**16 June 2009** Caracas - Venezuela's commerce ministry announced that Venezuela and China will exhibit their industrial technology in Caracas on 18-21 June 2009 as part of the "China-Venezuela industrial expo 2009".

**16 June 2009** Beijing – The International affairs daily *Huanqiu Shibao* website accuses the four "East Turkestan" prisoners released to Bermuda from US Guantanamo prison, of having become "*pets in the eyes of the Western media*". It argues that their claims of innocence were unconvincing and reiterated Chinese demands that they be extradited to China – for if they were innocent; they would have nothing to fear.

**16 June 2009** Beijing - According to *Nanfang Ribao*, in a report by Su Daoxiang et al, the China Marine Surveillance's South China Sea General Corps disclosed at a briefing that in response to the increasingly complicated situation in the South China Sea, they are building multiple 4,000 tonne-grade, 1,000 tonne-grade, and 1,500 tonne-grade law enforcement

ships to intensify China's sea patrol. Li Lixin, director of the South China Sea Sub-Bureau of the State Oceanic Administration, talked about the shipbuilding plan.

**17 June 2009** Beijing - China and Russia, the world's two major energy consumers and producers, are preparing to expand their electricity transfer programme as a move to enhance energy safety, according to the *China Daily* website. The two countries are planning to build several power transmission lines across their borders, involving investment of "multi billion yuan", according to an official who declined to be named in the report. Sources with the State Grid, China's largest grid company, said that a long-term deal had been finalized between the State Grid and Russia, according to which Russia will transfer 3.6 to 4.3 billion kwh of power to China from 2008 to 2010, 18 billion kwh from 2010 to 2015, and 60 billion kwh from then on. China Electricity Council forecasts the country's power consumption will grow by 5 per cent in 2009. Analysts believe the fall in Russia's energy demand caused by the economic downturn will prompt the nation's power companies to export surplus electricity. Russia will see a 4.5 per cent decrease in its overall power consumption in 2009, according to Russian media reports.

**17 June 2009** Shijiazhuang – The anti-terrorism exercise "Great Wall-6" ended today. It began on 9 June and was aimed at improving its police forces' ability to deal with possible terrorist attacks and other emergencies during the National Day celebrations in October. In the final drill conducted in Zhuozhou, Hebei Province, "terrorists" attempted to occupy a chemical plant and conduct attacks. Under the coordination of anti-terror headquarters, special police and armed police arrived and "killed" most of the "terrorists" and rescued the trapped workers. Firefighting tanks and robots were also used in the exercise.

**17 June 2009** Beijing – According to *China Daily* website, it is still unclear whether Fang Jing, rumoured to be under investigation for spying, will return to broadcasting, although she made a sudden reappearance on CCTV as a guest anchor on *World Weekly*, an international coverage programme (broadcast on 14 June). Neither CCTV nor Fang has explained the exact reason for her absence from the screen since March. Defence Watch said Fang quit for "health reasons".

Ah Yi has apologised to Fang Jing on his blog, declared Fang has returned to hosting and removed the accusations from his blog. Zhang Shaohua, a producer for Defence Watch, also said it is too early to say if Fang is returning to the programme in the near future. *"The programme certainly hopes for her return, but it is up to CCTV's News Centre to decide when Fang will return for regular shooting."*

**17 June 2009** Taipei - President Ma Ying-jeou of Taiwan told a magazine that his "no unification" policy did not exclude eventual unification with China. Presidential spokesman Wang Yu-chi said Ma's choice was that the future of Taiwan should be decided by its 23 million people. The opposition Democratic Progressive Party said Ma's statements showed he was under pressure from Beijing to put unification on the agenda.

**17 June 2009** Pyongyang – Chinese ambassador to the DPRK Liu Xiaoming and staff of the Chinese embassy attended the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the birth of the "mao zedong class", at East Pyongyang secondary school no. 1. Also in attendance were Chinese schoolchildren from the "Kim il sung class" of Beijing middle school no. 5. Present from the DPRK political establishment were Jon Yong Jin, Vice-Chairman of the Korean committee for cultural relations with foreign countries and Vice-Chairman of the central committee of the DPRK-China friendship association.

**17 June 2009** Vienna - The Head of the Chinese delegation and Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations Office in Vienna, Tang Guoqiang, stressed that the nuclear issues of Korea and Iran should be solved in a peaceful way through diplomacy. In a speech at the board meeting of the IAEA, Tang pointed out that the Chinese government "firmly

opposes" another nuclear test by the DPRK, and requires the DPRK to "*stick to the denuclearization commitments, stop relevant actions that may further deteriorate the situation, and return to the six-party talks.*" However, Tang also reiterated the Chinese government's much repeated claim that the DPRK deserved respect for its 'territorial sovereignty' and that the "*DPRK should have the right to peaceful use of nuclear energy after it returns to the treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.*"

On Iran, however despite acknowledging Iran's right to the peaceful use of nuclear power under the NPT:

*"China is concerned that Iran has not suspended uranium enrichment as requested by the UN Security Council and hopes Iran will take measures to comprehensively fulfil the relevant resolutions of the IAEA and the Security Council."*

**17 June 2009** Moscow – President Hu Jintao met Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Hu promised to continue to prioritise diplomatic relations with Russia, as well as strengthening the Chinese-Russian strategic partnership. Putin emphasised that Russia has not changed in the least in pursuing the policies of Russia-China friendship and pushing forward Russia-China strategic and cooperative partnership. State Councillor Dai Bingguo and others also attended the meeting.

**17 June 2009** According to an article by Hong Kong-based news agency Zhongguo Tongxun She, China's position on the Chinese submarine collision with the USS McCain is still unclear. The article claims that the US Navy's low-key response was due to not wishing to 'lose face' in front of the countries around the South China Sea, with whom it had just conducted a naval exercise. It further claims that "*United States is now in a terrible fix due to the DPRK nuclear issue*" and therefore urgently needs China's help to 'fix it'.

Chinese Navy Rear Admiral Yin Zhuo analysed the suspected possibilities of the destroyer's sonar failure to lock in on a submarine: First, the towed sonar failed to detect the submarine that was moving in silence. After collision with the submarine, the towed sonar was damaged; the battleship crew then activated the fixed sonar; however, due to the complicated water conditions, the submarine's noise pattern could not be captured due to the refraction that ensued when the sound wave passed through the thermocline. Therefore the US Navy was unable to determine the submarine's country-type and model, eventually it could not confirm who "stepped on its tail".

**18 June 2009** According to the Tokyo *Shimbun*, China has decided against sending State Councillor Dai Bingguo as a special envoy to North Korea this month. The decision apparently stems from Pyongyang's second nuclear test on 25 May 2009. Dai, who in his previous role as Vice Foreign Minister established a close relationship with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, was to urge the DPRK to halt its provocations.

Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang avoided using the phrase 'six-party talks' when challenged by a reporter on the DPRK issue: instead a vague resolve to "*unswervingly push for things that will help resolve the Korean Peninsula issue peacefully through dialogue*".

A report by *Huanqiu Shibao* calls on the US and South Korea to allow the DPRK a 'way back into the talks'. It argues that recent US moves – such as the US pledging to provide the ROK with a "nuclear protection umbrella" have been unhelpful towards resolving the DPRK's nuclear issues. While acknowledging North Korea's violation of its pledges, it accuses the US of finding excuses to tighten sanctions against the DPRK whenever a solution is in sight: "*because the United States has not given up its strategy of subverting the DPRK regime, making the DPRK authorities' sense of insecurity deepen day after day.*" It suggests that the scope for a solution lies within the US government, because it enjoys strategic advantage

over the DPRK. It encourages Obama to: *“create more favourable political conditions at home and in the international community for the settlement of the DPRK nuclear issue through negotiation, but not the other way.”*

**18 June 2009** According to South Korean newspaper *Chungang Ilbo* website, Chinese security authorities have arrested the ethnic Korean guide who accompanied two American journalists sentenced to a labour camp in North Korea last week. Kim Seong-cheol was arrested in China after he managed to evade North Korean guards on March 17, the day Euna Lee and Laura Ling were caught near the China-North Korea border on the Tumen River while reporting on North Korean refugees.

**18 June 2009** Moscow - President Hu Jintao met Chairman of the Russian State Duma Boris Gрызlov. Hu praised Chinese-Russian strategic cooperation and said that he sought to push it to *“a greater depth and a higher level”*. In return, Gрызlov lauded Hu’s visit as a *“complete success”* and urged further cooperation *“particularly between Russia’s Far East Region and China’s Northeast Region”*.

Beijing – Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang announced that: *“China and Russia share highly identical views on major international and regional issues. The two countries have a very high level of strategic mutual trust, which is of the highest order.”*

**18 June 2009** Bratislava - President Hu Jintao held talks with Slovakian President Gasparovic. Hu praised the two countries *“long-term friendship”* and invited President Gasparovic to visit China again. He further urged increased coordination in the United Nations and other regional organisations. Gasparovic welcomed Chinese enterprises to expand their investments in Slovakia. Ling Jihua, Wang Huning, and Dai Bingguo were present on these occasions.

**18 June 2009** Myanmar State Peace and Development Council Vice-Chairman Maung Aye ended a two-day visit to Xi’an. Maung Aye was received by Shaanxi Governor Yuan Chunqing. Maung Aye came to China for an official visit at the invitation of Vice President Xi Jinping. He is scheduled to head for Hangzhou in the eastern Zhejiang Province.

**18 June 2009** Madrid - CCP Central Committee Political Bureau Standing Committee member and Central Discipline Inspection Commission Secretary He Guoqiang met Spanish Prime Minister and Socialist Workers' Party General Secretary Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero. He Guoqiang acknowledged Spain’s importance as the rotating chair of the EU in the first half of next year and expressed a wish to *“push China-Spain relations to a new level.”* Zapatero revealed Spain’s new Asia-Pacific action programme with focus on China. He Guoqiang also met Spain’s opposition party leaders from the Popular Party (PP), and the Spanish Communist Party (PCE) on 16 June. PP President Mariano Rajoy briefed He on the recent European Parliament election, and the latest development of the European integration.

**18 June 2009** Beijing - Wu Bangguo met visiting Grenadian Prime Minister Tillman Thomas, and pledged closer cooperation with Grenada amid the global downturn. Wu, chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, applauded the growth of China-Grenada ties since their resumption of diplomatic ties in 2005. China and Grenada established diplomatic relations in 1985 and severed ties in 1989 over the Taiwan issue.

**18 June 2009** Beijing CCTV-1 condemned Google China for providing *“pornographic”* links, which had been verified by the China Internet Illegal Information Reporting Centre (CIIRC). A CCTV reporter visits the CIIRC. Xi Wei, deputy director of the office, demonstrated to the reporter how one can link to pornographic websites by searching on Chinese and English keywords on Google China.

**19 June 2009** Hangzhou - Myanmar State Peace and Development Council Vice-Chairman Maung Aye finished his visit to east China's Zhejiang Province. During his stay in Hangzhou Maung Aye met Zhao Hongzhu, secretary of the Zhejiang Provincial Committee of the CCP.

**19 June 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang announced that China and Japan will hold their tenth strategic dialogue in Beijing on June 24. Vice Foreign Minister Wang Guangya and Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Mitoji Yabunaka would head delegations to the dialogue.

**19 June 2009** Beijing - Mohammad Yunus Qanooni, speaker of the Wolesi Jirga (lower house of parliament) of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, will pay an official goodwill visit to China from June 21 to 25 at the invitation of Wu Bangguo.

**19 June 2009** According to the Singapore newspaper *The Straits Times* website, the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) and the PLA are conducting a joint counter-terrorism training exercise in Guilin, China. Code-named Cooperation 2009, runs until 26 June. It is the first time the SAF and the PLA have trained together, and each side sent 60 troops. The SAF's troops are from the 2nd People's Defence Force and the SAF Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosives (CBRE) Defence Group. The training exercise is focussing on security operations for big events and handling situations arising from CBRE threats.

**19 June 2009** Beijing – The Capital Civic Enhancement Committee Office (CCECO) announced that it will recruit an army of tens of thousands of volunteers by the end of this year to help strip "lewd" content off the Internet. CCECO director surnamed Zhou claimed that all volunteers would be registered with their real names and would be under the command of CCECO and the Beijing Internet Management Office. "Lewd" content includes violence, libel, private and other information that violates standards of public decency.

**19 June 2009** Beijing - the Sixth Session of the Standing Committee of the 11th CPPCC National Committee approved the decision to remove Chen Shaoji, formerly chairman of the Guangdong provincial CPPCC committee, from the post of vice chairman of the Committee for Liaison with Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and Overseas Chinese of the 11th CPPCC National Committee, and to revoke his credentials as a member of the 11th CPPCC National Committee.

**19 June 2009** Pyongyang - The DPRK and China have agreed to cooperate in monitoring the Yellow Sea's weather and ecological system. The outcome of the 14th DPRK-China talks on oceanic science and technology cooperation signed by the State Oceanic Administration of China and the DPRK Bureau of the Weather and Hydrology resulted in the two countries agreeing on a cooperation blueprint in the field for the coming two years. Present at the signing ceremony side were members of the delegation of the DPRK Hydro-Meteorological Service led by Vice-Director Ryu Pong Chol and members of the delegation of the State Oceanic Administration of China headed by Deputy Administrator Chen Lianzeng and a staff member of the Chinese embassy. The focus of the summary was on using satellites and conducting research into weather changes on the Yellow Sea.

**19 June 2009** Bratislava - President Hu Jintao met Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico. Hu called Slovakia "*a trustworthy friend and partner of China in the European Union*" and promoted stronger two-way trade. Fico similarly called for increased investment by Chinese firms in Slovakia. Hu later also met Slovak Parliament Speaker Pavol Paska.

**19 June 2009** Xiamen - Zheng Lizhong, executive deputy director of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council and executive vice president of the Association for Relations across the Taiwan Straits, and his party concluded their visit to Taiwan and arrived at Dongdu Xiamen-Kinmen passenger Wharf. Zheng Lizhong told reporters that this was the first delegation of the Taiwan Affairs Office to visit Taiwan and its aim was to ensure the success of the Fifth Cross-Strait Forum on Economy, Trade and Culture to be held in July.

**19 June 2009** Taipei - Military spokesman Yu Sy-tue announced that the Ministry of National Defence was still working on plans to acquire a new generation of military aircraft; in response to a newspaper report that the state-run Aerospace Industrial Development Corp (ADIC) has designed a new generation of jet fighters that cater to the military's special needs. According to the *China Times* report, ADIC has completed the design of the new military aircraft with assistance from Russian experts. In the process the ADIC had sent people to Russia to consult with Russian strategists and engineers on the design of the new fighter. The paper further said the ADIC-designed jet fighters will be equipped with twin engines and will be capable of taking off and landing over short distances. Meanwhile, ADIC spokesman Lee Shih-chang said the company has never sent any R&D staff to Russia, in an indirect denial of the newspaper report.

**19 June 2009** According to a Hong Kong *Feng Huang Wei Shih* news clip; claims of an ambassador in Pyongyang that DPRK's Kim Yong Il's health had worsened were published by Huanqiu Shibao on 18 June.

*"Following the drastic worsening of National Defence Commission Chairman Kim Jong Il's health, North Korea's domestic situation has become complicated. For this reason, North Korea has decided to move up Kim Jong-un's succession. I have come to Beijing to report to my country. It might be wiretapped in Pyongyang. In Pyongyang, information about Kim Jong Il's health remains top secret and is placed under thorough surveillance."*

The news report further quoted a North Korean informed source in Beijing:

*"Beijing-based medical personnel of the Ponghwa Clinic have been seeking for high-priced medical equipment that has been prohibited since its nuclear test in 2006. There are signs indicating that they will import emergency rescue helicopters from abroad. Evidently, Kim Jong Il's health may be abnormal."*

*"When Kim Jong Il fell ill with brain disease last year, symptoms including a difficult movement of his left arm were noticed and this has remained unimproved so far. In the opinion of most experts, a recurrence of brain disease is highly possible, therefore it is very difficult to maintain two to three years' survival."*

**19 June 2009** Washington - Michele Flournoy, Undersecretary of Defence for Policy, will visit Seoul, Beijing and Tokyo, starting with Seoul on 26 June. A senior Pentagon official made clear that the main issue will be North Korea:

*"North Korea will factor in very strongly. The recent activities by North Korea, of course, occasioned a UN Security Council resolution. And the activities are of great concern to China. So I expect that we will be having extended discussions on matters where we can find common interest and cooperate."*

The official warned China to abide by the UN resolution 1874 and to use its influence to restrain the DPRK:

*"We expect China to operate within the guidelines of the UN Security Council resolution. We would hope that China would use whatever influence they have with North Korea to convince them to change their behaviour."*

Meanwhile, the US military is closely monitoring a North Korean ship, the Kang Nam, suspected of carrying weapons of mass destruction prohibited under UN resolutions, since its departure from a North Korean port. "I can say it's a ship of interest," the Pentagon official said, adding he had "no updates on the movement of the Kang Nam."

**20 June 2009** Zagreb - President Hu Jintao met his Croatian counterpart Stjepan Mesic. Hu urged stronger trade between Croatia and China despite Croatia being China's largest trading partner in southeastern Europe. China-Croatia ties have developed steadily since the two countries established diplomatic relations 17 years ago. The bilateral relations have entered a new era since the two countries forged an all-round cooperative partnership in 2005.

**20 June 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao and President of Trinidad and Tobago George Maxwell Richards exchanged congratulatory messages to mark the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. President Hu said Trinidad and Tobago was the first Caribbean country to establish diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, and bilateral relations have developed smoothly over the past 35 years.

**20 June 2009** Maung Aye concluded a week-long visit to China and returned home. Maung Aye, vice-chairman of the Myanmar State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), arrived in Nanning, capital city of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, from east China's Zhejiang Province. Guo Shengkun, the Communist Party chief of Guangxi, met him the next day. Maung Aye said Myanmar hopes to expand cooperation with China in resources exploration, and will actively participate in the China-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Expo in Nanning this October.

**20 June 2009** Madrid - He Guoqiang, a senior leader of the CCP met on Wednesday the President of the Spanish Congress of Deputies Jose Bono. He conveyed Wu Bangguo's regards to Bono and said the NPC would continue its friendly cooperation with the Spanish parliament. On 19 June, He met Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos. The two discussed bilateral relations before signing economic and trade deals. Also on 19 June, He went to visit the headquarters of Telefonica, the leading operator that acquired stakes in China Netcom in 2005. He arrived in Madrid on 18 June after concluding an Egypt tour. During his stay in Madrid, He also met the Spanish King and other leaders. The fortnight visit will also take him to Jordan and Mongolia.

**20 June 2009** Beijing - John Pinette, communications director of Asian-Pacific Region for Google announced that it would take all necessary steps to clean up pornographic search results in its Chinese-language portal, Google.cn.

**20 June 2009** Beijing – President Hu Jintao drew a fruitful balance from his participation at the SCO summit and BRIC meeting in Yekaterinburg. President Hu and other BRIC leaders exchanged views on some major global affairs and issued the Joint Statement of the BRIC Countries' Leaders in Yekaterinburg and a statement on food security. The statements set forth the consensus that the BRIC countries have reached on global financial crisis, energy security, food security and climate change, and therefore boosted the influence of the emerging economies and developing nations in international affairs.

**20 June 2009** Pyongyang – The DPRK's Central Public Prosecutor's Office delegation led by its Vice Prosecutor General Ch'oe In-hak departed Pyongyang to visit the PRC. The delegation was seen off by Kim Ch'o'l-su, Vice Prosecutor General of the Central Public Prosecutor's Office, at Pyongyang Station.

**20 June 2009** According to Hong Kong newspaper *South China Morning Post* website, mainland censors in China ordered state media and internet sites to play down news about post-election protests in Iran and government crackdowns there, amid concerns the situation in Tehran may inspire protests and cause instability in a sensitive year. A Guangzhou-based international news editor, who declined to be named, told the *South China Morning Post*: "(The notice) bans editors and columnists from criticising or commenting on the Iranian government's latest measures to control the disorder." Only stories written by *Xinhua* or the *People's Daily* are allowed to be published. Hong Kong-based political analyst Johnny Lau



Yui-siu said *"Beijing is very concerned about the imperceptible influence this election will have in China."* Mainland dissidents have made comparisons between the crushing of the Iranian protests and the Tianamen Square incidents. Other internet posts complained about Iran's election when it was so much poorer than China: *"Some complained that the mainland was still one of the few entirely non-democratic countries in the world."*

**21 June 2009** Lhasa – The Foreign Ministry Information Department organised four-day journey to Lhasa, capital of Tibet Autonomous Region, for 17 foreign journalists. During their stay they visited Lamaseries, schools and the Lhasa Railway Station, and talked with Tibetan lamas, students, herdsmen and farmers as well as tourists. They also attended a press conference hosted by Gumbo Tashi, a Standing Committee member and secretary-general of the autonomous region's committee of the CCP.

**21 June 2009** Kabul – a *Xinhua* "Analysis" article by Hadi Mayar and Abdul Haleem discusses the new US strategy in Afghanistan; in particular Gen Stanley McChrystal – described as having previously led the Joint Special Operation Command and the US elite special operations in Iraq. However, the report notes that no steps have been taken in Afghanistan to replicate the *"much trumpeted Al-Anbar model in Iraq to muster tribal support against the insurgents"*. It assigns failure to do this, as having resulted in increasing violence:

*"violence reached its highest level since 2001 just two weeks ago as insurgent attacks soared by 59 per cent to 5,222 incidents from January through May, compared with 3,283 attacks in the first five months of 2008."*

The report further quotes increasing civilian casualties and doubts whether McChrystal has sufficient means to eradicate the insurgents.

**21 June 2009** *Xinhua* revealed Chinese fears about the 'hidden' uses to which the new Japanese anti-piracy law might be put. Just passed in a second vote in the House of Representatives, it will probably become law in July. The new law will allow the Prime Minister to dispatch the Self-Defence Force (SDF), if the Defence Ministry judges the piracy beyond the capacities of the Coast Guard. To Chinese interpretation this suggests that as long as there is an overseas piracy threat *"the Japanese government is entitled to dispatch SDF at all times, while the Diet is largely left ignored."* It more explicitly accuses the law of seeking to legitimise sending Japanese forces abroad: *"the foothold of the antipiracy law is sending SDF overseas."* The anti-piracy law also relaxes some of the restrictions currently in place on SDF forces: it *"allows Japan's destroyers to fire at pirates if they ignore repeated warnings."* *Xinhua* suggests that this *"relaxation of SDF's use of weaponry"* might be increased further; and that it appeared to be against Japan's *"war-renouncing Constitution."* The article quotes opposition to the dispatch of the SDF by the Social Democratic Party and the Communist Party, before concluding with the line: *"Peace-loving people in Japan and the international community also worry that Japan will gradually sway from the direction of peace and development."*

**21 June 2009** Wuhan - Armed Police dispersed crowds without clashes in Hubei Province, ending a three-day unrest triggered by the suspicious death of a chef at a hotel. Events spiralled out of control after about 1,000 people had gathered around the hotel. Some had blocked roads, set fire to the hotel, smashed windows and stopped police from moving the body. Armed Police marched to the Yonglong Hotel, Shishou City, at 3 a.m. and began to peacefully clear the area at 5 a.m.. Since 19 June 2009, many people had gathered there over the death of 24-year-old Tu Yuangao. The body of the hotel chef was taken to a funeral parlour after Tu's family agreed to conduct a police-proposed autopsy. Tu's body was found lying at the gate of the hotel on the evening of 17 June; allegedly with a suicide note – however his family rejected the thesis. Some local people believed that the chef was killed by gangsters while others said he was killed by the boss of the hotel, who is related to the city mayor. A man surnamed Zhang in his 50s said "the Yonglong hotel is a den for drug-

addicts." However, local authorities denied all the allegations and said the matter was still under investigation.

**21 June 2009** Beijing - The PLA will recruit more than 120,000 college graduates this year, a military source revealed. The army is also seeking to recruit more than 1,000 pilots from a pool of 70,000 high school graduates this year. According to a website run by the Ministry of Education to help college graduates find jobs, it is the first time the PLA has recruited college graduates on such a large scale, as the army seeks to improve its overall quality by drawing more talent and advancing its science and technology. Graduates recruited by the PLA would receive a one-off compensation payment of up to 24,000 yuan, to cover their college tuition fees and student loans, the source said. China is under tremendous pressure to find jobs for 6.1 million college students graduating this summer, while one million from last year are still looking for jobs.

**21 June 2009** Cairo - China's new special envoy to the Middle East Wu Sike met Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abu Gheit. Wu announced that China is willing to push forward the peace process with all the parties concerned under the new circumstances in the region. Wu also later met Cairo-based Arab League Secretary General Amr Moussa. Wu, former Chinese ambassador to Egypt, was appointed as the special envoy in March this year to replace Sun Bigan. He has been director of the Department of West Asian and North African Affairs at the Chinese Foreign Ministry, ambassador to Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and also the first Chinese plenipotentiary to the Arab League. Egypt is the first stop of Wu's regional trip which will also take him to the Palestinian territories, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Russia.

**22 June 2009** Beijing – An article in English by the *Beijing Global Times Online* claims that western press criticism of Iran “*will only lead to hatred*”. It accuses the western press of having “*fallen into old stereotypes of the Islamic world*”; by having accepted too quickly that the Iranian election was rigged because of Mahmud Ahmadinejad’s “*landslide re-election*”. It alleges that the differences between Mir Hussein Moussavi and Ahmadinejad “*are not that great*”; and that Twitter, the social networking site, reflected more “*a mood than actual facts*”. However the article acknowledges that “*Iran’s unique political system is at a critical time*” and considers it likely that the Guardian Council’s 10% recount will “*help stabilize the situation*”. It further accuses the western media of “*fomenting domestic division and conflict*” in Iran and that the West is “*putting freedom of speech too far ahead of responsibility*”. It comments that unfavourable media coverage of the Islamic world in the US has provoked “*hostility in the Islamic world towards the US*”. In its conclusion, the article says western countries should support Amadinejad, if they wish not to lose their influence in Iran.

*“Western media should give a cautious assessment of the change Iran is facing, not overwhelming criticism... reliance on encouraging the opposition faction to influence political change will be futile and only lead to distrust of the Western media.”*

**22 June 2009** Beijing - The Defence Ministry announced that China and the United States are to hold their 10th annual round of defence consultations on 23-24 June. Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the PLA Ma Xiaotian and Michele Flournoy, Undersecretary for Policy of the US Department of Defense, will co-chair the consultations. The Sino-US defence consultations were suspended in October 2008 when the Bush administration notified Congress of its plan to sell arms worth about 6.5 billion US dollars to Taiwan. In February, China and the US held the fifth round of Defence Policy Coordination Talks in Beijing, which were also the first military-to-military consultations between both countries since the Obama administration took office. The annual consultations began in 1997, following an agreement between President Jiang Zemin and his US counterpart Bill Clinton.

**22 June 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao and Irish President Mary McAleese exchanged congratulatory messages to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties

between the two countries.

**22 June 2009** Athens - He Guoqiang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee, met Greek President Karolos Papoulias and Prime Minister Kostas Karamanlis on the comprehensive strategic partnership between their nations. According to a statement by the International Department of the CCP Central Committee, He said that China-Greece relations ushered in a new stage of development in 2006 when both countries established a comprehensive strategic partnership. He also met a number of other foreign dignitaries including European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, UNESCO Director-General Koichiro Matsuura and other heads of state and government.

**22 June 2009** Beijing - Ismail Tiliwaldi, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC met a delegation headed by Mohammad Younus Qanooni, Speaker of the Wolesi Jirga of Afghanistan.

**22 June 2009** An article on newspaper *Nanfang Dushi Bao* website makes clear that “*tens of thousands of people*” were involved in the protests about a cook’s death in Shishou City, Hubei. “*On the 19th, certain individuals put obstacles in two major thoroughfares in the city, Yueshan Road East and Fangda Road East, blocking traffic.*” It was taken so seriously by central authorities that: “*The Ministry of Public Security, the Headquarters of the Armed Police, and principal officials of the province and Jingzhou City quickly formed up a leading group for handling the incident.*” Nevertheless, on 20 June: “*the crowd of onlookers peaked with more than 20,000 people along 1,300 metres of streets and roads from Huangshu Street all the way to Bijia Middle School.*” Only after the family allowed the body to be taken for autopsy early on 21 June was the situation brought under control. The dispute over Tu Yuangao’s death primarily concerns his family’s doubt that he committed suicide – according to eye-witnesses there was very little blood and it seemed likely that he was already dead before he ‘jumped’ off the top of the building of the Yonglongda Restaurant, where he had worked as a cook. Police however, claim, that the man left a suicide note in his room and that the family had refused to allow an autopsy on the body. The man’s family however claim that he was murdered and the article indirectly suggests a cover-up:

*“After examining the body closely, the family claimed they had discovered indications on the dead man’s neck that he had been strangled. As for the lower body, they suspected that he had been kicked in the genitals, because one side of the scrotum was swollen. They said there was also a quite obvious scar on the chest.*”

*The crowd blocked the restaurant door with chairs to prevent what they feared would be body snatching and forced cremation.”*

The authorities then tried to bribe the family into giving up the body – in return for signing an acknowledgement that Tu had committed suicide; authorities would cover “*35,000 RMB for funeral expenses, with other money to be discussed later*”. The family refused, and instead demanded an honest account of how Tu had died. The article also published the apparent suicide note, written in a ‘hurried handwriting’.

**22 June 2009** Beijing – A draft revision of the Law on Guarding State Secrets has been reviewed by ninth session of the Standing Committee of the 11th NPC. It had previously been discussed and passed in April at an executive meeting of the State Council. The revision added issues including taking technical measures to protect the IT network containing secrets and to insulate computers or other storage devices containing secret information from public internet connections.

**22 June 2009** Taipei - President Ma Ying-jeou reaffirmed that Taiwan's planned trade pact with China is simply an economic matter and will not touch on the independence or the

unification issue or undermine Taiwan's sovereignty. However, as Ma pointed out, Taiwan needs the trade deal in order to remain competitive in the East Asian market whether it undermines sovereignty or not:

*"Taiwan and China should ink an Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement to avoid Taiwan's marginalization in East Asia, as a free trade agreement among China and the member states of ASEAN is set to take effect next January."*

**22 June 2009** Seoul - Chinese Ambassador Cheng Yonghua, US Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, Japanese Ambassador Torinoshi Shigei and Russian Ambassador Gleb Ivashentsov are to meet in South Korea to discuss the situation in North Korea. They will attend a forum sponsored by the ROK's ruling Grand National Party at the National Assembly in central Seoul.

**22 June 2009** Seoul – The ROK Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has announced that Chinese inspectors will monitor illegal fishing by Chinese boats along the inter-Korean maritime border in the Yellow Sea. Three Chinese officials from Beijing's fisheries service will board a 500-ton cutter operated by the West Sea Fisheries Supervision Office, for five days and will cruise waters near Baeknyeong, Yonpyong and Daecheong islands. The islands, located just south of the Northern Limit Line (NLL) that acts as the de facto sea border between the two Koreas, has become a "popular" fishing ground for Chinese ships since both South and North Korean ships are restricted from operating in the area. Chinese fishing boats have been cited for illegally fishing in the area since 2003. Those detected for illegal fishing by either South or North Korean authorities have often fled over the NLL to escape and avoid penalties. A ROK official said *"Recent tensions between the two Koreas have caused many Chinese boats to leave, but there are still quite a few operating in the region."* ROK claims the area as its exclusive economic zone. At the same time, South Korean fisheries officials will board a Chinese maritime patrol vessel for a tour of waters off the Yangtze River. The region is currently designated as a joint fishing area.

**22 June 2009** Beijing – China's biggest private shipbuilder Jiangsu Rongsheng Heavy Industries Co. has won an order to build four vessels worth \$484 million for Oman Shipping Co. The four vessels will be delivered by the end of 2011 or beginning of 2012. During the first five months, new orders placed with the 1,791 major shipbuilders in China decreased by 96 per cent year-on-year to 1.18 million dead weight tons (DWT), among which 190,000 DWT were placed in May, according to statistics from the MIIT.

**22 June 2009** Beijing - The draft of a new law intended to standardize management of diplomats in foreign countries and international organizations has been submitted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the ninth session of the Standing Committee of the 11th NPC. The draft only applies to overseas employees with diplomatic rank, not translators, messengers, chefs, drivers and other non-commissioned staff. Diplomats intending to marry will have to have their prospective spouses vetted, and that divorces must be promptly reported. Similarly, if a diplomatic spouse acquires a foreign nationality or permanent residence permit, the diplomat will be called back before the overseas tenure ends. China has about 5,000 diplomats serving in more than 250 embassies, consulates general and other overseas organizations who were sent by 32 domestic agencies of the central government. The draft law will be the first of its kind written to regulate Chinese government agents working in the 171 countries that China has diplomatic ties with.

**22 June 2009** Beijing - Jia Qinglin, chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, met Mircea Geoana, the visiting president of Romania's senate, and called on both sides to take cooperation to a higher level.

**22 June 2009** Ottawa - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met his Canadian counterpart Lawrence Cannon; the two agreed that China and Canada would boost bilateral ties. Yang arrived in

Ottawa at the invitation of Cannon for a two-day official visit.

**23 June 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry Spokesman Qin Gang reiterated China's stand on the DPRK: "*adherence to negotiation, dialogue and the six-party talks is the best way to realize the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.*" Responding to the issue of inspecting a DPRK ship suspected of carrying goods banned by UN resolution, Qin only referred to carrying out inspections according to UN resolutions and international and domestic laws. Qin Gang reiterated that China would comply with Resolution 1874. However, "*we call on the relevant parties to refrain from taking action that may further aggravate the tense situation.*" He further argued that accusations should have "*sufficient evidence to go by*". Qin denied knowing any details nor direction of the ship.

**23 June 2009** Qin Gang reiterated China's stance on Iran – saying China respected "*the choice of the Iranian people*": "*China hopes solidarity and stability in Iran could be maintained.*" Warning against outside intervention, Qin further stated: "*The election results should be decided by the Iranian people, and the disputes and problems arising from the election should be decided by the Iran itself.*"

**23 June 2009** Beijing - Ma Xiaotian, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the PLA met Under-Secretary of Defence for Policy Michele Flournoy, (who is in charge of the formulation of US national security and defence policy) for the 10th round of Sino-US defence consultations. Flournoy led an 11-member delegation, including officials from the Defense Department, the State Department, the Pacific Command and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Among the Chinese participants were officers from the army, navy and air force as well as some military scholars. Earlier, the Chinese Defence Ministry had said the two sides would cover bilateral military relations, Taiwan, and international and regional security issues; while Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang made clear that Korea would also be on the agenda. Flournoy will also meet Chinese Defence Minister Liang Guanglie before leaving for Seoul.

According to a *Beijing Global Times Online* report in English, the latest Sino-US military exchange is "*still clouded with mistrust, and is not commensurate with the importance of this bilateral relation*". It considers "past mishaps" such as the 1999 NATO bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, and the 2001 collision of a US reconnaissance aircraft with a Chinese jet to have "*nearly sidetracked diplomatic relations*". On rising naval tension between the two nations the report considers the "*series of standoffs between Chinese and US naval ships*" as being evidence of improved military dialogue being required. It admits that US fears over "*Divergent security concerns and scepticism over China's military build-up remain the biggest obstacles to advancing military relations.*" It accuses "*Hawks in the US*", of being "*driven by a 'China fear' or their own self-interest*", and that they aren't likely to give up "*the idea of containing China*". The article argues that this has driven the US to be overly "aggressive" towards China in its own neighbourhood. Nevertheless, it concludes with the necessity of improving military ties "*to promote the smooth transition of the Asia-Pacific security system*".

According to an English article by *Renmin Ribao*, the "*US military must change its attitude towards China*". It reiterates at length that the US policy of containment is still in place, because "*part of the US military*" has "*always regarded China as a potential enemy*". In connection with this lack of trust, the matter of US restrictions on the export of Chinese high-tech products to the US is raised. It asserts that the "*US' old alliance system in Asia-Pacific region*" is failing due to these allies now profiting from China's economic strength. China desires "*a transformation in the antagonistic attitude of the US military*" in order to allow it to build a "*new security pattern*" in the Asia-Pacific region.

Hong Kong newspaper *Wen Wei Po* website commented that the US-China defence consultation made it likely that Taiwan would cease to be a divisive issue:

*“the possibility of the Taiwan question having a great impact on China-US relations is diminishing... The Taiwan question is becoming more controllable and the United States is expected to exercise considerable restraint on arms sales to Taiwan for some time to come.”*

However, should the US approve further arms sales to Taiwan, *“it will still interfere with China-US relations in significant ways.”*

**23 June 2009** Beijing - Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao is to attend an enlarged foreign ministerial meeting of the G8 on June 26-27 in Trieste, Italy, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang announced. Qin said the meeting will focus on issues of Afghanistan and the regional affairs.

**23 June 2009** Beijing - State Councillor Dai Bingguo called on Arab officials attending the sixth meeting of the Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum to expand relations between China and the Arab states. Abdel Moneim Mabrouk, Sudanese ambassador to the League of Arab States and co-chairman of the forum, said Arab countries valued relations with China, and the forum had become a platform for cooperation. The forum was established in 2004.

Assistant Foreign Minister Zhai Jun said that senior officials from China and 22 Arab nations met for their sixth meeting as part of the Sino-Arab Cooperation Forum. The chairman of Arab delegations, Sudanese Ambassador to the Arab League Abdel-Moneim Mabrouk, said that the Forum had made sound progress in the last year.

**23 June 2009** Beijing - Vice Premier Li Keqiang has left China for official visits to Turkmenistan, Finland and Uzbekistan. His entourage includes You Quan, Deputy Secretary-General of the State Council, Zhang Guobao, Vice Minister of the National Development and Reform Commission, Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei, Vice Minister of Finance Liao Xiaojun, Deputy Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng and Ning Jizhe, Vice Director of the Research Office of the State Council.

**23 June 2009** Beijing - Wu Bangguo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC, met Mircea Geoana, the visiting president of Romania's senate. The two proposed expanding cooperation between Romania and China. Wang Gang, vice-chairman of the National Committee of the CPPCC, also met Geoana. President Hu Jintao visited Romania in 2004.

**23 June 2009** Amman - He Guoqiang, China's anti-graft chief, in a meeting with Jordan's Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Suheir Al-Ali, called Jordan an important partner in the Middle East: *“China attaches great importance to ties with Jordan and is satisfied with the continued growth of bilateral trade cooperation.”* Suheir Al-Ali appreciated *‘China's long-term support to Jordan’*.

**23 June 2009** Tianjin - Airbus delivered its first China-assembled A320 jet in north China's port city of Tianjin, the base of the manufacturer's only final assembly line outside Europe. The plane was delivered to Beijing-based Dragon Aviation Leasing, which will lease it to Sichuan Airlines for operation.

**23 June 2009** Pyongyang – A DPRK General Civil Aviation Administration delegation led by Director Kang Ki Sop, left Pyongyang to visit China.

**23 June 2009** Pyongyang - A meeting between officials of the Central Committee, the Union of Agricultural Workers of Korea and members of the delegation of the Agricultural and Forestry Workers Union of China was held on the Migok Coop Farm in Sariwon City, North Hwanghae Province. Present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman Kil Sang Bong and other officials of the UAWK Central Committee and officials of the Migok Coop Farm Committee of the UAWK and members of the Chinese delegation headed by Sheng Mingfu, president of

the National Committee of the Union.

**23 June 2009** Seoul – China, Japan, South Korea and the US agreed to a 'stern but diplomatic' response. In a rare forum with her Chinese, Russian, and Japanese counterparts at the National Assembly, US Ambassador Kathleen Stephens said Washington will cope with the crisis in close consultation with its allies.

*"We've begun to outline a future plan and extensive measures with our allies that we will take should North Korea refuse to adjust course and continue with the announced plan for provocative behaviour, including future missile or nuclear tests."*

Chinese Ambassador Cheng Yonghua said his country supports the UN Security Council's tough resolution against North Korea for its second nuclear test on May 25, but pointed out that sanctions against Pyongyang are not an ultimate goal. Cheng warned: *"We should prevent the situation from escalating to a point where it could get out of control. We should break through the currently tense situation through peaceful means."*

Russian Ambassador Gleb Ivashentsov warned against other countries using the DPRK as a casus belli to enlarge their own military capabilities. The North's recent moves should not be used by others as *"a pretext for a forceful enlargement of all military contention."* Japanese Ambassador Torinoshi Shigei immediately denied this accusation, stating that Japan had: *"no policy options to possess nuclear capability."* According to South Korean news agency *Yonhap*, China remains reluctant to join a possible five-party talks that even Russia's Foreign Ministry supports.

**23 June 2009** Ottawa - Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper welcomed Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi to Canada, calling on Yang to co-operate with Canada to fight creeping protectionism. The Chinese foreign minister is on a two-day official visit at the invitation of his Canadian counterpart Lawrence Cannon. He will leave for New York to attend the June 24-26 UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development.

**23 June 2009** Shishou – According to an article in *Guangzhou Nanfang Dushi Bao Online*, 2000 residents again protested on 22 June about the suspicious death of a cook. The article also recounts a previous death at the same building – Tian Wenbin alleges that in 2002 his daughter Tian Feng was found dead having apparently committed suicide. Tian alleged that his daughter had been attacked:

*"At the time she was wearing only a brassiere and bikini underwear. The bra was all torn from being pulled, and the bikini had also been pulled until it ripped. My daughter's fingers were scratched from being clawed at, and she had wounds all over her body."*

But that the case was covered-up by the police authorities who after 14 days investigation threatened to cremate the body without compensation, if the family did not sign agreeing to it.

**23 June 2009** Ashgabat - Visiting Vice-Premier Li Keqiang praised ties with Turkmenistan after his arrival for a 3-day visit. Li will hold talks with President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov. Turkmenistan is the first leg of Li's three-nation tour that will also take him to Finland and Uzbekistan.

**23 June 2009** Tokyo Fuji Television in Japanese, claimed that the DPRK's succession had been reported in China. Fuji Television newscaster Yuko Ando introduced an article from PRC -owned newspaper *Huanqiu Shibao*, which carried a report on Kim Jong Un as the successor, attributing *"a certain country's ambassador to Pyongyang."* Ando said it is extremely rare for a paper published by the Chinese leadership to report on the DPRK's

succession issue and Kim Jong Il's deteriorating health. She says it is appropriate to think that China itself is confirming the information of Kim Jong Un as the successor. A 4.5 minute film showed DPRK border residents, including soldiers and farmers acknowledging Kim Jung Un as the successor of Kim Jong Il. The reporter then talked to a DPRK soldier working on a farm on the DPRK side of the barbed wire fence.

[Reporter] *Did you know Kim Jong Un is the successor?*

[Soldier] *Of course.*

[Reporter] *Are you sure?*

[Soldier] *Yes.*

The programme then showed another DPRK farmer, who says he has learned Kim Jong Un is the successor from the radio and newspaper. A female employee working at a North Korean restaurant in Dandong, China, says everybody knows that Kim Jong Un is the successor.

**23 June 2009** Chinese International affairs daily *Huanqiu Shibao* suggested that the United States used economic interests as bait for the transfer of 13 "East Turkestan" prisoners to Palau. It also noted the visit of US nuclear aircraft carrier "George Washington" to Palau on 21 June.

**24 June 2009** Beijing – The Defence Ministry announced that China and the United States will conclude their 10th annual round of defence consultations. The two sides have agreed to hold special consultations in Beijing in late July to address the issue of military security at sea. According to Ma Xiaotian, Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the PLA,

*"China wants to develop its military relations with the United States... We hope the United States will take substantial measures to remove the barriers that hinder our military relations."*

Ma once again repeated China's claim that US arms sales to Taiwan were the biggest factor undermining bilateral military ties. According to a Chinese Defence Ministry statement, China repeated its opposition to US planes and ships entering China's "exclusive economic zone". The US considers this area to be part of international waters. Ma also acknowledged the DPRK nuclear issue as a "*serious concern*" for China.

**24 June 2009** Beijing - Vice Foreign Minister Wang Guangya and Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Mitoji Yabunaka co-chaired the 10<sup>th</sup> China-Japan Strategic Dialogue at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. The last round of the China-Japan Strategic Dialogue was held on January 9 in Tokyo.

Mitoji Yabunaka told State Councillor Dai Bingguo, that Japan would adhere to its peaceful constitution and refrain from becoming a major military power. He also reiterated that Japan would stick to its three principles of not acquiring nuclear weapons, not obtaining offensive weapons and not resorting to threats of the use of force.

**24 June 2009** Beijing - Turkish President Abdullah Gul has arrived for his 6-day state visit to China.

**24 June 2009** Kabar – Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev has appointed Jeenbek Kulubayev as the new Kyrgyz ambassador to China; leaving his old post as Kyrgyz ambassador to Malaysia.

**24 June 2009** Beijing - China and 22 Arab nations have agreed to establish a cooperative mechanism on energy resources, according to a document signed at the sixth senior officials' meeting of the China-Arab Cooperation Forum. The participants agreed to hold the fourth ministerial conference of the Forum in China in the second quarter of 2010 and the 7th senior



officials' meeting before the ministerial conference.

**24 June 2009** Guilin - Observing Chinese officers announced that the Chinese-Singaporean joint training exercise "Cooperation 2009" had come to an end. It began at a PLA training base in Guilin, in the southwest Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on 16 June. On the final drill, 61 members from each side handled suspected "bombs" left by "international terrorists" in a simulated attack using radioactive contaminants, biological and chemical weapons on a world expo. Senior Colonel Luo Mingcan, Chinese chief director of the exercise, told *Xinhua* "*the Singaporean soldiers' professionalism and capabilities impressed me a lot.*" Major General Jia Xiaoning, deputy director of Defence Ministry's foreign affairs office, praised the drill: "*Sharing radioactive, biological and chemical defence practices could greatly improve the military's ability to deal with more unconventional security threats.*" Major-General Qi Jianguo, assistant to the PLA Chief of General Staff, said the exercise would enhance mutual trust between the two armed forces and promote bilateral military relations. Chief of Staff of the SAF Joint Chief Brigadier-General Chan Chun Sing said that he hoped the SAF would have more opportunities for defence operations with the PLA. Singaporean chief director of the exercise Col. Ng Soon Watt praised the PLA soldiers' performance.

**24 June 2009** Beijing - Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva arrived on his first official visit to China since he took office in December 2008. Premier Wen Jiabao held talks with him at the Great Hall of the People. Lai Ming, vice chairman of the Jiusan Society Central Committee; Chen Deming, minister of commerce; Wang Guangya, vice foreign minister; and Guan Mu, Chinese ambassador to Thailand, attended the welcome ceremony. The two pledged further co-operation within ASEAN and Vejjajiva hoped for further co-operation from China for infrastructure projects in Thailand.

**24 June 2009** Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau announced that Liu Xiaobo has been arrested for alleged agitation activities aimed at subversion of government. Liu has apparently confessed to the charge in preliminary police investigation.

**24 June 2009** Beijing - Fan Liqing, spokesperson of the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office announced that it would welcome Taiwan's opposition Democratic Progressive Party to take part in the Cross-Straits Economic, Trade and Culture Forum. The KMT, the island's ruling party, will send a delegation headed by chairman Wu Poh-hsiung to the forum on July 11 and 12 in Changsha, capital of Hunan Province.

**24 June 2009** Moscow - Seoul's top nuclear envoy Wi So'ng-rak, after meeting Russian counterpart Alexei Borodavkin, announced that South Korea and Russia had: "*reached a common view to support any format (of consultations), including the five-party one for North Korea's return to the six-way talks (on its nuclear programme).*" However, Seoul acknowledged that China remained "cautious" but had been "*informed of a rough concept of a five-way meeting*". AROK Foreign Ministry official stated, requesting anonymity: "*If related countries present a more concrete plan, including agenda items, China is expected to take a clearer stance on the issue.*"

**24 June 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met, at the 1 August Building, US Undersecretary of Defence Michele Flournoy. Liang called for further co-operation between the militaries: "*The two sides should view and press forward the relations between the two militaries and between the two countries from a strategic height and a long-term viewpoint.*" According to *Xinhua*, Flournoy claimed that the United States is looking forward to maintaining strategic dialogue between US and Chinese defence departments. "*The United States does not regard China as a rival but rather an important cooperation partner.*" According to a *Xinhua* analysis article, Ma Xiaotian, deputy chief of general staff of the PLA and head of the Chinese delegation, considered the consultation to have been "frank, pragmatic and constructive". Ma revealed that senior officials of the two militaries will exchange visits within the year. The US side will invite Xu Caihou, vice chairman of the

Central Military Commission, to visit the United States, and the Chinese side will invite US Defence Secretary Gates to visit China.

**24 June 2009** Ashgabat - Li Keqiang, vice premier of the State Council, met President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov and discussed the proposed Turkmenistan-China natural gas pipeline, which would be the second East-West gas transmission pipeline. On security Li thanked Berdimukhamedov for Turkmenistan's support on "*fighting 'East Turkestan'*" and said that China respected Turkmenistan's "*permanent neutrality*". The two leaders attended the signing ceremony for seven projects of energy, economic and financial cooperation, including the China-Turkmenistan natural gas cooperation project, after the talks. Li later visited the headquarters of PetroChina Turkmenistan Amu Darya Corporation, and the Chinese personnel working on the Turkmenistan – China natural gas cooperation project. The cooperative project to exploit natural gas on the right bank of the Amu Darya River is the starting point and main gas source of the China-Turkmenistan natural gas pipeline. After the completion of this project, natural gas produced here will be transported to China via Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, eventually reaching Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong and a dozen or so other provinces, cities and regions via the second West-East pipeline.

**24 June 2009** New York - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi had a meeting with South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, on the sidelines of the UN High-Level Conference on World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development.

**24 June 2009** Beijing - Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Mitoji Yabunaka told reporters after his talks with Chinese counterpart Wang Guangya that they are both resolutely opposed to a nuclear North Korea: "*Basically, there was a complete agreement that we could definitely not allow possession of nuclear arms by North Korea.*" Yabunaka said he and Wang agreed to seek a solution to the nuclear problem through the six-party talks, but also indicated they discussed possible new approaches within the framework.

**25 June 2009** Beijing – According to China Telecom, an undersea telecommunications cable linking Xiamen, a mainland coastal city and Kinmen island, an outlying island of Taiwan, could be put into operation as early as the end of this year.

**25 June 2009** Beijing – Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang announced that China will work with concerned parties to push for an early return to dialogue on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue. However, when asked about China's support to the DPRK, Qin made clear that measures "*should not affect the life of the common people of DPRK and its regular trade*".

Seoul - South Korea's chief nuclear envoy Wi So'ng-rak announced that China holds the key to an envisioned meeting between North Korea's five dialogue partners: "*As China is the chair country of the six-party talks, its position is important*". Wi made clear that discussions are underway with China and that patience was required.

**25 June 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang expressed 'strong dissatisfaction' with Indonesia for detaining Chinese fishermen in the South China Sea and demanded the immediate release of the men and their boats.

*"Eight fishing boats from south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region were detained by Indonesia on June 20 while in China's traditional fishing grounds off the Nansha islands in the South China Sea."*

The Chinese newspaper *Global Times* quoted sources as saying that 75 Chinese fishermen had been detained. Nevertheless, Qin described Indonesia as "*strategic partners*". Indonesian Foreign Minister Hasan Wirayuda is scheduled to pay an official visit to China from July 1 to 2 at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Yang Jiechi.

**25 June 2009** According to *Radio Australia*, the Australian government has joined calls for the release of Liu Xiaobo, a prominent Chinese dissident arrested by authorities. Defence Minister Senator John Faulkner said the Australian government will continue to speak frankly about human rights in high-level meetings with Chinese authorities: "*The government and the Department of Foreign Affairs continue to raise concerns about human rights issues with the representatives in Canberra and Beijing.*"

**25 June 2009** Beijing - The Information Office of the Defence Ministry announced that the military forces of China and Mongolia are to launch a joint peacekeeping exercise from 26 June – 4 July in the Beijing area. Code-named "*Peacekeeping Mission-2009*", the exercise will be the first joint peacekeeping exercise that China has held with another country, as well as the first joint military training between China and Mongolia.

**25 June 2009** Beijing - Ni Jian, assistant president the All-China Youth Federation, is leading a 100-member Chinese young people on a 10-day visit to Britain at the invitation of the British Council. The visit is part of a youth exchange mechanism agreed by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in January 2008.

**25 June 2009** Wuhan – The government of Shishou city, Hubei Province, announced that the autopsy of chef Tu Yuangao, whose death sparked three days of civil unrest last week in central China, died after falling from a high building, as local police had maintained all along. His family originally rejected the claim, which led to the protests.

**25 June 2009** Taipei - According to Minister of Economic Affairs Yiin Chii-ming, The two sides of the Taiwan Strait may start talks in October on the signing an economic cooperation framework agreement (ECFA). Fan Liqing, spokeswoman for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, said earlier in the day that Taiwan and China are likely to start negotiations on the issue in the second half of this year.

**25 June 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao held talks with Turkish President Abdullah Gul at the Great Hall of the People. Hu expressed hopes that China and Turkey could strengthen cooperation to crack down on the "three forces" [terrorism, separatism, and extremism] and cross-border organized crimes. Hu also supported Turkey's desire to play a bigger role in international and regional affairs; and offered co-operation over the Middle East and piracy off the Gulf of Aden. Gul agreed to cooperate in fighting terrorism and called for greater Chinese investment in Turkey's energy sector. He said Turkey would invest 120bn US dollars in energy projects in the next 10 years, such as thermal power, hydropower, oil exploration, oil refining and transportation, and he hoped that Chinese enterprises could invest in these projects. After the talks, the heads of state witnessed the signing of documents on Sino-Turkish bilateral cooperation. Prior to the talks, President Hu Jintao hosted a welcoming ceremony for President Gul. Among those who attended were Zhou Tienong, vice-chairman of the NPC Standing Committee; State Councillor Dai Bingguo; Lin Wenyi, vice-chairperson of the CPPCC National Committee; Wang Qinmin, executive vice-president of the Zhi Gong Dang Central Committee; Commerce Minister Chen Deming; Vice Foreign Minister Wang Guangya; and Chinese Ambassador to Turkey Gong Xiaosheng.

**25 June 2009** Beijing – German Chancellor Merkel had a phone conversation with Premier Wen Jiabao, in which according to *Xinhua*, they discussed enhancing collaboration in developing new and renewable energy and maximizing energy efficiency. They also discussed tackling climate change.

**25 June 2009** New York - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi met Henry Kissinger, the former US Secretary of State and exchanged views on Sino-US relations.

**25 June 2009** Helsinki - Vice Premier Li Keqiang arrived in Finland for a three-day official

visit. Li Keqiang unveiled broad measures to work together with Finland to fight the global financial crisis after meeting with Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen. The main result for Finland, is that China “*would also send a large group of entrepreneurs to Finland within two weeks to make major purchases of Finnish goods*”. The two governments also planned to hold talks in August on reducing double-taxing to facilitate bilateral trade and investment activities.

**25 June 2009** Jerusalem - China's Mideast envoy Wu Sike held talks in Jerusalem with Israeli President Shimon Peres. Wu expressed appreciation for Peres' active and important role in promoting Sino-Israeli ties and advancing the Middle East peace process, and voiced hope that as China's special emissary he could help bring forth an early resumption of Mideast peace talks. According to Wu, China supported the “*two-state principle*” as the basis of returning to negotiations and hoped: “*for the renewal of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and the realization of comprehensive Mideast peace.*” Meanwhile, according to *Xinhua*, Peres stressed that as China is an important balancing power in the world, Israel hopes China will continue to play a significant role in the Middle East peace process. Wu also met Israeli Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman and opposition leader Tzipi Livni.

**25 June 2009** New York - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi announced that he had discussed cooperation with Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Dipu Moni on the sidelines of the high-level UN conference on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development.

**25 June 2009** Beijing – The Defence Ministry opened its first peacekeeping training centre in suburban Beijing. The 16,000-square-metre facility, which cost 200 million yuan (29 million US dollars), would also serve as a venue for international exchanges in peacekeeping, including international conferences and training peacekeepers for other countries, the ministry said. With 20 classrooms including simulation rooms for shooting and driving, the centre offers professional courses on peacekeeping missions as well as English. It also offers training facilities for peacekeeping skills, including simulated UN peacekeeping camps and de-mining training grounds, as well as swimming and driving venues. Since 1990, the PLA has dispatched more than 12,000 peacekeepers on 18 UN missions abroad. These soldiers were involved in road building, material transportation, medical treatment and de-mining. Currently, 1,949 Chinese peacekeepers are on missions in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

**25 June 2009** Hong Kong – According to Hong Kong newspaper *Apple Daily* website, Chinese authorities have put over 100 dissidents under house arrest. They include Beijing author Yu Jie, lawyers Li Heping and Jiang Tianyong, and Zhejiang writer Wen Kejian, who are subject to stricter and longer house arrests and surveillance than before. Dissident writer Jiang Qisheng was also put under strict surveillance by the police in his home town Jiangsu. Guizhou dissident Chen Xi was taken away by the police last month and his whereabouts are not known. Also, the Central Discipline Inspection Commission criticized three influential intellectuals by name last month. They were Sha Yexin, Xu Youyu and Liu Junning. They were accused of “waging an attack against the party” by signing the Charter 08 and warned that they would be punished if they did not change their stance.

**25 June 2009** Ulan Bator - He Guoqiang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee, met Ulambayar Barsbold, secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party to “*maintain inter-party high-level visits and enhance their mutual trust.*”

**26 June 2009** Beijing - President Hu Jintao met Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva at the Great Hall of the People.

**26 June 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie in a meeting with visiting Papua New Guinea Chief of Defence Force Peter Ilau, agreed to expand military cooperation. The

development of bilateral military ties had achieved remarkable progress since the two armed forces started exchanges in 1999, said Ilau, adding that Papua New Guinea was ready to work with China to push forward the development of military ties in a sound, stable and sustained way. Before the meeting with Liang, Ilau had in-depth talks with Chen Bingde, chief of the General Staff of the PLA.

**26 June 2009** Beijing - Defence Minister Liang Guanglie met Rao Qamar Suleman, Chief of Staff of the Pakistan Air Force. Liang praised the "*China-Pakistan Strategic Cooperative Partnership*" and hoped for increased co-operation: "*China is ready to work with Pakistan to enhance military exchanges and cooperation*".

**26 June 2009** According to *Global Times* website, Chinese experts have argued that the government's rule that all personal computers shipped to the country be installed with the filtering software Green Dam from July 1, does not violate WTO regulations, as claimed by US officials. The US embassy in Beijing confirmed that US Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke and US Trade Representative Ron Kirk sent a joint letter to their counterparts in the MIIT and Ministry of Commerce urging China to revoke the rule. Richard Buangan, Deputy Information Officer of the US embassy in Beijing, told the *Global Times* via e-mail: "*The Green Dam mandate has raised international concern. The US government shares the concerns raised by Chinese citizens and international technology companies.*" The US is complaining that forcing manufacturers to pre-install or supply the software would violate China's free trade obligations under WTO rules. Shen Dayong, an expert on the WTO at Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade, told the *Global Times* that China would not encounter any trouble if the US were to file a complaint to the WTO. Shen stressed that the software aims at protecting Chinese children from pornography and China is not violating its WTO commitments because "there are general exceptions to the WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services".

**26 June 2009** Beijing – Li Xianhui, an official in charge of anti-drug operations with the Ministry of Public Security, revealed that China is seeing an increasing number of drug crimes related to the Golden Crescent:

*"China saw a limited number of drug crimes related to the Golden Crescent, which overlaps Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan, in the 13 years from 1991 to 2004. But the situation has changed a lot now. The Golden Crescent is not just a potential threat to our country like a few years ago. It has done real damage."*

China, with more than 1.12 million registered addicts, busted 244 drug crimes related to the Golden Crescent last year. Those cases involved 281 suspects and 386 kilograms of heroin. Most of the Golden Crescent heroin was smuggled into Beijing, Shanghai, Tianjin, Guangzhou and Shenzhen by air, Li said.

Police in Guangxi torched 20 cauldrons holding 730 kg of narcotics seized in the past two years at the cultural centre plaza in Dongxing City. Guangxi is considered to be China's drug control frontier because it is adjacent to the Golden Triangle. Liang Shengli, director of the Regional Public Security Department, said police in Guangxi have enhanced cooperation with three Vietnamese areas on Sino-Vietnamese border - Tinh Quang Ninh, Lang Son and Cao Bang - since 2001. Other Chinese border regions - Yunnan Province in southwest China, Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region in north China and Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in northwest China - have reported progress in blocking drug trafficking at the border. Yunnan had dealt with 18,727 drug-related crimes in the 17 months ending May, seizing 9,844 kg of narcotics and detaining 22,040 suspects. Inner Mongolia uncovered 5,000 drug-related crimes in the 16 months ending April, detaining 6,000 suspects and confiscating 38.3 kg of heroin and 5,219 kg of other drugs including ecstasy. Xinjiang smashed 13 cases involving drugs smuggled into China from the Golden Crescent at the junction of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran in the past four years, and intercepted 19.2 kg of heroin and detained 27 foreign nationals suspected of illegal drug trafficking.

**26 June 2009** Hanoi - Vietnamese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Le Dung condemned China's sea patrol for seizing three Vietnamese ships and arresting 37 fishermen, who were lawfully fishing in Vietnamese territorial waters off the Paracel archipelago on 21 June. Dung said the arrest infringed Vietnam's sovereignty and right to sovereignty in the East Sea. According to Dung, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry had sent a diplomatic note to the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi on 22 June to request the release of the fishermen and their ships. On 25 June, two of the three ships along with 25 fishermen were returned to Vietnam.

**26 June 2009** Beijing - NPC Standing Committee Chairman Wu Bangguo and State Council Premier Wen Jiabao separately met Turkish President Abdullah Gul.

**26 June 2009** Dushanbe - The deputy governor of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, Nurlan Adbumatin, the president of the Tajik-Chinese mining company Zan Zhoon, and the Tajik President Emomali Rahmon visited Altyn-Topkan village in the town of Qayroqqum, to inaugurate an open joint-stock Tajik-Chinese mining company and launch the first unit of a mining plant.

**26 June 2009** On CCTV-4's "Today's Focus" 30-minute programme on current issues, CASS Russian expert Jiang Yi and military expert Song Xiaojun discussed the US military's continued use of Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan. Jiang Yi claimed that the base is "*the only US base outside Pakistan in the region*" and that it will become a "*transit centre for materiel*". Song claimed that the US will station "*early warning aircraft*" there to conduct surveillance on members of the SCO, including western China and Iran. Song further claimed that the base will support the deployment of "*large US forces to oversee the Afghanistan election in August*". On the mild Russian response so far to the US retention of the air base, Song speculates that Medvedev plans to trade off accepting US presence in Kyrgyzstan in return for: "*reduction of ballistic missiles, US deployment of anti-ballistic systems in Eastern Europe, and Georgian issues*".

**26 June 2009** Helsinki - Vice Premier Li Keqiang and Finnish President Tarja Halonen met in the Finnish Presidential Office. Addressing EU-China relations, Li considered Finland a friendly interlocutor:

*"The Chinese government has always been committed to developing a comprehensive strategic partnership with the EU, and it regards the development of China-EU relationship a main point of strategic importance in China's foreign policy. We hope Finland will continue to play an active role in enhancing mutual trust between China and EU and pushing for closer China-EU cooperation."*

The Finnish president extended an invitation through Li to her Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao to visit Finland when convenient.

**26 June 2009** Ulan Bator - He Guoqiang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee, met Mongolian President Tsakhia Elbegdorj at a welcome rally. Elbegdorj was keen to push the benefits of cooperation in the minerals sector: "*great possibilities of cooperating in mineral resources and infrastructure sectors, especially in processing mining products to produce final products.*" Elbegdorj also pledged to support "*China's initiative to organize a northeastern Asian countries' summit on climate change.*"

He Guoqiang told Mongolian Prime Minister Sanj Bayar that "*China-Mongolia ties have reached an all-time high*". Mongolia was the last leg of He's four-nation visit, which also took him to Egypt, Spain and Jordan.

**26 June 2009** St Petersburg - Rosoboronexport has delivered four destroyers of the Sovremenny type to China. Oleg Azizov, the head of the navy department denied further shipments: "*We have delivered four ships to China. No more shipments are being planned so*

far."

**27 June 2009** At the G8 ministerial meeting in Trieste, Vice Foreign Minister Song Tao expressed China's belief that Afghanistan would achieve stability with the support of the international community and *"the unremitting efforts of the Afghan government and people."* G8 foreign ministers and representatives from 40 countries and organizations attended the two-day meeting on Afghanistan and regional stability.

**27 June 2009** Beijing - A delegation of the CCP led by Yunshan, member of the CCP Central Committee Political Bureau and head of the CCP Central Committee Publicity Department, left for good-will visits to Chile, Brazil, Peru, and Antigua and Barbuda.

**27 June 2009** Tashkent - Vice Premier Li Keqiang met Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov and First Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Azimov to discuss various issues.

**27 June 2009** According to *South China Morning Post* website, a massive fight between Han and Uighur workers at a Hong Kong-owned toy factory in Guangdong has left two workers originally from Xinjiang dead and 16 seriously injured. The trouble at the Shaoguan factory of Early Light International (Holdings), owned by Hong Kong tycoon Francis Choi Chi-ming, began as a minor dispute at about 11pm. But by 2am it had escalated and hundreds of workers were involved. According to *Nanfang.com*, the official website of the Guangdong propaganda department, 118 workers had been injured, 16 seriously. More than 400 police were sent to the factory and the fight was stopped by 4am. The local government sent more than 600 Uighur workers from the factory to temporary accommodation. It said there were more than 10,000 workers in the factory, but did not specify how many were Uighur. Zhou Yongkang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Politburo, and Meng Jianzhu, Minister of Public Security, had ordered Guangdong to investigate the case and punish the guilty parties. Shaoguan's party secretary, Xu Jianhua, had also arrived at the scene to supervise matters. A post on a small bulletin board in Shaoguan said the conflict had been brewing since last month, when the factory recruited many workers from the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. Early Light, founded in Hong Kong in 1972, is one of the city's largest toymakers. Mr Choi was ranked 38th on the Forbes Greater China Rich List in 2007.

**27 June 2009** According to the Taiwanese newspaper *Taipei Times* website, Wang Yi, director of China's Taiwan Affairs Office, left Washington "disappointed" following a meeting with US Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg this week. Wang apparently failed to persuade the US to halt arms sales to Taiwan. Steinberg is said to have responded that China's own military buildup and failure to reduce the large missile force Beijing has aimed at Taiwan, was to blame. The article quotes the Project 2049 Institute: *"Over the next two to three months, senior non-Cabinet officials from Taiwan will come to the United States to discuss arms sales and a broad range of ties."* President Ma Ying-jeou is publicly prioritizing the procurement of US F-16 C/D fighter aircraft. Rupert Hammond-Chambers, head of the US-Taiwan Business Council in Washington, stressed that there would be no significant developments until the Senate confirms Kurt Campbell as the Obama administration's new assistant secretary of state for East Asian affairs. Campbell and his team will assess where they stand with present programmes and develop a recommendation on selling F-16s. Obama is unlikely to make a decision and send it forward for Congressional approval until he returns from a planned trip to China. Washington sources said that Taiwan would likely be offered the helicopters and the F-16s it wants, but that it was unlikely a submarine package would be worked out this year.

**27 June 2009** Beijing - Yan Jiangfeng, former military attache of the Chinese Embassy in North Korea and vice chairman of the China Institute for International Strategic Studies has called the possibility of a conflict emerging within the North Korean military over the succession issue, as "impossible". According to Japanese newspaper *Sankei Shimbun*, Yan said: *"National Defence Commission Vice Chairman O Kuk Ryol is popular and is unifying the military. It is impossible that a discord will emerge in the military under Mr O"*. Yan also

commented on Jang Song Thaek, member of the National Defence Commission and General Secretary Kim Jong Il's brother-in-law. Yan said: *"He does not have any military experience and it is impossible for him to have an influence on the military."*

**27 June 2009** Tashkent - Visiting Vice Premier Li Keqiang called for closer economic ties while meeting Uzbek First Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Azimov. Karimov praised relations with China: *"Your visit is another outstanding confirmation of commonality of our countries' aspiration to the expansion of mutual cooperation. We highly rate developing Uzbek-Chinese relations."*

**27 June 2009** Trieste - Song Tao, vice minister of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, spoke out for peace and stability in Afghanistan at the G8 enlarged foreign ministerial conference on Afghan and regional affairs. During the conference, Song Tao also separately met Afghan Minister of Foreign Affairs Rangin Dadfar Spanta, and Pakistani Minister of Foreign Affairs Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

**28 June 2009** Beijing - the Defence Ministry announced the start of "Peacekeeping Mission-2009" a joint Chinese-Mongolian peace-keeping exercise. A total of 91 military officers from the two countries participated in the training, with China sending 46. The military forces will form a peacekeeping company during the exercise. According to the Montsame news agency, the Mongolian military contingent comprised 45 troops and was headed by Col H Davaatseren.

**28 June 2009** According to Nepalese newspaper *The Himalayan Times*, Chinese Ambassador to Nepal Kyu Gohong disbursed funds of 2 million rupees to Sri Taklung Lower Secondary School in Kunjo VDC, in the Nepali border district. Nepali Congress vice-president Khagendra Tulachan discussed points of contention with the ambassador: *"We also informed the Chinese envoy about the rampant illegal entry in Nepal from Tibet and the restriction posed on Nepali people on entering Tibet."*

**28 June 2009** Tashkent - Vice-Premier Li Keqiang met Uzbek President Islam Karimov and praised relations with Uzbekistan. Karimov mentioned: *"I am satisfied with the new cooperation documents signed during your visit here."* On Uzbek Television First Channel, Karimov stated: *"The Uzbek side stressed the firmness of our strong stance on supporting the fight against three evils - separatism, extremism and terrorism."*

**28 June 2009** Guangzhou – 60 workers still remain in hospital after the fight in the toy factory. A former worker at the factory has been arrested for posting a web rumour which lead to the ethnic clash: *"Six Xinjiang boys raped two innocent girls at the Xuri Toy Factory"*. Police found that the former worker surnamed Zhu faked the information to express his discontent as Zhu failed to get re-employed there. Police found no rape cases at the factory.

**28 June 2009** The Hong Kong Information Centre for Human Rights and Democracy has released a report listing recent major public disturbances on the mainland:

*15 June - Nankang City, Jiangxi - Dissatisfaction with government's new taxation system - 20,000 people - Four police cars smashed up*

*20 June - Shishou City, Hubei - Prevent Armed Police from recovering a dead body - 50,000 people - Clash between 50,000 city residents and 5,000 Armed Police*

*24 June - Qiqiqihar, Heilongjiang -Retirement pensions led to attack on government buildings - 3,000 people - Bloody clash with 1,000 Armed Police and Public Security personnel*

*25 June - Zhongshan town, Guangdong -Attack on town government building over requisitioning of land - 3,000 people - Clash with as many as 1,000 Public Security*



*riot police*

*25 June - Shaoguan City, Guangdong - Clash between Han and Uygur workers - 5,000 people - Riot between 500 workers from Xinjiang and 5,000 Han Chinese people.*

**29 June 2009** According to a report by Japanese weekly magazine *AERA*, the DPRK's defence minister Kim Yong Chun has defected.

*"The minister of defence departed from Pyongyang in a group of eight inclusive of his wife, arrived at Beijing Airport, and flew to Europe. The group's destination was Britain. The purpose was for treatment of liver and kidney problems, but he himself has no plans to return to Pyongyang. Supposedly, his three children have already been relocated to Beijing."*

The article justifies its claim that the information was made available by a North Korean source in Beijing. There is no clear evidence that Kim has defected; nevertheless he notes: *"there is no mistaking that the minister of defence had appeared at the Beijing Airport on 13 June."* His visit was acknowledged by a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman at a press conference. Minister of Defence Kim Yong Chun turned 73 in 2009. He is a member of the elite class who spent his childhood days at Mankyo'ngtae Revolutionary Institute attended by orphans of heroes of the motherland who died in combat during the Korean War. When he assumed duties as chief of staff of the Korean People's Army in 1994 he was appointed as a general of the army, under a system wherein only General Secretary Kim carries the title of general of the armies. Supposedly, he was awarded the promotion in recognition of his achievements in resolving an anti-establishment uprising in the military ranks. The article suggests that the defence minister has been closely associated with eldest son Jong-nam for some time and supposedly was assuming a wait-and-see stance after Jong-un surfaced in connection with the successor issue. The possibility exists that he has been branded as an anti-Jong-un element and faces the possibility of dismissal.

**29 June 2009** Beijing - Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi told his Tunisian counterpart Abdelwahab Abdallah that: *"China is ready to work with Tunisia to cement the traditional friendship and promote mutual beneficial cooperation."* The two foreign ministers signed an economic and technical cooperation pact on behalf of the two governments after their talks.

**29 June 2009** Beijing - Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department of the CCP Central Committee met Zimbabwe's Defence Minister Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa who is heading the Zimbabwe ruling party's delegation. Senior officials of the CCP and the Zimbabwe Africa National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) met and pledged cooperation over *"mining, agriculture and infrastructure construction"*.

**29 June 2009** Seoul – According to a ROK government source, the DPRK has been using overland routes through China and Russia to export weapons. The South Korean newspaper *Choson Ilbo* website reports:

*"South Korean and US intelligence agencies believe the North exported some US\$800 million worth of weapons including missiles, submarines, multi-launch rockets and field artillery to Iran, Syria and Burma between 2000 and last year."*

In addition, the DPRK no longer uses its own cargo ships for exports, following harsher enforcement of export-controls; instead:

*"To circumvent an entry ban on its ships in ports, North Korea chartered ships under the names of foreigners, falsified the country of origin, or did business through a third country. That is mostly how it was able to export to Iran, Syria, Burma and Laos."*

**29 June 2009** Damascus - China's new special envoy to the Middle East Wu Sike gave an interview to *Xinhua* on China's policy for the Middle East peace process. Wu delineated China's policy: *"we support the return of the occupied Golan heights and the establishment of a viable Palestine state with independent sovereignty."* Wu added that he had made similar recommendations to Israel: *"I have urged the Israeli leaders and politicians to accept the two state solution, stop establishing settlements and negotiate with Syria and Lebanon concerning issues."* Wu noted that the Arab world has seen positive factors in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent foreign policy speech, which conditionally accepted the two state solution for the first time. After meeting Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Mualem and Vice President Faruk Shareh, he told *Xinhua* that Syria and China enjoyed good bilateral relationships.

**29 June 2009** Ankara - Turkish President Abdullah Gul praised his recent visit to China to the media: *"My trip to China was successful in every aspect and I returned to Turkey with great satisfaction."* At the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao, Gul visited Beijing, Xi'an, Shenzhen and Urumqi from June 24 to 29.

**29 June 2009** Beijing - State Councillor Liu Yandong met former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Kissinger defined relations between the United States and China as one of the most important bilateral relations in the world. Kissinger was in Beijing at the invitation of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs.

**30 June 2009** Palau's President Johnson Toribiong has announced that it is still unclear whether the Uighurs will move to Palau. Palau is drafting a written resettlement proposal for Uighur refugees who, at the request of the United States, may move there from the prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Last week the refugees were visited and interviewed by a Palau delegation headed by its president, Johnson Toribiong.

**30 June 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang reaffirmed the primacy of the six-party talks to denuclearise the Korean peninsula. Qin's remarks came in response to a question on whether the five parties without the DPRK should meet to discuss the issue. At a US-ROK summit in Washington in mid June, ROK President Lee Myung-bak proposed the five-party talks amid tensions aggravated by the DPRK's recent moves.

**30 June 2009** Beijing - Zhou Yongkang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CCP Central Committee promised to encourage more Chinese investment in Zimbabwe, while meeting a ZANU-PF delegation. *"We will encourage and facilitate more Chinese companies to seek development in Zimbabwe."*

**30 June 2009** Beijing - Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang confirmed plans for a joint Chinese-Russian military exercise later in the year, without specifying a date. *"The two countries are working closely for the military exercise dubbed Peace Mission 2009."* China and Russia held their first joint exercise in 2005.

**30 June 2009** Kathmandu - Zhang Jihuan, a politburo member of the CCP and former ambassador to Nepal (November 1995-May 1998), is to arrive in Nepal on 1 July. The Nepalese Ministry of Foreign Affairs denied all knowledge of the visit; however a Chinese embassy official told *myrepublica.com* that the former ambassador is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Sujata Koirala.

**30 June 2009** Beijing – The MIIT has announced that China will delay the mandatory installation of the controversial "Green Dam-Youth Escort" filtering software on new computers.

**30 June 2009** Beijing – Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang has again denied that North Korean leader Kim Jong Il's third son recently visited China secretly: *"The relevant report has*

*no basis whatsoever... It is creating something out of nothing.*" Qin was dismissing a *Financial Times* report this week saying the younger Kim joined a delegation of senior military officials for a weeklong visit to China in mid-June, despite China's denial of the trip having taken place. It follows China's dismissal of an earlier report by Japan's Asahi Shimbun that the third son visited China and was introduced to Chinese leaders as North Korea's heir apparent.

**30 June 2009** Pyongyang – A Chinese delegation from Jilin Yuwen Middle School of China led by Secretary of Party Committee Wang Yong met teachers and students at Changdok School.

### **Disclaimer**

The views expressed in this paper are entirely and solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect official thinking and policy either of Her Majesty's Government or of the Ministry of Defence.

ISBN 978-1-905962-80-8

**Published By:**

**Defence Academy of the  
United Kingdom**

**Research & Assessment Branch**

Defence Academy of the UK  
Greenhill House  
Shrivenham  
SN6 8LA  
England

Telephone: (44) 1793 314793  
Fax: (44) 1793 785953  
Email: [Publications.hq@da.mod.uk](mailto:Publications.hq@da.mod.uk)  
<http://www.da.mod.uk/r-and-a-b>

**ISBN 978-1-905962-80-8**