



CCAS CHINA NEWS
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CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING SPOKE TO RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN ON FEBRUARY 8

Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin on February 8 afternoon. The Communist Party Network release said after exchanging New Year's greetings and reviewing bilateral relations over the past year, Xi Jinping said "Looking back on the road we have travelled, we have endured many trials and tribulations together. Looking to the future, China-Russia relations are facing new development opportunities. China is willing to work with Russia to continue to uphold the spirit of mutual assistance and friendship from generation to generation, and work together to write a new chapter in China-Russia relations." Xi Jinping emphasized that the two sides should intensify strategic coordination, safeguard their respective national sovereignty, security, and development interests, and resolutely oppose interference in internal affairs by external forces. The two sides should cultivate new momentum for cooperation between the two countries, maintain the stability of industrial and supply chains, jointly host the China-Russia Cultural Year, hold cultural exchanges that connect the people, be down-to-earth, and warm, and continuously tighten the spiritual ties between the two peoples. Both sides should support Kazakhstan in hosting this year's Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit, enhance unity and mutual trust, and safeguard regional security and stability and the common interests of regional countries.

Putin said this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Russia and China and that Russia-China relations have reached an "unprecedented high level". He said Russia is willing to strengthen communication and coordination with China within regional and international multilateral frameworks such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, support each other, safeguard multilateralism, and safeguard their respective legitimate interests. Russia firmly adheres to the one-China principle and opposes any

dangerous behaviour that provokes China on the Taiwan issue. It believes that any attempt to hinder China's peaceful reunification will not succeed.

(Comment: Noteworthy in the context of their close ties are Xi Jinping's assertion to: 'safeguard their respective national sovereignty, security, and development interests, and resolutely oppose interference in internal affairs by external forces' and Putin's response: 'safeguard their respective legitimate interests. Russia firmly adheres to the one-China principle and opposes any dangerous behaviour that provokes China on the Taiwan issue. It believes that any attempt to hinder China's peaceful reunification will not succeed'.)

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING DELIVERS SPEECH AT NEW YEARS GATHERING OF CCP CC AND STATE COUNCIL IN BEIJING ON FEBRUARY 8

CCTV (February 8) reported that the CCP CC and the State Council held a 2024 Spring Festival group visit at the Great Hall of the People on the morning of February 8, when Chinese President Xi Jinping delivered a speech. On behalf of the Party Central Committee and the State Council, he extended New Year greetings to people of all ethnic groups across the country, as well as to compatriots in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Macao Special Administrative Region, Taiwan compatriots, and overseas Chinese. Chinese Premier Li Qiang presided over the delegation's visit, and Zhao Leji, Wang Huning, Cai Qi, Ding Xuexiang, Li Xi, Han Zheng and others were present. Xi Jinping said that 2024 is the 75th anniversary of the founding of New China and a critical year for achieving the goals and tasks of the "14th Five-Year Plan". "We must adhere to the general tone of the work of seeking progress while maintaining stability, implement the requirements of seeking progress while maintaining stability, and promoting stability through promotion. We must fully, accurately and comprehensively implement the new development concept, coordinate high-quality development and high-level security, and highlight key points". Leading comrades and veteran comrades from the CCP CC, NPC, the State Council, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the CPPCC and the Central Military Commission attended. Also attending were responsible comrades from various departments of the Central Party, government, military and mass organizations and Beijing Municipality, leaders of the central committees of democratic parties, All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce,

representatives of non-party persons, representatives of retired comrades, famous experts and scholars, and representatives of people from all walks of life in the capital.

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING AND OTHER SENIOR LEADERS VISIT RETIRED SENIOR LEADERS TO CONVEY SPRING FESTIVAL GREETINGS

The state-owned CCTV (February 7) said that on the eve of the Spring Festival, Chinese President Xi Jinping and other party and state leaders respectively visited, or entrusted responsible comrades from relevant parties, to visit Hu Jintao, Zhu Rongji, Li Ruihuan, Wu Bangguo, Wen Jiabao, and Jia Qinglin, Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhengsheng, Li Zhanshu, Wang Yang, Song Ping, Li Lanqing, Zeng Qinghong, Wu Guanzheng, Li Changchun, Luo Gan, He Guoqiang, Liu Yunshan, Wang Qishan, Zhang Gaoli and Tian Jiyun, Chi Haotian, Wang Lequan, Wang Zhaoguo, etc to wish them sincere holiday greetings and Happy New Year, health and longevity. It said the veteran comrades expressed their gratitude and "spoke highly of the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core for uniting and leading the whole Party, the whole army and the people of all ethnic groups in the first year of comprehensively implementing the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the Party" and expressed "our sincere support for General Secretary Xi Jinping as the core of the Party Central Committee and the core of the entire party. Veteran comrades hope that the entire party, the military and the people of all ethnic groups will unite more closely around the Party Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping as the core, deeply understand the decisive significance of the "two establishments", strengthen the "four consciousnesses" and strengthen the "four self-confidences", achieve "two safeguards", persist in using Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era to focus our hearts and minds, strengthen our confidence, forge ahead in pioneering ways, and work tirelessly to comprehensively promote the construction of a strong country and the great cause of national rejuvenation with Chinese-style modernization".

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING MEETS NON-PARTY REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS OF UFWD AND CONVEYS SPRING FESTIVAL GREETINGS ON FEBRUARY 7

CCTV February 7) reported that on the eve of the Spring Festival, Chinese President Xi Jinping met and held talks with the Central Committees of the democratic parties and the National Industry and Commerce Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on February 7. Xi Jinping extended sincere greetings and New Year blessings to all democratic parties, federations of industry and commerce, non-party personages, and members of the United Front. Politburo Standing Committee member and CPPCC Chairman Wang Huning, Politburo Standing Committee member and Director of the CCP CC General Office Cai Qi, and Politburo Standing Committee member and Vice Premier Ding Xuexiang attended the event.

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING SENDS CONGRATULATORY LETTER ON OPERATIONALISATION OF CHINA'S ANTARCTIC QINLING STATION ON FEBRUARY 7

The PLA Daily (February 7) published the full text of Chinese President Xi Jinping's congratulatory letter and New Year greetings to the "polar workers" on the completion and operationalisation of China's Antarctic Qinling Station on February 7. In his letter Xi Jinping said, "over the past 40 years, under the leadership of the Party, China's polar undertakings have grown from scratch, from weak to strong". He added "The completion of the China Antarctic Qinling Station will provide a strong guarantee for scientific workers in my country and around the world to continue to explore the mysteries of nature and bravely climb scientific peaks". The main venue of the celebrations was in Beijing and the branches at the Antarctic Great Wall Station, Antarctic Zhongshan Station, Antarctic Qinling Station, Arctic Yellow River Station, "Snow Dragon" ship, and "Snow Dragon 2" ship venue. Politburo member and Vice Premier He Lifeng attended the main event in Beijing and read Xi Jinping's letter. He Lifeng said in the letter Xi Jinping had asked polar workers "to thoroughly study and understand and resolutely implement the spirit of General Secretary Xi Jinping's congratulatory letter, do a good job in the opening and operation of the China Antarctic Qinling Station with high standards and high standards, speed up the improvement of supporting facilities, do a good job in safety production management, deepen scientific investigation and

research, and strengthen international Exchange and cooperation". The China Antarctic Qinling Station is located on Enkesburg Island in the Ross Sea is China's fifth research station in Antarctica.

ii) The CCP's leading fortnightly theoretical journal Qiu Shi (Seeking Truth -- February 7) published a Commentary captioned 'Better understand polar protection and polar utilization' dilating on Chinese President Xi Jinping's letter to polar workers.

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: SECOND SESSION OF 14TH NPC TO BE HELD IN MARCH

The Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, presided over the 19th meeting of the Council of Chairpersons of the 14th NPC Standing Committee at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, on February 7, when it was decided that the Standing Committee of the 14th National People's Congress (NPC) will hold its eighth session in Beijing on February 26 and 27. According to an agenda proposed by the meeting, an important task at the upcoming standing committee session will be to prepare for the second session of the 14th NPC, to be held in March.

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CCP CC AND STATE COUNCIL JOINTLY ISSUE DOCUMENT NO:1 FOCUSING ON AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AREAS

This year's No. 1 Central Document issued jointly by the CCP CC and State Council has focused on agriculture, rural areas, and farmers. This year's document prioritises rural development. The 2022 and 2023 documents focused heavily on food security, giving only limited space to rural development. This year's document opens with a call to officials to implement the lessons from a massive village renovation effort Xi Jinping launched in Zhejiang 20 years ago. Three-quarters of the document is related to rural job creation, industrial development, infrastructure construction, and governance. By comparison, nearly half of last year's tasks were related to food security. This year's document specifically asks officials to: Prioritize and protect rural-related fiscal funds in government budgets; Support and standardize local government special-purpose bonds (SPBs) for major rural construction projects; and provide targeted support for banks and insurers to fund rural projects.

(Comment: For 21 years in a row the No 1 Document has focussed on agricultural issues. Growing rural industry and raising the incomes of the nearly 480 million folks still living in rural China is a priority for the CCP.)

ii) Underscoring the importance of the Document, Xinhua (February 4) published a Commentary captioned 'No. 1 Central Document | Using the experience of “Ten Million Projects” to lead the comprehensive revitalization of rural areas'. It said the Central Document No. 1 released on February 3, contained important formulations and deployments such as "learning to apply the experience of the 'Ten Million Project'" and "taking the promotion of comprehensive rural revitalization as the general starting point of the 'agriculture, rural areas and farmers' work in the new era and new journey". It called it a "positive signal for agricultural and rural modernization to better promote Chinese-style modernization". It said Document No. 1 emphasizes that "it is necessary to learn and apply the development concepts, working methods and promotion mechanisms contained in the 'Ten Million Project'" and "to learn and apply the experience of the 'Ten Million Project' as a guide". The Commentary noted that "Comrade Xi Jinping personally planned and promoted the "Thousand Villages Demonstration, Ten Thousand Villages Improvement" project when he was working in Zhejiang."

iii) CCTV (February 6) telecast a report on the Central Government Document No. 1 and said it "states that priority should be given to turning cultivated land in black soil areas, plain areas, and areas with water conservancy and irrigation conditions into high-standard farmland in Northeast China. In the future, our country will build all 1.546 billion acres of permanent basic farmland into high-standard farmland, which contains huge new opportunities".

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PREMIER LI QIANG ADDRESSES STATE COUNCIL MEETING ON CLEAN GOVERNANCE

The People's Daily (February 6) reported that while addressing the second State Council meeting on clean governance, Chinese Premier Li Qiang urged (February 5) the resolute implementation of the CCPs strategic policy of full and rigorous self-governance, and called for greater advancements in improving Party conduct, upholding integrity and combating corruption within the government. Acknowledging the progress that governments and departments at all levels had made in improving Party conduct, upholding integrity and

combating corruption, he called for strict adherence to political discipline and rules. He also urged governments at all levels to focus on the rectification of corruption in key areas and make solid efforts to implement the Party Central Committee's decisions and plans. Chinese Vice Premier and PBSC member Ding Xuexiang presided over the meeting. Beijing Daily (February 6) disclosed that State Council Vice Premiers He Lifeng, Zhang Guoqing, and Liu Guozhong, and State Councillors Wang Xiaohong, Wu Zhenglong, and Chen Yiqin attended the meeting. PBSC member and Secretary of the CDIC, Li Xi and Secretary of the CCP CC Secretariat and Director of the State Supervision Commission Liu Jinguo were invited to attend the meeting. It also said "responsible comrades" from the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission of the State Council, the National Health Commission, the Shanghai Municipal Government, and the Hubei Provincial Government spoke at the meeting.

People's Daily (February 8) reported that PBSC Member and member of the CCP CC Secretariat Cai Qi extended festive greetings to all people working in the culture, science and technology circles on February 7, on behalf of the CCP CC and General Secretary Xi Jinping. He visited several prominent figures on February 7 and extended greetings for the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year.

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: PBSC MEMBER AND CDIC SECRETARY LI XI INSPECTES HEBEI ON FEBRUARY 4

Guangming Daily (February 4) reported that Li Xi, PBSC member and Secretary of the CDIC "conducted research" in Hebei from February 1 - 3, 2024. During his inspection, Li Xi emphasized that disciplinary and supervisory agencies should adhere to the guidance of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, deeply study and implement General Secretary Xi Jinping's "important" thoughts on the Party's self-revolution, firmly support the "two upholds" and resolutely uphold the "two safeguards". Li Xi also chaired a symposium with some provincial, city, and county discipline inspection secretaries and pointed out that they should accurately grasp the practical requirements of advancing the Party's self-revolution, and implement the work deployment of the Third Plenary Session. Li Xi stressed the need to maintain strategic determination, unwaveringly enforce disciplinary measures, and persist in maintaining a strict tone and atmosphere. It is essential to consolidate and expand the results of thematic education and rectification, actively carry out Party

discipline learning and education and strengthen political loyalty, Li Xi also visited Xibaipo, paying respects to the former site of the CPC Central Committee and Mao Zedong's residence. He commemorated the achievements of revolutionary predecessors and urged disciplinary and supervisory cadres to promote the spirit of Xibaipo and inherit the red genes.

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: PUBLIC SECURITY MINISTER WANG XIAOHONG CALLS FOR A "NEW ERA OF LOYAL, CLEAN AND RESPONSIBLE PUBLIC SECURITY IRON ARMY"

Wang Xiaohong, Minister of Public Security and Member of the CCP CC Secretariat, emphasized at a national video and telephone conference on building party style and clean government of public security organs. The People's daily (February 4) published a report under the caption 'In-depth implementation of the "nine principles" practical requirements and in-depth promotion of comprehensive and strict management of the party and the police' in which it quoted him as saying it is essential to "forge a new era of loyal, clean and responsible public security iron army, and provide a stronger and more powerful team guarantee for promoting the modernization of public security work". He also said "It is necessary to improve the system and mechanism for managing power, affairs and personnel, and to improve the system for comprehensive and strict management of the party and the police".

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER WANG YI'S SPEECH ON CHINESE NEW YEAR

Wang Yi, Member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave a speech on Chinese New Year on January 31, in Beijing. He said "In 2023, the world has been baptized by turbulent changes, and it is also pregnant with the power of development and progress". Saying that "we cherish the value of communication even more" he added that "We have experienced crises and wars and have become more determined in our pursuit of peace". Wang Yi said that over the past year the "new cold war" has been widely opposed by all countries, and "decoupling and breaking links" has been proven to be "impossible". He claimed that China has "promoted economic recovery, made solid progress in high-quality development, accelerated the formation of new productive forces, and made the road to Chinese-style modernization wider and wider". He said in this endeavour "China actively embraces the world". Wang Yi said that the China-US Summit in San Francisco had

launched the "San Francisco Vision" and the bilateral relationship had stabilized. He said "Sino-Russian relations have become stronger over time, creating a model for a new type of major-country relations, which is conducive to global strategic stability". He called on the EU to deepen dialogue and cooperation with China and jointly safeguard multilateralism, adding that as the international situation becomes more chaotic, "major countries have to meet each other halfway and show their due responsibility". Wang Yi claimed "We practice amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness and be a reliable partner in building an Asian homeland" adding, inter alia, that China and Central Asia were upgrading relations, China-ASEAN cooperation has made rapid and steady progress, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization has continued to grow and develop and China and Japan have reaffirmed the comprehensive advancement of their strategic and mutually beneficial relationship. He said China-Australia relations have returned to the track of healthy and stable development. Wang Yi said "An Asia that is united, inclusive, friendly and symbiotic will continue to serve as an anchor of peace and stability, a source of growth and a new highland for cooperation in the world". He also stressed that China will "insist on working together to be a staunch member of the "Global South, promote the expansion of the BRICS, support the African Union in joining the G20, and "enhance the representation and voice of developing countries". He mentioned "major measures" to assist Africa's development, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation between China and Arab countries, China and Latin America, and China and Pacific Island countries, adding that "regardless of global governance or development and prosperity, the "global South" cannot be absent". Wang Yi claimed that China is "a key force in safeguarding world peace" and is happy to see a "tide of reconciliation" in the Middle East, has actively worked for peace talks to end the war in the Ukraine crisis, made unremitting efforts to de-escalate the ceasefire in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and achieve a comprehensive, fair and lasting solution to the Palestinian issue, and actively played a constructive role in hotspot issues such as Afghanistan and Myanmar. Specific mention was made of the Belt and Road International Cooperation Summit Forum, which "opened a new golden decade for the Belt and Road Initiative". He claimed that China grew by 5.2% last year and launched a series of major measures conducive to expanding high-level opening up and promoting high-quality development. He said Chinese envoys and representatives have worked tirelessly to build bridges, traveled all over China, penetrated into businesses and people. Saying that 2024, is a critical year for promoting Chinese-style modernization, he added that the recent Central Foreign Affairs Work Conference "clearly identified building a community with a shared future for mankind as the lofty goal pursued by major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics

in the new era". He said "China is willing to work with all countries to build the foundation for peace and security" and "work with other countries to pool the strength of friendly cooperation". He said China will "Deepen friendship, mutual trust and integration of interests with neighboring countries, and work with developing countries", actively implement the global civilization initiative and "strive for the healthy, stable and sustainable development of China-US relations, and explore the correct way for the two countries to get along".

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: PBSC MEMBER CAI QI ADDRESSES MEETING OF HEADS OF CHINA'S ORGANISATION DEPARTMENTS

Addressing a meeting of Heads of China's Organization Departments in Beijing on February 5, PBSC member and member of the CCP CC Secretariat Cai Qi urged efforts to consolidate and further expand the results of a Party-wide education campaign on the study and implementation of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. He called for the establishment of a long-term mechanism for theoretical education, attaching greater importance to the study and education of the theories of Chinese modernization, and laying solid ideological and political foundation for the advancement of Chinese modernization. He emphasised that it is important to enhance education on political loyalty adding that Party cadres and particularly leading officials, must be supervised in a strict manner. Politburo member and Head of the CCP CC Organisation Department Li Ganjie presided over the meeting.

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING CONVEYS SPEECH AND PBSC MEMBER CAI QI DELIVERS SPEECH AT CCP 'THEME EDUCATION' CAMPAIGN MEETING

A meeting was held on February 4, in Beijing to summarize a Party-wide education campaign on the study and implementation of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era. A speech by Chinese President Xi Jinping on consolidating and expanding the gains from the campaign was conveyed at the meeting. In the speech said the education campaign has helped solve problems that hinder high-quality development, and addressed prominent problems in Party building and has thus achieved the desired goals and significant results. He stressed that the results of the education campaign should be consolidated and expanded, opinions regarding the campaign should be turned into actions,

and a long-term mechanism should be established. Xi Jinping urged Party members to consolidate the theoretical foundation for Party solidarity and unity and stressed the need for Party members and officials to improve their conduct, tackle pointless formalities and bureaucratism, and reduce the burdens at the primary level. Party committees and leading Party members groups at all levels should undertake the important political task of consolidating the gains from the education campaign. Politburo Standing Committee member and Head of the Central Leading Group for the education campaign attended the meeting and delivered a speech. He said the campaign has provided fresh experience for carrying out education programs within the Party in the new era, and emphasized the need to continuously consolidate and further expand the campaign's results, and keep on pushing hard on the study and implementation of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, and strive tirelessly for the cause of building China into a stronger country and rejuvenate the Chinese nation on all fronts by pursuing Chinese modernization.

(Comment: The campaign, launched in April 2023, and conducted in a top-down manner within the CCP.)

CHINA-LEADERSHIP: LIU JIANCHAO, CURRENTLY HEAD OF CCP CC ILD IS SPECULATED TO BE APPOINTED CHINA'S NEXT FOREIGN MINISTER

According to a report in Nikkei-Asia (February 1), 60-year old Liu Jianchao, the current Head of the CCP CC International Liaison Department (ILD) studied for a year at Oxford University in the U.K. before joining the Foreign Ministry, and later served as Ambassador to Indonesia and the Philippines. During his time as head of the public information office at China's Foreign Ministry, where he was responsible for public relations, he interacted extensively with foreign journalists and others, and was very personable. He is a talented speaker with a fluent command of English. He also has held prominent positions outside the diplomatic arena. He was assigned to the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection, which oversees the anti-corruption campaign led by Xi, and several posts in Zhejiang province, where Xi was once the head of government.

CHINA-SENIOR APPOINTMENTS: WU QING APPOINTED CSRC HEAD

The head of the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) was replaced on February 6. Xinhua announced that Wu Qing was replacing Yi Huiman as head of the CSRC, effective immediately. No reasons were given. Yi Huiman is below retirement age.

(Comment: Wu Qing is nicknamed the “Broker Butcher” for his crackdown on traders. Wu Qing was previously the Acting Vice Mayor of Shanghai and served nearly two years as Chairman of the Shanghai Stock Exchange. Yi Huiman is the former Chairman of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China. He was an Alternate Member of the 19th Central Committee and is a member of the 20th Central Committee.)

CHINA-SENIOR APPOINTMENTS: 1975-BORN JI BO APPOINTED SECRETARY OF HENAN UNIVERSITY PARTY COMMITTEE

The official website of Henan University on February 5 announced the appointment of Ji Bo, born in June 1975, as Secretary of the Party Committee of Henan University. Ji Bo holds a PhD in economics, is a member of the CCP, and previously served as Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Henan University.

CHINA-CCP: CASS JOURNAL PUBLISHES ARTICLE BY VICE CHAIRMAN OF CHINA FOLK WRITERS AND ARTISTS ASSOCIATION ON XI JINPING'S CONCEPT OF CIVILISATION

On February 8, the Social Science Journal of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) published an article by Qiu Yunhua, former branch Party Secretary and Resident Vice Chairman of the China Folk Writers and Artists Association, captioned 'Concept of civilization from the perspective of a community with a shared future for mankind'. The article, which mentioned Xi Jinping 29 times, recalled his speech of March 27, 2014, at the UNESCO headquarters called a "Civilization Declaration" by the media. It said Xi Jinping had put forward specific suggestions on the diversity, equality, and inclusiveness of civilizations, civilizations of all ethnic groups, and exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations of all ethnic groups. The author said Xi Jinping had discussed the concept of civilization in the context of building a community with a shared future for mankind or, the idea of exchanges

and mutual learning among human civilizations is closely linked to the prospect of a community with a shared future for mankind.

CHINA-CCP: PEOPLE'S DAILY COMMENTARY URGES CADRES TO KEEP UP WITH PRESENT TRENDS AND MEET PEOPLES EXPECTATIONS

A People's Daily (February 7) commentary captioned 'Adhere to the people-centered work orientation (people's perspective)—Adhere to the guidance of Xi Jinping's cultural thoughts and continuously create a new situation in publicity, ideological and cultural work' said "Only by firming up the people's stance, enhancing literary and artistic originality, and improving the level of public cultural services and the quality of cultural industry development can we better meet the people's new expectations for spiritual and cultural life and enhance the people's sense of cultural gain and happiness". It asked cadres to "Keep up with the trend of the times, grasp the needs of the people, write for the people, express feelings for the people, express feelings for the people, and obtain inexhaustible creative sources from the people's lives and the motherland".

CHINA-CCP: NEARLY 9000-WORD XINHUA COMMENTARY REPUBLISHED BY PEOPLE'S DAILY ON XI JINPING'S CONCEPT OF CHINESE CIVILISATION

A lengthy -- over 8,900-word -- Xinhua Commentary was republished by the People's Daily (February 6) under the pseudonym Ren Zhongping with the caption 'Provide strong ideological guarantee, strong spiritual power, and favourable cultural conditions for the construction of a strong country and national rejuvenation'. The Commentary was reproduced by the PLA Daily (February 6). The article elaborated on Chinese civilisation and leadership of the CCP. It said culture "cultivates the strategic confidence in building a strong country and rejuvenating the nation" and develops self-confidence. It said "China goes to the world with 10,000 years of cultural history, more than 5,000 years of civilization history, and excellent ideological and cultural resources contained in "the sum of human knowledge" and added that "Xi Jinping's cultural thoughts are the theoretical achievements of taking root in the fertile soil of Chinese culture and seeking rejuvenation for the Chinese nation" ... "The lasting cultural power shows to the world that China "has the ability to provide the world with gifts that both China and the world need." The article recalled "On the eve of the founding of New China, Comrade Mao Zedong once looked forward to this: "With the arrival of the climax of economic construction,

there will inevitably be a climax of cultural construction... We will appear in the world as a nation with a high level of culture." It also referred to Xi Jinping's words: "Chinese civilization has a long history and has never been interrupted. It has shaped our great nation, and this nation will continue to be great." The article also said: "The decisive significance of "two establishments" is to strengthen the "four consciousnesses", strengthen the "four self-confidences", achieve "two safeguards", sound the clarion call of culture, raise the sail of culture, continue the historical context and compose contemporary history."

(Comment: People's Daily uses the pseudonym Ren Zhongping as the byline when it publishes an "important" commentary used to represent the view of the People's Daily as an organization.)

CHINA-CCP: PEOPLE'S DAILY PUBLISHES ARTICLE BY FORMER EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF CENTRAL PARTY SCHOOL HE YITNG

The People's Daily (February 6) published an article by He Yiting, Chairman of the China Forum for Reform and Opening up and former Executive Vice President of the Central Party School, under the caption 'A new leap forward in adapting Marxism to the current times (in-depth study and implementation of Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era)'. In the article He Yiting quoted Chinese President Xi Jinping as emphasising at the symposium commemorating the 130th anniversary of the birth of Comrade Mao Zedong: "Mao Zedong Thought is the precious spiritual wealth of our party and will guide our actions for a long time." He elaborated that "Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era scientifically answers what kind of socialism with Chinese characteristics we should uphold and develop in the new era, how we should uphold and develop socialism with Chinese characteristics, what kind of socialist modernization and power we should build, and how we should build a modern and powerful socialist country. Major contemporary issues such as what kind of Marxist party will be in power for a long time and how to build a Marxist party that will be in power for a long time are the inheritance and development of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Zedong Thought, Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of "Three Represents" and the Scientific Outlook on Development. , is contemporary Chinese Marxism, 21st century Marxism, the essence of Chinese culture and Chinese spirit of the times, and has achieved a new leap forward in adapting Marxism to the times".

(Comment: He Yiting was brought to Beijing by Xi Jinping and appointed Executive Vice President of the Central Party School in 2013. On Chinese President Xi Jinping's birthday on June 15, 2020, He Yiting published an article saying that Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese characteristics for a New Era is the equivalent of Marxism in the 21st century.)

CHINA-CCP: CCP CC ORGANISATION AND PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENTS SELECT 20 "MOST BEAUTIFUL CIVIL SERVANTS"

The CCP CC Organization Department and the CCP CC Propaganda Department on February 4, released the results of the selection of "The Most Beautiful Civil Servants". 20 officials were selected as the "Most Beautiful Civil Servants". The release said those 'selected this time insist on learning, understanding and practicing Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, implement the decisions and arrangements of the Party Central Committee to the letter, dare to take responsibility, do good deeds, do practical things, and seek Effective results, shouldering hardships and risks in major tasks and major struggles, standing up and facing difficulties at critical moments and critical moments, making outstanding achievements and receiving praise from the masses, showing the good style of civil servants in the new era'. It urged all civil servants to emulate them.

CHINA-CCP: CCP'S PREMIER POLITICAL INSTITUTE FOR UNITED FRONT TO FURTHER EXPAND ACTIVITIES IN 2024

Guangming Daily (January 27) reported that the 16th National Socialist Institute President' meeting was held in Beijing on January 26. The meeting disclosed that in 2023, the Central Institute of Socialism (Central Social Academy) trained over 25,000 participants, both online and offline, in the field of united front. It said that as a higher political institute for the united front led by the Chinese Communist Party the Central Social Academy, since 2023, has organized 33 special training sessions to study and implement the spirit of the 20th National Congress of the CCP. In 2024, the Central Social Academy will focus driving the entire system to study and implement the major decisions and arrangements of the CCP Central Committee, strengthen guidance on the teaching work of socialist institutes nationwide through, jointly carry out scientific research and academic activities, establish a national socialist institute digital library, and a national socialist institute faculty pool.

CHINA-CCP: GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY OFFICIAL PUBLISHES ARTICLE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY

The International Relations Secretary of the German Communist Party published an article in People's Daily (February 2) after her trip to China. In the article she said, "China everywhere is filled with optimism".

CHINA-CCP: CASS JOURNAL PUBLISHES ARTICLE BY PARTY SECRETARY OF CASS SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The CASS journal published (February 6) an article captioned World Situation 2024: Standing at the crossroads of choosing the direction by Xing Mingjun, Secretary of the Party Committee of the School of International Relations. Referring to Chinese President Xi Jinping's remark: "Currently, major changes in the world that have not been seen in a century are accelerating, and the characteristics of changes in the world, changes in the times, and changes in history have become more obvious", he said "it is not difficult to see that changes in the world, the times, and history are continuing to accelerate; looking forward to 2024, the international community will stand at a key directional crossroads". He said in the showdown between Biden and Trump, "the U.S. foreign policy, which has just returned to the establishment line less than four years ago, may once again undergo a 180-degree reversal". Saying there are crises in 2024, he assessed that "Once Trump wins the election, his regional policies that are more pro-Israel and his extreme pressure diplomacy that attempts to reshape the alliance system in the Middle East with the Iran issue may further aggravate regional tensions and prolong the conflict." The article expressed worries about economic uncertainties and trade. Saying that China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative has improved the vast majority of the third world in direct and indirect ways", concern was expressed about the US position and the author said "the United States has once again become the biggest variable in global efforts to combat climate change in 2024." Stating that 2024 faces great uncertainties, it said "Under the leadership of Xi Jinping, China has injected the greatest certainty into another critical crossroads in the uncertain era of 2024."

CHINA-CCP: LATEST ISSUE OF RED FLAG IS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The latest edition (2024/3; February 8) of Hongqi Wengao (Red Flag) is now online. Highlights include commentaries on understanding the Party's theoretical innovation, the rule of law to promote patriotic education, and Xi Jinping's thoughts on the Party's self-revolution.

CHINA-SECURITY: CHEN WENQING, POLITBURO MEMBER AND SECRETARY PLAC, URGED POLICE NATIONWIDE TO ENSURE SECURITY DURING SPRING FESTIVAL

Politburo member and Secretary of the CCP CC Political and Legal Affairs Commission, Chen Wenqing (February 8) urged police nationwide to fulfill their duty to safeguard security during the upcoming Spring Festival holiday, and their duty to maintain continuous social stability in Beijing and across the country. He made the remarks when inspecting primary-level work on legal affairs in Beijing. Chen Wenqing said that legal affairs organs face the challenging task of safeguarding social security and stability. He urged them to remain aware of potential risks and consider worst-case scenarios in their work.

CHINA-SECURITY: MOSS GIVES TIPS TO CHINESE STUDENTS WHEN THEY FACE HARASSMENT WHILE ENTERING THE U.S.

On February 5, China's Ministry of State Security (MoSS) released a series of tips for Chinese students studying abroad to cope "with unwarranted interrogations and harassment" that they are subjected to upon entering the US. The MoSS said the U.S. has subjected Chinese nationals to unwarranted interrogations, harassment and detentions, with secondary checks in the "little black room" and "covert actions" occurring repeatedly and some even saw their visas revoked. To cope with such situations, the MSS advised students not to panic and to stay calm. If any problem related to language occurs, interpreting services should be sought rather than answer the questions casually.

CHINA-SECURITY: MOSS CLAIMS TO HAVE UNCOVERED CASE OF CHINESE STUDENT BEING 'EXPLOITED' BY 'ANTI-CHINA FORCES'

China's Ministry of State Security (MoSS) on January 31 revealed a case in which a Chinese national surnamed 'Li' was recruited and exploited by overseas anti-China forces during his overseas studies. He established extensive contacts with overseas industry associations, multinational corporations, major media outlets, and non-governmental organizations and cooperated in launching an "environmental" offensive. The Global Times (January 31) said after returning to China, Li, under the command of overseas forces, established a commercial consulting company specializing in collecting information on China's seafood industrial chain and supply chain and "evaluating" the social responsibility of Chinese companies. Li's company later established cooperative relationships with some industry associations, research institutions, and universities in China and, using project funding and overseas study opportunities as bait, obtained a large amount of information on policies and data related to China's industries, and provided them to overseas institutions. It said Li had fabricated "evidence" of environmental problems in China's seafood industry. The report said Li has been punished by national security agencies in accordance with the law for engaging in activities that harm national security.

CHINA-HUMAN RIGHTS: NANJING UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND DISSIDENT AND COVID-19 WHISTLEBLOWER GUO QUAN RELEASED FROM PRISON ON JANUARY 30

Radio France International (RFI) disclosed (February 3) that Nanjing dissident and Nanjing Normal University Professor Guo Quan was released from prison in China on January 30, after having served 4 years for calling for help for COVID19 whistleblower Li Wenliang. Guo Quan wrote that the reason why he was imprisoned had a lot to do with contacting many university professors at home and abroad to call for the release of Dr. Li Wenliang.

CHINA-HUMAN RIGHTS: AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN AND HUMAN RIGHTS BLOGGER AWARDED SUSPENDED DEATH SENTENCE WITH 5 YEARS IMPRISONMENT

Australian academic Yang Hengjun, who was arrested in 2019 at Guangzhou airport on charges of spying for an undisclosed foreign country, has been given a suspended death sentence by a Chinese court, after five years in detention on espionage charges. Yang Hengjun is a pro-democracy blogger is an Australian citizen who was born in China. Australia's foreign minister Penny Wong said (February 5) that the government was "appalled by this decision", and that they had called in the Chinese ambassador to lodge Canberra's objection. Wong said the Australian government had advocated for him consistently and "at the highest levels" and "Australia will not relent in our advocacy for Dr Yang's interests and wellbeing. All Australians want to see Dr Yang reunited with his family."

CHINA-ANTI-CORRUPTION: FORMER VICE CHAIRMAN OF GUIZHOU CPPCC INDICTED ON CHARGE OF CORRUPTION

Xinhua (February 7) disclosed that Li Zaiyong, former Vice Chairman of the Guizhou Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, has been indicted by the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) on charges of taking bribes and abuse of power.

CHINA-ANTI-CORRUPTION: FORMER CHAIRMAN OF CNPC UNDER INVESTIGATION

Xinhua (February 2) disclosed that Wang Yilin, former Chairman of the China National Petroleum Corporation, is under disciplinary and supervisory investigation by the Central Discipline Inspection Commission (CDIC) and the National Supervisory Commission (NSC) for suspected severe violations of discipline and the law.

CHINA-AGRICULTURE: PEOPLE'S DAILY PUBLISHES INTERVIEW WITH CHINA'S AGRICULTURE MINISTER

The People's Daily (February 8) published an interview with Tang Renjian, Secretary of the Party Leadership Group and Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, under the caption 'Anchor the goal of building an agricultural power and promote comprehensive rural revitalization'. The Minister said "If the nation is to be rejuvenated, the countryside must be revitalized. General Secretary Xi Jinping emphasized that "accelerate the construction of an agricultural power and solidly promote the revitalization of rural industries, talents, culture, ecology, and organizations." "To promote Chinese-style modernization, we must persist in consolidating the agricultural foundation and promote comprehensive rural revitalization."

CHINA-ECONOMY: CHINA REACTS TO IMF REPORT THAT CHINA EXPERIENCED A "SUBDUED RECOVERY"

Reacting to IMF's statement in its annual report that uncertainty surrounding China's outlook this year is "high," Bloomberg (February 1) said Zhang Zhengxin, the IMF's Executive Director for China, said IMF staff should "study carefully" the nation's growth trend and urged the organization to carry out a more appropriate assessment of the nation's prospects to help "stabilize" confidence. He said "Our authorities' assessment of the recent Chinese economic developments is more positive" than the statement's claim China had experienced a "subdued recovery."

CHINA-ECONOMY: CHINA'S EV AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY DOMINATED THAI MARKET IN 2023

Chinese-branded electric vehicles (EVs) claimed four of the top five best-selling EVs in Thailand last year, underscoring Chinese automakers' growing lead in the Southeast Asian country's electrification push. Autolife Thailand, a local automotive website, said BYD Co. Ltd.'s two models, the Atto 3 SUV and Dolphin hatchback, took first and third place with sales of 19,214 and 9,410 units respectively in 2023. Caixin (February 2) disclosed that Chinese electric vehicle giant BYD Co. Ltd. has signed a preliminary land purchase agreement to build its first European electric passenger car plant in Szeged, Hungary. BYD didn't disclose how much it would be spending on the new plant., but Caixin said the Chinese firm has operated an

electric bus plant in Hungary since 2016 and has said it invested 20 million euro (\$21.7 million) to build the bus factory.

CHINA-ECONOMY: CAIXIN REPORT REVEALS INPUTS BY HIGH-VALUE INDUSTRIES LIKE BIOMEDICINE DROPPED TO LOWEST IN 7 MONTHS IN JANUARY 2024

Caixin (February 1) reported that the contribution of high value-added industries such as biomedicine to China's total economic inputs hit a seven-month low in January, due primarily to a decline in capital inputs. It said the Caixin BBD New Economy Index (NEI) registered at 29.4 last month, indicating that new economy industries accounted for 29.4% of China's overall economic input activities. The reading is down from 29.9 in December, marking a fourth straight monthly drop and the lowest since June.

CHINA-ECONOMY: NEW PROPERTY SALES IN CHINA HAVE PLUNGED TO A 5-YEAR LOW IN JANUARY

China's real estate market, according to a Caixin (February 1) report is having a rough start to the year, with January new property sales plunging to a monthly low not seen in five years, despite government measures to boost the ailing sector as it grapples with a liquidity crisis. New property sales by China's 100 biggest developers totaled 235 billion yuan (\$33 billion) last month, down 34.2% year-on-year and 47.9% from December, according to data provided by China Real Estate Information Corp. (CRIC) on January 31.

CHINA-S&T: RULES FOR S&T SPENDING TWEAKED TO ALLOW MONITORING BY MINISTRY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

i) On January 31, China's Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) amended the measures for managing the central government's sci-tech transfer payments, which total billions of Yuan annually, to local governments. The relevant orders were issued on December 28, 2023. Provincial governments use these to fund local sci-tech projects. To ensure that the money is put to good use, the Central Commission for Science Technology (CCST) – China's most powerful sci-tech policymaking body – will henceforth monitor how the funds are used. The revised measures now require local governments to use

part of the money to carry out CCST-directed sci-tech projects – which will be co-managed by the central government with the local government. Centralization could lead to more coordinated and focused efforts toward China’s national sci-tech objectives, but some analysts say it will waste resources and stymie innovation if out-of-touch central officials make the wrong bets. “Our authorities’ assessment of the recent Chinese economic developments is more positive” than the statement’s claim China had experienced a “subdued recovery,” Zhang Zhengxin, the IMF’s executive director for China, said in the report.

ii) The People's Daily (February 1) separately reported that according to the Ministry of Finance, China's fiscal expenditure on science and technology development has increased by 6.4 percent annually on average over the past six years. China's Vice Minister of Finance Wang Dongwei told a press conference on February 1, that from 2018 to 2023, the country's sci-tech expenditure has grown from 832.7 billion yuan (about 117.2 billion U.S. dollars) to nearly 1.06 trillion yuan.

CHINA-PLA: CMC VICE CHAIRMAN ZHANG YOUXIA VISITS TROOPS IN BEIJING AND CONVEYS SPRING FESTIVAL GREETINGS

Politburo member and CMC Vice Chairman Zhang Youxia visited a brigade of the 82nd Group Army of the Army and a division of the Air Force Aviation Division stationed in Beijing and extended New Year greetings. He emphasized that "it is necessary to resolutely implement the decisions and arrangements of President Xi and the Central Military Commission, further promote war preparations and wars in the new era, fight the tough battle to achieve the centenary goal of the founding of the army, and promote the construction of the army to a new level". He said it is essential to consolidate the core and do a solid job of building souls and cultivating loyalty.

CHINA-PLA: CMC VICE CHAIRMAN HE WEIDONG VISITS TROOPS IN BEIJING FOR SPRING FESTIVAL

The PLA Daily (February 9) reported that CMC Vice Chairman He Weidong visited (February 8) a detachment of the Beijing Armed Police Corps and a regiment of the Beijing Garrison Area to greet troops for the Spring Festival. He encouraged everyone to faithfully perform their duties, maintain regular combat readiness order, and arrange life and cultural and entertainment

activities during the festival. He Weidong pointed out that the troops stationed in Gyeonggi have a glorious mission and a heavy responsibility. They must strengthen political leadership, persist in using Xi Jinping's thoughts on strengthening the military to educate people, comprehensively and thoroughly implement the Chairman Responsibility System of the Military Commission, consolidate and expand the results of thematic education, in-depth promote political training, and create, strengthen the ideological and political foundation of officers and soldiers' absolute loyalty to the Party and ensure that the troops resolutely obey the commands of the Party Central Committee, the Central Military Commission and Chairman Xi.

CHINA-PLA: CMC VICE CHAIRMAN HE WEIDONG ADDRESSES SUMMARY MEETING ON THEME EDUCATION IN BEIJING ON FEBRUARY 7

The PLA Daily (February 7) reported that a 'summary meeting on the theme education of the military in studying and implementing Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era' was held in Beijing on February 7. Politburo member and CMC Vice Chairman General He Weidong, who is also 'leader of the Military Theme Education Leading Group', attended and delivered a speech. He emphasised the need to 'thoroughly implement President Xi Jinping's important instructions on thematic education' and 'deeply understand the decisive significance of the "two establishments", resolutely achieve the "two maintenances", comprehensively and thoroughly implement the Chairman Responsibility System of the Military Commission, and gather powerful forces to achieve the centenary goal of the founding of the army'. He Weidong pointed out that 'Thematic education has achieved remarkable results, and the political foundation has been newly strengthened' and 'the morale and ecology have taken on a new look'. and new progress has been made in the development of the army. He Weidong emphasized that it is necessary to 'learn ideas to build loyalty' and 'it is necessary to tighten and consolidate the political responsibilities of managing and governing the party, deeply promote political rectification, correct conduct and fight corruption, and promote a clear and beautiful political ecology'. CMC members Liu Zhenli and Zhang Shengmin attended the meeting, and Central Military Commission Member Miao Hua presided over the meeting. Branch venues were set up for the meeting for units at or above military level throughout the army.

CHINA-PLA: DURING HIS INSPECTION OF TIANJIN CHINESE PRESIDENT XI JINPING GREETES TROOPS STATIONED IN TIANJIN

Guangming Daily (February 4) reported that Chinese President Xi Jinping inspected and greeted the troops stationed in Tianjin on the eve of the Spring Festival on February 2. It quoted Xi Jinping as saying that in the past year, the troops in Tianjin have resolutely implemented the decisions and instructions of the Party Central Committee and the Central Military Commission and excelled in completing significant missions, especially providing strong support for Tianjin's flood control and disaster relief, making important contributions to safeguarding the lives and property of the people. Xi Jinping urged 'the deep implementation of the new era's military thinking, the comprehensive realization of the new era's military strategic guidelines, and the steadfast pursuit of the centennial goal of building the army. Xi Jinping concluded by 'urging the entire military to strengthen readiness duty, safeguard national security and social stability'. CMC Vice Chairman General He Weidong and others participated in the activity.

CHINA-PLA: PLA DAILY ARTICLE EXHORTS SOLDIERS TO TRAIN DURING SPRING FESTIVAL AND HOLIDAYS

Two officers of PLA Unit 93361 published an article in the PLA Daily (February 6) titled 'Keeping their mission and responsibilities in mind, soldiers must live a war-like New Year', which exhorted soldiers to be prepared to make sacrifices and face hardships required for war preparation. It said many soldiers must stick to their fighting positions during the Spring Festival, because soldiers are responsible for combat preparation, training, duty and other tasks all year round, and holidays are no exception. Though soldiers are also the children of their parents, they must keep their mission and responsibilities in mind at all times, be ready to fight, stay in the battle position, and protect their families and country. Recalling the saying in "Sun Tzu's Art of War": "To attack an unprepared enemy, take it by surprise", citing examples it said most wars have taken place during festivals and rest days and soldiers must have it in their blood, and effectively protect national security, social stability, and people's tranquility, and be prepared to train during holidays.

CHINA-PLA: 7TH SESSION OF 14TH NPC REMOVES 9 GENERALS AMID REPORTS OF CORRUPTION

The 7th session of the 14th NPC quietly removed several senior leaders of the PLA Rocket Force (PLARF) and CMC Equipment Development Department (EDD). These are: i) Zhang Zhenzhong (张振中) Deputy Chief of Staff of the Joint Staff Department and previous Deputy Commander of the PLARF; ii) Zhang Yulin (张育林) Deputy Minister of the EDD and Member of the Financial and Economic Committee of the 14th National People's Congress; iii) Rao Wenmin (饶文敏), representative from the EDD to the 14th NPC; iv) LtGen Ju Xinchun (鞠新春) PLA Navy Commander of the Southern Theater Command, previous Deputy Minister of the EDD of the Central Military Commission, previous Deputy Commander-in-Chief of China's manned space program, and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Space Station Phase Mission General Headquarters; previous Director of the EDD of the South China Sea Fleet, and previous Deputy Commander of the South China Sea Fleet; v) General Ding Laihang (丁来杭), former Commander of the PLA Air Force (until Sept. 2021); vi) Gen. Li Yuchao (李玉超), Commander, PLA Rocket Force; vii) Major General Lu Hong (吕宏), Director of the EDD, PLA Rocket Force; viii) Lt General Li Chuanguang (李传广), Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander of PLARF; and ix) Zhou Yaning (周亚宁), member of the 19th Central Committee and Commander of the PLARF.

(Comment: In total, three Generals, four Lieutenant Generals, and the two Commanders of the Rocket Force were dismissed. All these officers have a connection to Li Shangfu, and ties to the PLARF, Equipment Development Department and the space program. This is perhaps the largest purge in the PLARF and EDD in decades. It suggests something major must have occurred, either a major corruption scandal or an intelligence leak. It could also be tied to suspicions about Li Shangfu's loyalty to Xi Jinping, but he retains his membership of the CCP CC.)

CHINA-PLA: CHINESE COMPREHENSIVE SUPPLY SHIP SAILS WITH PLA NAVY IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

The People's Daily (February 8) disclosed that China's comprehensive supply ship Weishanhu, attached to a naval service ship group of the PLA Navy, sailed on the sea during a recent maritime training exercise in the South China Sea. The exercise focused on the subjects of search and rescue of the wounded, replenishment-at-sea, attack and defense operation, etc

CHINA-PLA: RIGOROUS HIGH ALTITUDE MILITARY TRAINING OF TROOPS IN YADONG COUNTY, TIBET

Chagolla Post in Yadong County, Tibet Military Region witnessed a rigorous military exercise as officers and soldiers navigated the formidable Himalayan training at altitude exceeding 5,000 mtrs. Against the backdrop of snow capped peaks, the command team orchestrated a dynamic training regime mirroring real combat scenarios. The exercise, featuring randomly generated drill situations like navigating the "drug contaminated" areas & countering enemy "active" recce, tested soldiers' adaptability. Using the natural landscape to their advantage, troops can hide themselves in vegetation and hills, masking reflective equipment. The responsive unit commander directed the construction of bunkers and managed supply support in the challenging plateau environment.

CHINA-TIBET: UNUSUAL TIBET DAILY ARTICLE DESCRIBES BORDER WITH INDIA AS "MOST COMPLEX" AND SCENE OF "INTENSE BORDER DEFENCE STRUGGLES"

The Tibet Daily (February 5) published an article titled 'Efforts will be made to establish a national action demonstration zone focused on strengthening and revitalizing borders while enhancing the well-being of the people'. The article focussed on border defence and said border security and national security are linked. It said Tibet's "border stretching over 4,000 kilometres" "represents the region with the most complex border conditions and intense border defense struggles in our country". It said "Without peace on the national border, thousands of families cannot experience peace". The article stressed that "Throughout history, the various ethnic groups in Tibet have collaborated in exploring the vast expanse of our motherland, jointly safeguarding the southwestern frontier, and making remarkable contributions to

fortifying the borders and national security." It explained that a "national action demonstration zone for strengthening and revitalizing borders and enriching people signifies a concentrated effort on the pivotal objective of "strengthening borders." It involves taking pride in establishing roots in the border regions, protecting the homeland, and fostering local communities. This initiative integrates border governance, security, stability, and development into a cohesive strategy, aiming to deeply implement actions to consolidate borders, revitalize the regions, and enhance the well-being of the people". Saying "There is a continuous focus on improving infrastructure in border areas", it urged cadres "to be at the forefront of national endeavors to consolidate borders, revitalize regions, and enhance the well-being of the people. This ensures border stability, national security, and the happiness of the citizens". "Cadres and the masses from diverse ethnic backgrounds must heighten their awareness of potential threats from the overarching strategic perspective of the party and the country. They should constantly bear in mind the imperative of a "strong border," work diligently on border governance, excel in stabilizing Tibet, and strive to promote prosperity in the border regions while enhancing the well-being of the people".

(Comment: Such an article in the Tibet Daily is unusual. Especially indicative of the apparently elevated level of concern in the Chinese leadership is the phrase: "represents the region with the most complex border conditions and intense border defense struggles in our country". It is reinforced by the exhortation to cadres to "heighten their awareness of potential threats from the overarching strategic perspective of the party and the country." This is also possibly the first time the descriptive phrase "most complex border conditions and intense border defense struggles in our country" has been noticed.)

CHINA-TIBET: PARTY SECRETARY OF NYINGTRI IN TAR VISITS PLA AND PAF TROOPS TO GREET THEM FOR CHINESE NEW YEAR

On January 31, on the occasion of the Spring Festival and ten days ahead of the Tibetan new year, Ao Liuquan, Party Secretary of Nyingtri (Ch:Linzhi) visited and met officers and soldiers of the PLA and Armed Police Force stationed in Nyingtri. On behalf of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee, Nyingtri People's Congress, Nyingtri People's Government, Nyingtri PPCC, and the people, he extended greetings to the officers, soldiers, and their families. Deputy Secretary of the Nyingtri Municipal Party Committee Norbu Tsering, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of the Municipal People's Congress Zhou Chuanfeng, Deputy Mayor of

the Nyingtri Municipal People's Government Qin Songmao, and Vice Chairman of the Municipal PPCC Yang Zong accompanied the Nyingtri Party Secretary. After presenting white scarves (Khatas) to "each and every soldier and officer" and conversing with them, Ao Liuquan pointed out that for a long time, the officers and soldiers stationed in Nyingtri have resolutely implemented Xi Jinping's military strengthening ideology, stayed on the frontline, and dedicated themselves to the border regions.

CHINA-TAIWAN: TAIWAN PLANS DEFENCES AGAINST DRONES

The Telegraph (February 4) disclosed that Taiwan intends to deploy drone defences around power plants amid fears of attack from China. Drone jamming guns and a passive radar detection and response system aimed to deter actions against critical infrastructure are being considered.

CHINA-HEBEI: ZUO LI (f) APPOINTED MEMBER OF STANDING COMMITTEE OF HEBEI PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE

The Hebei Daily reported (February 8) that the CCP CC had approved the appointment of Zuo Li (female) as a member of the Hebei Provincial Committee and Standing Committee. She was born in July 1967.

CHINA-HUBEI: HUBEI GOVERNOR VISITS EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT TO OVERSEE DISASTER RELIEF ON FEBRUARY 3 AND 4

The Hubei Provincial Government's official website reported (February 3) that as Hubei Province experienced large-scale blizzards to severe blizzards and low-temperature rain, snow, and freezing weather continued to develop, Deputy Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee and Governor Wang Zhonglin went to the Provincial Emergency Department to conduct video dispatch on the night of February 3 and morning of February 4.

CHINA-GANSU: 1972-BORN LI GANG APPOINTED MINISTER OF ORGANISATION DEPARTMENT OF GANSU PROVINCE

The Gansu Daily (February 8) reported the appointment of Li Gang as member of the Gansu Provincial Committee and Standing Committee. 1972-born Li Gang was also appointed as the Minister of the Organization Department of the Gansu Provincial Committee.

CHINA-XINJIANG: TURKISH ECONOMIC AND TRADE DELEGATION VISITED URUMQI, XINJIANG, ON FEBRUARY 1

Xinhua (February 2) reported that representatives from approximately 50 companies in China and Turkey convened in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, during a visit by a Turkish economic and trade delegation on February 1. The meeting aimed to explore opportunities for mutually beneficial cooperation. Participants expressed optimism about potential collaborations, with a focus on leveraging regional advantages in resources, including fruits and minerals. The Turkish delegation emphasized the desire for long-term partnerships, aligning Turkey's Middle Corridor initiative with China's Belt and Road Initiative for enhanced economic and trade relations. Discussions also highlighted potential industrial complementarity, particularly in areas like vegetables, fruits, and dairy products, fostering hopes for deep cooperation between Xinjiang and Turkish enterprises.

CHINA-INDIA: CHINA EXTENDS ANTI-DUMPING DUTIES ON IMPORTS OF CHLORO-P-NITROANILINE FROM INDIA

China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) has declared the extension of anti-dumping duties on imports of o-chloro-p-nitroaniline from India for an additional five years, commencing 13 February. Initially imposed in 2018 at rates ranging from 31.4-49.9 percent, the duties underwent review. Following a comprehensive year-long investigation, MOFCOM identified India's robust production capacity in the crucial yellow crystalline powder, primarily used in dyes, contributing to the significant overcapacity and destabilizing Chinese enterprises. The decision is viewed as a valid response to concerns expressed by domestic producers rather than a retaliatory measure against India. The thorough investigation underscores the complexity of the case and the Chinese authorities' commitment to considering the interests of all stakeholders.

CHINA-PAKISTAN: 9-DAY 'NEPAL, INDIA, AND SOUTH ASIA COMMODITY EXPO' HELD IN LHASA FROM JANUARY 15, 2024

Faisal Rashid, a Pakistani dealer showcased distinctive Pakistani handicrafts at the “2024 Nepal, India, and South Asia Commodity Expo” which opened in Lhasa, Tibet, on January 15. China Economic Net (CEN) claimed his stall will generate a sales volume of five or six hundred thousand Chinese yuan over the nine days of the Expo. Faisal said he spends most of his time in Beijing. He expressed admiration for Lhasa’s conducive business environment.

CHINA-JAPAN: GLOBAL TIMES CRITICISES JAPAN FOR DESIGNATING CHINA AS HYPOTHETICAL ENEMY IN COMPUTER-SIMULATED EXERCISE 'KEEN EDGE'

The Global Times (February 6) noted that the Japanese Self-Defense Forces and the US military are currently conducting an eight-day-long joint command post computer-simulated exercise codenamed "Keen Edge." It said despite Japan's earlier claims that the exercise "does not suppose any specific area or country," the Japanese news agency Kyodo News, citing "government sources," reported on January 4 that China is named as a hypothetical enemy for the first time in the exercise, with a presumed scenario of military conflict across the Taiwan Straits. This marks a significant escalation from Japan's provocative statements, stating "a Taiwan emergency is a Japanese emergency, and therefore an emergency for the Japan-US alliance," to actual joint actions by Japan and the US, which is very serious.

CHINA-PHILIPPINES: CHINA WARNS PHILIPPINES AGAINST DEPLOYING TROOPS ON NEARBY ISLAND OF BATANES

According to CCTV News, at the regular press conference on February 8, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Wang Wenbin replying to a reporter's question that the Philippine Defense Secretary has ordered the military to increase the number of troops and buildings in the Batanes Islands, which is less than 200 kilometres away from Taiwan, said that China and the Philippines are neighbouring countries facing each other across the sea. Friendly exchanges are the mainstream of the history of China-Philippines relations. Good neighbourliness, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs should be the way to get along with neighbours. Wang Wenbin emphasized that the

Taiwan issue is the core of China's core interests and an insurmountable red line and bottom line. Relevant parties in the Philippines should have a clear understanding of this, act prudently, and not play with fire on the Taiwan issue to avoid being taken advantage of and causing disaster.

CHINA-GERMANY: GERMAN CHANCELLOR SCHOLZ TO VISIT CHINA IN APRIL WITH BUSINESS DELEGATION

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz is to travel to China in April. He will be making the visit with a business delegation, and invitations to various firms have been sent by German industry groups.

CHINA-ZAMBIA: CHINA PROPOSES US\$ 1 BILLION PLAN TO REFURBISH CHINA-BUILT TAZARA RAILWAY

Bloomberg (February 8) disclosed that China's Ambassador to Zambia Du Xiaohui on February 7 presented a plan to Zambia's Transport Minister Frank Tayali to spend over US\$1 billion to refurbish Tazara, the 1,860-kilometer (1,156 miles) railway built by the Chinese in the 1970s. It said a team from China Civil and Engineering Construction Corp. visited the two African nations to study the line ahead of submitting the proposal.

CHINA-UN: CHINA CLAIMS IT OPPOSES ACTS THAT "INFRINGE UPON SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY OF OTHER COUNTRIES"

At the routine Foreign Ministry press briefing on February 5 in Beijing, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Wang Wenbin said 'Syria and Iraq are sovereign countries. China opposes acts that violate the UN Charter and infringe upon the territorial sovereignty and security of other countries'.

CHINA-UKRAINE: CHINA WARNS UKRAINE THAT RELATIONS COULD BE DAMAGED BY ITS DESIGNATING MORE THAN 12 CHINESE COMPANIES AS INTERNATIONAL SPONSORS OF WAR

Reuters (February 1) reported that China has told Ukraine that their bilateral relations could be damaged by Kyiv's designation of more than a dozen Chinese companies as "international sponsors of war", two senior Ukrainian sources with knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

CHINA-US: CHINA-US ECONOMIC WORKING GROUP MET IN BEIJING ON FEBRUARY 5 AND 6

The China-US Economic Working Group held its third meeting in Beijing on February 5 and 6. It was co-chaired by the Chinese Vice-Minister of Finance Liao Min and his American counterpart US Under Secretary of Treasury Sham Bo. The meeting focused on increasing cooperation between the two sides, especially on questions of macroeconomic policies in their respective states. The Chinese raised concerns about the American sanctions placed on Chinese companies, which they said were aimed at "supressing" the companies. Other concerns raised were regarding increased tariffs and the two-way investment restrictions.

CHINA-US: US SPECIAL FORCES (GREEN BERETS) TO DEPLOY WITH TAIWAN ARMED FORCES IN KINMEN AND MATSU ISLANDS

A report of February 6 disclosed that US Army Special Forces (Green Berets) will be stationed with the Republic of China Army's 101st Amphibious Reconnaissance Battalion on a long-term basis on Kinmen and Matsu.

CHINA-US: AMCHAM REPORT SAYS U.S. COMPANIES REPORTED IMPROVED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR 2023 BUT REMAIN CAUTIOUS ABOUT INCREASING INVESTMENT IN CHINA

Caixin (February 3) cited a report (February 1) from the American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham China), which said American companies in China reported improved financial results for 2023, but remain cautious about increasing investment in the country amid bilateral tensions and regulatory challenges. It added that nearly half of the 343 U.S. companies

surveyed between October and November believe their China operations were profitable last year, with 12% expecting them to be “very profitable,” a 5 percentage point improvement from 2022.

