

Analysis:

KCNA focused more attention on China this week, with a total of ten stories published. Compared to past weeks, this may seem like a moderate increase, but with the multitude of stories published by KCNA this week in general—at least 30 per day—China, once again, was largely left by the wayside.

Several of the stories this week focused on China and its reactions to events on the international stage. Of these, KCNA reported again on China's fierce defense of Iran, condemning sanctions and stating that only dialog and cooperation will resolve the issue. What makes this story different than the others from past weeks is that Premier Wen Jiabao himself, as opposed to various Foreign Ministry spokesmen, delivered the message during a joint press conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. We can see that China is paying more attention to the issue, even strategically using more influential members of government to get the message across. Furthermore, the Chinese Foreign Ministry this week also rejected the United States' accusation that China infiltrated the US computer network. FM Spokesman Liu Weimin said that such claims were groundless accusations and that the United States should "abandon its Cold War way of thinking." This story is another example of increased Sino-American tensions, and illustrates that China will squash any such rumor as quickly as possible in order to save face on the world stage. Finally, China's Foreign Ministry also busied itself this week by refuting a claim that a Chinese naval warship strayed off course when it passed between Okinawa and Miyako Island. China said that this maneuver was part of its right to practice naval exercises in the Western Pacific Ocean, an area, which according to international law, is free to use.

Another important story discussed by KCNA this week was the growing momentum to reconcile differences and unify the Korean Peninsula. This week, Koreans in China were reportedly heard calling for support of this movement and said that "putting... common interests above all other things" was of the utmost importance. With stories such as these, we see the DPRK trying to forge a new path under the leadership of Kim Jong Un, thus moving into an era of increased cooperation and participation both in Asia and in the world abroad.

Two stories were published this week which dealt with remembrances for Kim Jong Il and Kim Il Sung in China. These

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stories make clear that the DPRK remains focused on the remembrance and glorification of its leaders, and respects—or merely conflates—the tribute paid to them by foreign powers.

An additional two stories this week centered on DPRK operas which have recently “moved Chinese audiences to tears.” Stories such as these attest to the growing popularity of DPRK arts in China, which—as the two countries expand mutual cooperation—will be an important means of cultural communication.

Finally, KCNA published details on the continued construction of an expressway in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

Evan Koepfler, Pacific Lutheran University

5 February 2012

China Opposes Sanctions on Iran: Premier

Beijing, February 4 (KCNA) -- Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao at a joint press conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Thursday declared China's stand against sanctions on Iran.

The sanctions will not drastically solve the nuclear issue of Iran and the use of armed forces will further confuse the situation of the Middle East region and the rest of the world, the premier said.

He said that China regards dialogue and cooperation as the only correct and effective way for solving Iran's nuclear issue.

China will continue normal economic trade including oil trade with Iran and will not bargain on the principle, he said, stressing that the normal economic trade between countries should be protected.

Expressway Construction in Xinjiang Uygur, China

Beijing, February 4 (KCNA) -- The Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region of China pushes forward the construction of expressway.

The region has set it as a goal to extend a total length of expressway to 5,000 km by the end of 2015.

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No China related stories were published today.

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Chinese Moved to Tears by DPRK Opera

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Pyongyang, February 7 (KCNA) -- The Chinese People's Daily on Feb. 3 carried an article titled "'Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai' moves people to tears despite language barrier".

The Phibada Opera Troup of the DPRK made performance tour of China with the opera on the theme of "Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai", the paper said, and went on:

Korean artistes' performance of the opera deeply touched audiences through a perfect and flawless artistic ensemble of songs and dances.

The vocal skill of the artiste who played the part of Zhu Yingtai was very high.

The story "Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai" was reproduced in a modern style by Chinese Shaoshing opera artistes and staged by Koreans as an opera in Korean.

This will no doubt add new beautiful pages to the history of cultural exchange between China and the DPRK in the future, too.

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China Rejects US Accusation: FM Spokesman

Beijing, February 7 (KCNA) -- Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin on Monday rejected the U.S. groundless accusation against China.

The U.S. government said in its recent report that China stole the U.S. intellectual property rights and "spied" on the economy by intruding into the U.S. computer network. Such accusation is groundless and it is for insidious purpose, the spokesman pointed out.

He said that it is irresponsible act to judge the source of cyber attack without detailed investigation and clear evidence.

China urges the U.S. to abandon its Cold War way of thinking, respect objective facts and stop groundless accusation, he said.

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DPRK Opera Enjoys Popularity among Chinese

Pyongyang, February 9 (KCNA) -- The Phibada Opera Troupe of the DPRK toured some areas of China with the opera "Liang Shanbo and Zhu Yingtai" from October 25 to January 7, enjoying great popularity among Chinese people.

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The opera, created under the wise leadership of General Secretary Kim Jong Il, is a precious cultural treasure demonstrating the developed Juche-oriented arts and contributing to strengthening the DPRK-China friendship in the new century.

Kim Jong Il suggested creating the opera based on a famous Chinese folktale and energetically guided its creation.

He gave guidance to the creation of the opera in September Juche 99 (2010).

He said that performers' dialogue should be implicated, women's pangchang (off-stage song) introduced and Chinese national instruments used in the opera.

He also helped creators decorate the tomb scene, the last part of the opera, in a peculiar way.

Afterwards, he guided the creation of the opera on several occasions, successfully completing it as a symbol of the DPRK-China friendship.

Chinese people, enjoying the opera, said that it was an excellent work truthfully representing their feelings. They also praised the creative talents of Korean artistes.

They expressed deep reverence for Kim Jong Il, saying that they learnt about his greatness through the wonderful performance.

Koreans in China Hails DPRK Appeal on National Reunification

Pyongyang, February 9 (KCNA) -- The General Association of Koreans in China on Feb. 5 issued a statement in support of the appeal of the North Side Committee for Implementing June 15 Joint Declaration addressed to all Koreans at home and abroad.

Under the title of "Open up a fresh phase for independent reunification by the united efforts of the entire nation" the statement pointed out that the separatist forces are making frantic efforts to completely block the road to national reconciliation, unity and reunification, provided by the June 15 joint declaration, and the advance of the Korean nation while getting more hell-bent on the confrontation with compatriots in league with foreign forces.

It called upon all the compatriots at home and abroad to work for reconciliation and unity of the nation by putting its common interests above all other things.

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We will positively take part in the joint reunification events of the nation to be held on the occasions of the 12th anniversary of the June 15 joint declaration and the 5th anniversary of the October 4 declaration, in order to promote the national reconciliation and unity and bring a decisive turn in accomplishing the cause of national reunification this eventful year, the statement said, adding:

We will intensify the activities for gathering and solidarity among pro-reunification bodies and organizations in the north and the south and abroad this year.

The General Association and all Koreans in China will vigorously struggle to sternly punish the puppet conservative group of south Korea, a cancer of the nation and enemy of the reunification, and open up a new phase of independent reunification through unity and solidarity of all compatriots in the north and the south and abroad.

Cooperation among Asian Countries

Pyongyang, February 9 (KCNA) -- China and Laos vowed on Monday to deepen mutually beneficial and substantial cooperation in various fields, boosting bilateral ties to a new level.

Earlier on Friday, Indonesia and Pakistan signed the Preferential Trade Agreement between both countries.

10 February 2012

Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il Remembered in China

Pyongyang, February 10 (KCNA) -- A remembrance meeting took place in China on Feb. 8 on the 70th birth anniversary of General Secretary Kim Jong Il.

The participants laid floral baskets before the portraits of President Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il before paying tribute to them.

Speeches were made by the son of anti-Japanese revolutionary fighter in China Li Zade, Zhang Jinlu, a daughter of Chinese anti-Japanese revolutionary martyr Zhang Weihua, Zhou Wei, a daughter of Zhou Baozhong who is Chinese related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, a daughter of Feng Zhongyun, a daughter of Zhang Shou-jian, and others.

They recalled the benevolent loving care shown by the President and Kim Jong Il for their families in their lifetime.

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The dear respected Kim Jong Un took measures to help them visit Pyongyang after the demise of Kim Jong Il in December last year and express condolences before his bier, they said.

Kim Jong Il pursued Songun politics under the uplifted banner of the Juche idea by inheriting the idea and cause of the President and thus shattered the moves of the imperialists to stifle the DPRK and led the Korean people to victory, they added.

Kim Jong Il worked hard for the cause of building a thriving socialist nation and national reunification day and night till the last moments of his life and made every possible effort to boost the traditional Sino-DPRK friendship, they stressed.

They noted the President and Kim Jong Il were peerlessly great men who would go down long in history.

Present at the meeting were the DPRK ambassador to China and staff members of his embassy.

Chinese Ministry of Defense Rejects Accusations of Japanese Media

Beijing, February 9 (KCNA) -- An official of the Publicity Department of the Chinese Ministry of Defense recently snubbed the accusations made by Japanese media.

Refuting the accusations made by Japanese media on Feb. 3 against a Chinese naval warship's passing through the waters between the Island of Okinawa and Miyako Island, he declared it is a routine work included in the yearly plan for a naval flotilla of the Chinese People's Liberation Army to conduct maneuvers in the Western Pacific Ocean in the first half of February.

China has a legitimate right to freely sail in the waters and this is in line with international law, he added.

11 February 2012

Meeting for Remembering Kim Jong Il Held in China

Pyongyang, February 11 (KCNA) -- A meeting for remembering leader Kim Jong Il took place in China on Feb. 9 in commemoration of his 70th birth anniversary.

Its participants watched videos introducing the DPRK such as "Pyongyang at Night" before speeches were made by Li Xiaohua, vice-president of China Association for International Friendly Contact, and Zhou Wei, daughter of Zhou Baozhong, a Chinese

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associated with the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle and other persons.

Noting that Kim Jong Il's demise was a great loss to all the Korean people, Li said:

Kim Jong Il carried forward and developed the traditional Sino-DPRK friendship provided and fostered by the elder revolutionaries of the two countries. The Chinese people will never forget him.

Recollecting with deep emotion the warm loving care shown by Kim Jong Il for her family, Zhou Wei noted that Kim Jong Un identical to Kim Jong Il is showing profound love for families of those related to the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle.

No matter how much water may flow under the bridge and no matter how frequently a generation is replaced by another, the Sino-DPRK friendship will always be evergreen, Zhou Wei said, expressing confidence that the generations to come will also carry forward and further glorify the bilateral friendly relations.

The feats Kim Jong Il performed for boosting the bilateral relations of friendship will always shed its rays and go down in history, Zhou Wei concluded.