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Analysis

In this first week of the New Year, China-related stories saw a sharp downturn towards the beginning of the week in light of the continued mourning for Kim Jong Il and the momentous build up of the new Kim Jong Un regime. However, as the week moved on, KCNA published a range of stories on a variety of China related topics.

Four of the 28 stories published about China in KCNA this week spoke of either condolatory messages to the DPRK, with one story going so far as to highlight a Chinese website which had noted the “good fortune” of the North Korean people to have Kim Jong Un as their leader. Although the premise is completely orthodox – e.g., more assertions that the North Korean leaders are demigods – such stories also serve the purpose of asserting that China continues to act in such a way that promotes friendship and understanding as the DPRK moves towards a new beginning, quite unlike Japan and South Korea, both of which have been excoriated for not paying proper respects. As interesting is the notion which underpins the story – that the Chinese and North Korean people are moving towards a kind of online friendship, and that online activity results in the people’s expression of support for the government. Like its various dispatches about Li Changchun, Party building and “socialist morality” in other weeks, it seems clear that for North Korea today, China’s technological ways are used as a model not just for modernization, but for a government-centered and people-supported form of technological development that essentially brushes aside signs of growing political turbulence in the PRC.

Most of the stories that came out later in the week focused on domestic issues in China, especially issues of government involvement or reform. Of particular note were the items entitled, respectively, **Amendments to Laws Discussed in China** and **Hu Jintao Calls for Improving Party Work**. In the first relatively short story, important issues such as reform of budget and criminal law procedure are discussed. Though they are only mentioned within a list of other topics, these items are of critical importance given the current political climate in China and the recent emphasis on border security. While it is impossible to definitively decode KCNA’s method of speaking to would-be defectors, it seems plain enough that news items about stringent changes to Chinese criminal law procedures – and such items as the Jan. 5 story about armed police in the PRC -- should act as a further deterrent. In the second story, Hu Jintao, in a meeting with the Political Bureau on

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December 30th, stressed the need to halt political corruption and increase discipline within the party. In the major uptick of news about China in North Korea since 2009, it is no coincidence that stories about the anti-corruption drives within the Chinese Communist Party have played a consistent role: for the Korean Workers' Party in recent years, purges of officials have become even more commonplace than prior, and Kim Jong Un wishes to be portrayed within the country as a kind of a cleansing wind, even as he honors his predecessor and, presumably, tightens control over the most lucrative parts of the kleptocracy.

Stories on the Chinese periphery merit brief mention: China's new airport in Tibet harmonizes with China's policy toward ethnic minorities (scoring easy points with such audiences as China's Foreign Ministry), but it also illustrates that China is capable now of economically developing its remotest regions.

The outlook for Chinese foreign policy moving into 2012, sure to be a recurring theme in the North Korean press, was also discussed. PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said that China would continue to strive towards building cooperation among neighboring countries and attempt to cope with the growing global financial crisis. Stories like this contribute China's self-proclaimed "Peaceful Rise [和平崛起]" onto the world stage and imply that North Korea can benefit from China's counterbalancing of threats from the U.S. and Japan. Another key thread in North Korean news regarding the global stage is Iran, which, along with news about aerial drone strikes in Pakistan, seems to be one of the major stories KCNA follows almost obsessively. In the KCNA item **Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Objects to Sanctions on Iran**, the KCNA shows with absolute clarity the positive role it sees China as playing, as opposed to the United States, while always implying that the Iranians have a right to develop whatever nuclear capacity they choose. The Foreign Ministry said that China does not believe in slapping sanctions on a country to diffuse tensions, an attitude which North Korea hopes the Chinese comrades will hold to in the Kim Jong Un era.

Overall, despite the slow start of stories this week, the latter part of the week brought several important stories for China both internally and on the world stage. With stories relating to Kim Jong Il's demise and the mourning of the people coming to an end, KCNA has returned to publishing stories mostly about foreign policy and foreign issues.

-- Evan Koepfler and Adam Cathcart

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1 January 2012

Chinese Diplomats Mourn Demise of Kim Jong Il

Pyongyang, January 1 (KCNA) -- Chinese diplomats accredited to foreign countries paid condolatory visits to the DPRK missions in those countries from Dec. 20 to 25 over the demise of leader Kim Jong Il. They included Chinese diplomatic envoys and members of the Chinese missions in Khabarovsk of Russia, Cambodia, Iran, Mongolia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Austria, Italy, South Africa, Guinea and Uganda and an acting representative of Chinese permanent mission in UNESCO.

They laid wreaths, floral baskets and bouquets before the portrait of Kim Jong Il and expressed deep condolences on his demise.

It was unusual that all the senior Chinese party and state officials mourned Kim Jong Il's demise, they said, adding this is possible only between countries in comradely relations.

Saying that Kim Jong Il greatly contributed to the socialist cause of the DPRK and the development of the Sino-DPRK friendship and cooperation, they stressed he will be immortal.

2 January 2012

China and DPRK, States with Traditional Good-neighborly and Friendly Ties: Chinese FM Spokesperson

Pyongyang, January 2 (KCNA) -- A spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry expressed belief that the DPRK would continue pushing forward socialist construction.

Answering a question by VOA over the demise of leader Kim Jong Il on Dec. 29, the spokesperson said:

China and the DPRK are friendly neighbors. After the demise of Kim Jong Il, the supreme leader of the DPRK, the Chinese side expressed deep condolences in various forms.

What I want to emphasize is our belief that the Korean people would continue pushing forward the socialist cause by turning sorrow into strength under the leadership of the Workers' Party of Korea and Comrade Kim Jong Un.

China and the DPRK are states of traditional good-neighborly and friendly ties.

We will make joint efforts with the DPRK side to steadily consolidate the friendship between the two parties, countries and

peoples and defend peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and the region.

Hu Jintao Calls for Improving Party Work

Pyongyang, January 2 (KCNA) -- Hu Jintao, general secretary of the C.C., Communist Party of China, at the meeting of its Political Bureau on Dec. 30 last year stressed the need to step up the campaign for establishing the party discipline, enforcing clean-handed policy and combating corruption.

The general demand of the campaign for the year 2012 is to comprehensively implement the spirit of the 17th Congress of the Party and the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th plenary meetings of the 17th-term Central Committee of the Party and adhere to the policy of giving importance to the work to combat the corruption in advance by means of punishment and prevention, he said.

He also underlined the need to establish the strict party discipline, intensify the improvement of the party's work style and concentrate efforts on solving the issues fully representing the wish of the popular masses in enforcing anti-corrupt clean handed policy.

3 January 2012

Chinese Diplomats Pay Condolatory Visits to DPRK Missions in Different Countries

Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA) -- Diplomatic envoys of China in various countries and at international organizations paid condolatory visits to DPRK missions from Dec. 20 to 25 last year on the demise of leader Kim Jong Il.

The Chinese consul general in Khabarovsk of Russia said after expressing profound condolences:

After hearing the sad news about the demise of Comrade Kim Jong Il, the leadership and people of China mourned his passing in bitter grief. They are remembering him, sharing sorrow with the Korean people suffering the pain at his loss.

It is something rare that all the senior officials of the party and state of China expressed condolences. This can be seen only between the countries which have relations of comradeship.

China and the DPRK demonstrated before the world that they are in the relationship of comradeship.

The cause of Comrade Kim Jong Il who developed the Sino-DPRK relations on a fresh higher level will be carried forward.

The Chinese ambassador to Malaysia wrote in the mourners' book: Comrade Kim Jong Il was the great leader of the Korean people and the closest friend of the Chinese people. He made a great contribution to the cause of socialism in the DPRK and the development of the Sino-DPRK friendship and cooperation. We will never forget him. The great leader of the Korean people Comrade Kim Jong Il will be immortal.

The Chinese ambassador to Guinea noted:

The demise of the great leader Comrade Kim Jong Il is a great loss to all the peoples of China and the DPRK.

He was an energetic statesman who devoted all his wisdom and energies to the peace and security in Northeast Asia including the Korean Peninsula and the rest of the world.

I believe under the leadership of Comrade General Kim Jong Un the Korean people will successfully carry forward the revolutionary cause to which Comrade Kim Jong Il dedicated his whole life.

It Is Good Fortune of Korean People to Have Kim Jong Un as Their Supreme Leader: Chinese Internet Website

Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA) -- An article titled "We Wish the Korean People All the Best" was posted on Chinese Internet website Xinlang on Dec. 28 last year.

Since the very day leader Kim Jong Il demised, the dear respected Kim Jong Un has looked after the nation's all affairs in a uniform manner and all work has been carried out without hitch under his leadership, the article said, and went on:

What does this mean.

Firstly, senior officials of the party, state and army of the DPRK and all the people had already held Kim Jong Un in high esteem as their leader.

Secondly, it tells that by having Kim Jong Un as the supreme leader of the party and state of the DPRK it will continue to advance along the road of socialism explored by the revolutionaries of the elder generation, not along the road of revisionism and capitalism, and the Korean people can continue to enjoy benefits from the state such as free education, free medical care and free provision of dwelling houses.

Thirdly, the DPRK is fully capable of preventing and checking the distortion or revision of the revolutionary line provided by the revolutionaries of the elder generation and the establishment of the capitalist private ownership.

Recalling that some people are distorting and speaking ill of the reality of the DPRK, dancing to other's tune, the article continued:

The DPRK, though not a big country, has achieved steady development despite the difficult situation created by the protracted moves of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges.

It launched satellites by its own efforts and conducted nuclear tests, striking terror into the hearts of the imperialists.

The people who have been under the great leaders generation after generation deserve reverence, respect and envy from mankind.

We wish the Korean people all the best.

Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia Show Held in China

Pyongyang, January 3 (KCNA) -- A Kimilsungia-Kimjongilia show was held in Dalian, China from Dec. 20 to 22 last year to mark the 20th anniversary of leader Kim Jong Il's assumption of supreme commandship of the Korean People's Army and the 94th birth anniversary of anti-Japanese war hero Kim Jong Suk.

Displayed at the show hall were potted Kimilsungias and Kimjongilias in full bloom against the background of a large computer-aided electric picture depicting those flowers of the sun.

Seen there were also photos and books introducing the fact that the immortal flowers of the sun won gold prizes and highest prizes at world horticultural expos and international flower shows.

The hall was crowded with personages and masses of Dalian City.

The visitors looked round flowers with solemn emotion.

They wrote in the visitor's book such letters as "We hope that Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia, famous flowers of Korea, will always come into full bloom in the minds of the Chinese and Korean peoples" and "May Kimilsungia and Kimjongilia come into full bloom all over the world".

Meanwhile, the Kimjongilia show took place in Shenyang City on Dec. 23. last year.

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On display at the show hall were potted red Kimjongilias in full bloom against the background of a large computer-aided electric picture depicting the marshal star of the supreme commander flag on its center and words "December 24" and "20th Anniversary" on both sides.

Personages of all social standings and masses of the city visited the show hall.

Tibet Autonomous Region to Build Highest New Airport

Beijing, January 2 (KCNA) -- The Tibet Autonomous Region of China is planning to build a new airport on the highest area in the world.

The height of the airport is 4 436 meters, 102 meters higher than the Bangda Airport in the area of Changdu in the same region.

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No China related stories were published on this date.

5 January 2012

Amendments to Laws Discussed in China

Beijing, January 4 (KCNA) -- The first session of the 24th meeting of the 11th Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China took place in the Great Hall of People in Beijing some days ago.

Discussed in the session were draft amendments to occupational disease prevention and treatment law, criminal procedure law and budget law and a draft decision on convening the 5th meeting of the 11th NPC.

CPPCC National Committee Meets

Beijing, January 4 (KCNA) -- The 43rd presidium session of the 11th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) took place in Beijing some days ago.

Addressing the session, Chairman Jia Qinglin called for making a new-year plan in a proper way and sincerely studying and implementing the spirit of the 6th Plenum of the 17th Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and the spirit of the national economic meeting.

He underscored the need to pool the wisdom and strength of various domains and work hard to build a comprehensively well-off society so as to greet the 18th CPC congress with notable successes.

Stable, Rapid Industrial Development Urged in China

Beijing, January 4 (KCNA) -- Zhang Dejiang, vice-premier of the Chinese State Council, recently called for ensuring a stable and comparatively rapid industrial development.

Zhang, speaking at a national industrial and IT meeting, said it is important to maintain the advance along the new road of industrialization with the Chinese characteristics and promote the industrialization on the IT basis.

He also underscored the need to greet the 18th Congress of the Communist Party with great achievements in making a stable and comparatively rapid development of the country's economy and promoting the social harmony and stability.

China Outlines Foreign Policy for 2012

Beijing, January 4 (KCNA) -- In 2012, China will steadily intensify cooperation with neighboring nations, upgrade solidarity and cooperation among developing countries and continue to take part in international cooperation to cope with financial crisis, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

Speaking at a recent news conference, Hong Lei said China will unshakably take the road of peaceful development, contribute to defending global peace and promote co-prosperity.

Chinese Official Calls for Preserving Cultural Remains Well

Beijing, January 4 (KCNA) -- A Chinese state councilor called for properly preserving cultural remains.

Speaking at a recent national video meeting, Liu Yandong underscored the need to make a progress in preserving cultural remains and attain prosperity and development of culture by implementing the spirit of the 6th Plenum of the 17th Communist Party of China Central Committee.

She called for getting a correct understanding of the new duties concerning cultural remains and preserving the remains both in a legal and scientific way.

Young, Middle-aged Cadres Urged to Enhance Their Role in China

Beijing, January 4 (KCNA) -- Li Yuanchao, head of the Organization Department of the C.C., the Communist Party of China, called on young and middle-aged cadres to enhance their role.

Addressing a recent round-table talk with members of a training course of the Central Party School, he said they should actively take part in establishing the system of socialist core value, possess noble traits and acquire profound knowledge, as demanded by General Secretary Hu Jintao.

They should volunteer to do difficult jobs and work in complicated circumstances, learn the style of work and accumulate experience in practice and get a good understanding of the popular masses, he urged.

China Discusses Developing High-speed Railway Sector

Beijing, January 4 (KCNA) -- An executive meeting of the State Council was held in China recently. Premier Wen Jiabao presided over the meeting.

The meeting stressed the need to properly work out plans of railway, particularly high-speed railway management in a unified way and promote a scientific, stable and sustainable development of the high-speed railway sector.

Provincial Fruit and Rape Outputs Rise in China

Beijing, January 4 (KCNA) -- Shaanxi and Hubei provinces of China are directing big efforts to agricultural production.

Last year Shaanxi Province produced 14.2 million tons of fruit and Hubei Province 2.2 million tons of rape, each leading the country in production of fruit and rape.

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Senior Official of Koreans Organization in China Condemns Lee Myung Bak Group's Thrice-cursed Crimes

Pyongyang, January 6 (KCNA) -- Cha Sang Bo, vice-chairman of the General Association of Koreans in China, on Tuesday made public a statement "Nation will surely force the Lee Myung Bak group of traitors to pay for its thrice-cursed crimes."

The Lee group seriously hurt the dignity of the DPRK and desperately blocked condolatory visits by south Korean people of different social standings, bringing into bolder relief its sinister intention to escalate the confrontation with the DPRK during the

nation's mourning over the great loss, the statement noted, and went on:

The general association and all Koreans in China brand the Lee group's acts of rubbing salt into the wounds of the compatriots who bitterly cried, unable to keep back the sorrow over the untimely loss of the father of the nation as hideous crimes against the nation.

The group persistently blocked Pyongyang visits by south Koreans, snatched condolence messages and even defiled them and brutally suppressed those who set up incense-burning altars. These acts were thrice-cursed treacherous acts putting into the shade the treachery committed by the "civilian"-veiled fascist gang in the past. These crimes are, therefore, touching off towering resentment and hatred among all compatriots.

It was only the Lee group which did not hesitate to perpetrate such anti-reunification acts of inciting confrontation with compatriots as hurting the dignity of the supreme leadership of the DPRK and scattering anti-DPRK leaflets, far from saying any word of mourning and condolences.

We together with the compatriots at home will force the Lee group to pay for the above-said crimes to the last.

The General Association of Koreans in China and all the Koreans in China will hold the supreme leader of the Korean people Kim Jong Un in high esteem as lodestar of national reunification and turn out as one in the drive to implement the last instructions of leader Kim Jong Il for national reunification.

Kim Jong Un's Activities Reported by Media of Russia, China

Pyongyang, January 6 (KCNA) -- The news that the dear respected Kim Jong Un, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, enjoyed 2012 New Year's concert "The Cause of the Sun Will Be Immortal" given by the Unhasu Orchestra on the New Year was reported by Chinese Xinhua and Russian ITAR – TASS between January 2 and 3.

Xinhua news said:

General Kim Jong Un, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, enjoyed the 2012 New Year's concert "The Cause of the Sun Will Be Immortal" given by the Unhasu Orchestra on the New Year.

The audience paid silent tribute to leader Kim Jong Il in humblest reverence.

The concert emphasized that Kim Jong Il would live forever in the hearts of the service personnel and people of the DPRK.

Kim Jong Un highly appreciated the concert and extended thanks to the performers.

He said that he couldn't repress tears in his eyes whenever the benevolent image of Kim Jong Il appeared in the screen and that he was greatly inspired by the concert.

Xinhua Daily Telegraph, Beijing Daily, Liberation Daily, CCTV and regional internet homepages of China reported the same news.

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Objects to Sanctions on Iran

Beijing, January 5 (KCNA) -- Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hong Lei in a press conference on Jan. 4 clarified the stand of his government against the sanctions on Iran.

He said that his country has consistently maintained that sanctions are not a fundamental way for defusing the tense situation and solving the nuclear issue of Iran and dialogue and negotiations alone are the right way.

China is opposed to a country slapping unilateral sanctions against other country, putting its domestic law above international law, he said.

Like other countries China has maintained normal and open economic trade and energy dealing with Iran, he said, adding that this should not be affected as it is not in violation of the UNSC resolution.

China Ready to Promote Ties with Central Asian Nations: Spokesman

Beijing, January 5 (KCNA) -- Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei at a recent press conference expressed the country's willingness to fully develop friendly relations and reciprocal cooperation with Central Asian countries.

Hong said that over the past two decades China has sought a healthy and stable development of relations with Central Asian countries based on the principle of mutual respect, equal treatment and mutual benefit.

China is ready to promote friendly relations and cooperation of mutual benefit with the five Central Asian nations through joint

celebrations of the 20th anniversary of diplomatic ties with them, Hong stressed.

Chinese Premier Calls for Reaping Bumper Crop in New Year

Beijing, January 5 (KCNA) -- Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao called for properly carrying on the agricultural and rural work in the new year.

Speaking at a national meeting on the work of rural communities held in Beijing recently, the premier said the socialist rural construction is an important task to be fulfilled in the whole process of the modernization of China.

All the regions and domains should give priority to the agricultural production, particularly grain output in the new year and increase investment to ensure a good harvest again, he urged.

Chinese Daily Calls for Greeting 18th CPC Congress with Achievements

Beijing, January 5 (KCNA) -- The Chinese People's Daily Tuesday carried an article titled "Let Us Overcome Difficulties and Advance with Confidence."

Properly doing all party and state work is of weighty significance this year when the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) will be convened, the daily said, and went on:

To have confidence means to steadily advance toward the goal already set, while steadfastly adhering to the road of socialism with the Chinese characteristics, socialist theoretical system and socialist society.

To advance means to successfully promote all the party and state affairs through vigorous changes and innovations.

The daily called for overcoming difficulties with full confidence and greeting the 18th Congress with fresh achievements in the building of a comprehensively well-off society.

CPC Calls for Building Advanced Basic Party Organizations

Beijing, January 5 (KCNA) -- The head of the Organization Department of the Communist Party of China (CPC) called on party members to properly conduct the activities for building advanced basic party organizations and becoming fine members.

Li Yuanchao, at the 8th meeting of the central guidance group held in Beijing recently, underlined the need to encourage all the basic

party organizations and party members to turn out in the activities to register achievements in serving the popular masses and strengthening the basic organizations, providing a good atmosphere for the 18th Congress of the CPC.

Chinese Armed Police Urged to Fully Discharge Its Mission

Beijing, January 5 (KCNA) -- Meng Jianzhu, Chinese minister of Public Security, called on the armed police to successfully fulfill its duty and mission.

Speaking at a recent second plenary meeting of the second party committee of the armed police, he said that all policemen should have a high political sense of responsibility and historic mission, give top priority to the interests of the Communist Party and the people and increase their capacity of dealing with sudden happenings, combating terrorism and ensuring stability.

He also said great importance should be attached to party building in the armed police.

Qinghai Province of China Promotes Development of Solar Energy

Beijing, January 5 (KCNA) -- Qinghai Province of China has put much effort on the development of the solar energy.

Now the generating capacity of solar heat power stations built in the province totals to 1 mln kw.

The province plans to build more stations.

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Fire Brigades Urged to Enhance Their Role in China

Beijing, January 6 (KCNA) -- Meng Jianzhu, Chinese minister of Public Security, called for enhancing the role of the fire brigades.

Speaking at a recent enlarged meeting of the party committee of fire-fighting department of the Ministry of Public Security, he said fire brigades at all levels should fully implement the decision of the State Council for the improvement of fire-fighting activities and modernize themselves.

They should also increase their fire-fighting capacity and provide good conditions of fire fighting.

China's Vice-premier Calls for Improving Financial Management

Beijing, January 6 (KCNA) -- China's vice-premier referred to the tasks to be fulfilled by the financial sector at a national round-table talk on financial affairs held recently.

Li Keqiang underscored the need for financial officials to give importance to serving people, improve the financial management in a scientific way, increase incomes and economize expenditures.

Chinese Official Calls for Building Sports Power

Beijing, January 6 (KCNA) -- China's state councilor called for turning the country into a sports power.

Liu Yandong, at a national meeting of sports department directors held recently, said sports officials should step up the building of a sports power, deeply aware of their historic mission and responsibility.

CPC Pays Importance to Work with Veteran Party Members

Beijing, January 6 (KCNA) -- The Organization Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) recently issued a notice calling for making sympathetic visits to party members leading an indigent life and veteran party members and cadres during the New Year's Day and the spring festival.

The notice said that it is a good tradition of the CPC and an important duty of party organizations at all levels to take care of those people.

It stressed the need for all the regions and domains to be deeply aware of the importance of this work and make the party's deep concern reach them in time.