

Analysis:

With joint US and South Korean military exercises dominating the news published by KCNA this week, only six stories concerning China were posted. Although there were ample stories in the Chinese media voicing concern about US-ROK military exercises (as a simple scan of the daily tabloid *National Defense Times* / 国防时报 would indicate), KCNA did not make a single mention of China's steady diet of press critique of South Korean defense policy.

Likewise, there was no mention of the many pro-North Korean statements in the Chinese press on account of the February 29 agreement between the DPRK and the U.S. If China was responsible for mediating and cooling temperatures in East Asia, there was no sign of it in the North Korean press.

Instead, the perhaps most notable China feature in this week's KCNA was the focus on the reaction of Koreans in China in their condemnation of the recent military exercises. The General Association of Koreans in China made a statement in response to these exercises saying, "we resolutely oppose large-scale exercises for a war against the DPRK being staged by the U.S. and South Korean warmongers."

However, this opposition to large scale exercises and war against the DPRK is rendered a bit ironic, because just a day earlier, KCNA had published a story titled: **DPRK Is Fully Ready for Dialogue and War: FM Spokesman** which stated that the North Korean government is equally ready to launch into full scale war as they are to enter dialog to solve the issue.

This week, KCNA has yet again paid increased attention to China's cooperation with several other nations as it moves closer and closer to the forefront of the global stage. The first of these stories detailed China's boosted friendship with Africa. KCNA highlighted China's financial contribution that helped build the African Union Conference Center, which it noted was the first time the AU had a headquarters to meet at in its 48 year history. Furthermore, China has "actively expanded in various fields including politics, economy, trade and culture with the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) as momentum." Despite past claims that China has engaged in "Neocolonialism" in Africa, the relationships and progress that China has made in the region are real and tangible. The story goes

on to list off accomplishment after accomplishment, which include: increased trade, increased oil exports to China, economic cooperation, and an overall movement towards mutual peace and prosperity. It appears quite obvious that the KCNA has determined that raising the straw man of Western critiques of Chinese cooperation with Africa can serve as a sufficient proxy for concerns that China is using North Korea in a somewhat “neocolonial” fashion, which is to say, mainly treating the DPRK as a source of mineral extraction.

Natural resources trade with China was at the core of two more stories detailing further cooperation between China and countries including Nepal, Venezuela, Indonesia, and Kyrgyzstan. China and Nepal have agreed to increase cooperation in forest conservation and management. Venezuela and China signed agreements to further increase cooperation in mining and oil exchange. Indonesia and China met for a third time, and vowed to further “cooperate in the fields of infrastructure construction, bilateral trade, military exchanges, culture, education, health, media and youth.”

With the short item on China and Kyrgyzstan signing agreements to fight drug trafficking and related issues with drugs in the region, the KCNA allows for some discussion of the problem of borders, frontiers and drugs which have problematized its own relationship with the PRC.

Finally, two stories published this week focused on the increasingly rocky relationship between China and Japan. Last week, KCNA reported on new tensions over the Nanjing massacre, and this week, tensions continued to rise with a story focusing on Japan’s recent rhetoric, which paints China in an increasingly negative light. China’s claims are that this negative depiction of the country threatens the peace in the region, and that Japan has itself bolstered its military instead of seeking out peace and stability. Furthermore, China also took issue with Japan’s survey of contested waters in the East Sea of China. Both of these issues in addition to the issues discussed last week have contributed to an increasingly uneasy relationship between the two countries, countries that are the two major powers in the area. It should be noted that quarrels between these two powers threatens the overall stability and peace of the region as a whole, making it possible that the KCNA is not covering these issues to support Chinese claims of enflamed anti-Japanese sentiment among North Koreans, but rather to remind readers of the fractious relations among the DPRK’s neighbor states.

- Evan Koepfler, Pacific Lutheran University

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2012

26 February 2012

No China related stories were published today.

27 February 2012

No China related stories were published today.

28 February 2012

Koreans in China Condemn U.S.-S. Korea Military Drills

Pyongyang, February 28 (KCNA) -- The General Association of Koreans in China Monday made public a statement "We resolutely oppose large-scale exercises for a war against the DPRK being staged by the U.S. and south Korean warmongers."

It accused the Lee Myung Bak group of traitors who went ahead with the DPRK-targeted Key Resolve and Foal Eagle joint military exercises together with the U.S. imperialists despite strong domestic and foreign rebuff and denunciation.

The General Association of Koreans in China vehemently condemns with mounting national resentment the U.S. and the south Korean puppet forces for bringing the dark clouds of a nuclear war to hang over the DPRK to bring it down by force of arms despite unanimous opposition of Koreans, the statement said, and went on:

The on-going military drills are unpardonable war hysteria kicked up by the hooligans by availing themselves of the mourning period in the DPRK and an intolerable infringement on its sovereignty and dignity.

The U.S. imperialists and the puppet group are an arch criminal who has disturbed the process of the denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula. They have made nuclear blackmail against the DPRK after shipping all types of nuclear strike means to south Korea and areas around it under the pretext of joint military drills.

They should behave themselves, thinking twice about the grave consequences to be entailed by their anti-DPRK war moves, and stop at once the reckless war exercises for aggression against it.

China Boosts Friendship with Africa

Pyongyang, February 28 (KCNA) -- China has recently beefed up cooperation with Africa.

African Union (AU) Conference Center and office complex were built in Addis Ababa with the help of the Chinese government. It was inaugurated in late January.

This made it possible for AU to have its own headquarters building as a major regional body after the lapse of 48 years since its foundation.

In the new century the bilateral ties have actively expanded in various fields including politics, economy, trade and culture with the establishment of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) as a momentum.

The economic and commercial relations have markedly developed, in particular.

The bilateral trade increased to 114 billion U.S. dollars in 2010 from 10.6 billion U.S. dollars in 2000. Last year it hit 160 billion U.S. dollars.

The Chinese government opened China's markets to African goods duty-free, thus helping promote the bilateral trade.

The African countries' exports to China have increased. For instance, 70 percent of Africa's total oil exports find their way to China.

China has also made active investments in African countries so that they can enhance their own potentials for economic development.

China's cooperation spurring the development of Africa is being supported as a positive one conducive to the world peace and prosperity.

29 February 2012

Spokesman for Chinese Defense Ministry Slams Japan's Smear Campaign

Beijing, February 28 (KCNA) -- A spokesman for the Chinese Ministry of National Defense at a recent press conference rejected Japan's smear campaign against his country.

The spokesman said Japan's talk about "threat from China" is unfavorable not only for the military relations between the two countries but for peace and stability in the region, adding that his country rationally sets the scope of the defense budget on the basis of the nation's security need and the level of development of the national economy.

Recalling that on the contrary Japan has massively bolstered up its military capability, he said this is drawing the attention of the international community and neighboring countries in particular.

Japan should remain faithful to its commitments to take the road of peaceful development, taking history as a mirror, and stop pulling up others this or that way.

1 March 2012

China Agrees Cooperation with Nepal and Venezuela

Pyongyang, March 1 (KCNA) -- Nepal and China have agreed to strengthen and enhance the coordination in the fields of forest conservation and management on Feb. 25.

And before this business representatives of Venezuela and China signed on Friday two significant cooperation agreements in the fields of oil and mining.

2 March 2012

China Slams Japan for Conducting Unilateral Survey in Disputed Waters

Beijing, March 1 (KCNA) -- Hong Lei, spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, at a news conference on Feb. 29, denounced Japan for making a unilateral survey in the waters of the East Sea of China.

He said that China expresses dissatisfaction with Japan's repeated unilateral survey in the disputed waters despite its opposition.

Noting that China's attitude toward the issue of the East Sea is clear and consistent, he urged Japan to immediately stop such an act and refrain from violations of the rights and interests of China.

3 March 2012

China Cooperates with Different Countries

Pyongyang, March 3 (KCNA) -- China and Indonesia on Tuesday held the third meeting of a bilateral dialogue mechanism at deputy prime ministerial level, with the two sides vowing to further cooperate in the fields of infrastructure construction, bilateral trade, military exchanges, culture, education, health, media and youth.

On the same day China and Kyrgyzstan signed a cooperative agreement on fighting drug trafficking and the abuse of narcotics, psychotropic drugs and precursor chemicals.