

# Tokyo raises heat in trade row with Beijing

5-4 29/6  
Tokyo, June 28 (Reuters): Japan raised the heat in a trade row with China today, saying its emergency import curbs on some Chinese farm products and Beijing's retaliatory tariffs were separate issues and insisted Tokyo had right on its side.

"Japan isn't wrong," Katsusada Hirose, vice-minister of economy, trade and industry, told a news conference.

The festering trade row between the two giant Asian trading partners has gathered momentum since China slapped 100 per cent punitive tariffs on imports of Japanese vehicles, mobile phones and air conditioners last Friday.

That move was in retaliation for Japan's imposition of hefty curbs in April on some Chinese agricultural goods and has forced Japanese automakers to halt exports to China amid a slew of order cancellations.

"Our view is that the two issues should be treated separately," Hirose said. That view is unlikely to go down well with China, which has said it is ready for talks but it was up to Japan to resolve the row by removing its curbs on the Chinese farm products.

Hirose said the Asian neighbours were still making efforts to reach an agreement on holding talks, but that the tariffs should be discussed separately because China was breaking World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules as well as Japan-China trade pacts by imposing the duties. "We do hope to hold talks as soon as possible, even as early as next week, so the two sides should use our heads to come up with an agreement," he said.

But he stressed that Tokyo had no intention of ending its "safeguard" import curbs slapped on shiitake mushrooms, leeks and

rushes for the tatami mats that cover the floors of traditional Japanese homes because these were allowed by the WTO.

The impact of the tariffs was clear from latest figures, which showed that from the previous month imports of leeks in May fell 59.9 per cent to 766 tonnes, shiitake mushrooms dropped 66 per cent to 790 tonnes, while tatami rushes fell 69 per cent to 1,529 tonnes. The tariffs were hitting not only China, but were biting into the businesses of Japanese firms and greengrocers who have come to rely on the cheap imports to attract custom in an economy where consumer spending has been falling steadily. One small Tokyo tatami mat manufacturer said his business would suffer because he now had to use more expensive domestically grown rushes since the imposition of the 106 per cent temporary tariffs on Chinese rushes.

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# World War II sex slaves get Chinese support

Beijing, June 20

CHINA IS backing women forced by the Japanese military to serve as sex slaves during World War II in an appeal against a Tokyo court's rejection of their demands for compensation.

The women have the support of three quasi-official organisations, the all-China lawyers association, the all-China Women's Federation and the China Foundation for Human Rights Development, State-run media reported on Wednesday.

"The decision has turned a blind eye to the facts, laws and human rights and has once again seriously harmed the Chinese victims and the feelings of the Chinese people," the groups said in a joint statement carried by the Beijing Morning Post and other newspapers. The reports said the women had produced "enough evidence" to prove they had been repeatedly raped by Japanese soldiers between 1942 and 1944.

The clash over sex slaves is one of a series of contentious issues now troubling relations between Japan and China.

On Monday, China announced punitive tariffs on Japanese cars, mobile phones and air conditioners, in a mounting trade spat between Asia's two largest economies. China has also objected to the recent approval by the Japanese Government of history textbooks that Beijing says gloss over wartime atrocities and aggression.

No one knows how many sex slaves survive. Many have concealed their past, considering it shameful. Historians say as many as 200,000 Asian women were abducted as sex slaves for Japanese soldiers before and during World War II.

Five women from central China's filed a lawsuit in Tokyo in 1995 demanding apology and compensation from Japan.

AP

# China protests Japan nod to Lee visit

THE CHINA DAILY  
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

BEIJING, April 21. — China has strongly protested against the Japanese government for its decision to allow Mr Lee Teng-hui to visit Japan.

Vice-foreign minister, Mr Wang Yi, met the Japanese ambassador to China, Mr Koreshige Anami, last evening and lodged solemn representations with the Japanese government on its decision.

Mr Wang said China has, through various channels, repeatedly expounded the serious political nature of Mr Lee's visit to Japan and demanded Japan to observe the

fundamental principles of the Sino-Japanese joint statement and the joint declaration and deter Mr Lee from visiting Japan. Mr Wang said it is a regret that Japan is adamant on permitting Mr Lee's visit. "The Chinese government strongly protests against this," Mr Wang said.

Mr Wang pointed out that Mr Lee, the chief representative of "Taiwan independence" forces, has never stopped his activities of splitting China.

He has been attempting to visit Japan using all sorts of excuses, and this time it is on the pretence of his needs for 'medical treatments', he said.

In fact, Mr Lee is going to Japan to peddle his 'Taiwan

Independence' policy and seek support there, the Chinese minister alleged.

This time, some dignitaries of Taiwan authorities also gave support to Mr Lee, claiming that this is a 'issue of the whole nation,' Mr Wang said and added that this demonstrated that Mr Lee's visit to Japan is neither a visit of a 'civilian' nor a so-called 'humanitarian issue,' but a pure and simple political issue.

Mr Wang said the Japanese government had made clear commitments in the Sino-Japanese joint statement that it fully understands and respects the Chinese government's stand on the Taiwan issue, and it said later on

many occasions that it would abide by the One-China principle and would not support 'Taiwan independence'.

There is nothing more important than keeping one's words in dealing with the relations between two countries, he added. Mr Lee cooked up the 'two states' theory and is still engaged in activities aimed at separating Taiwan from China. Japan's approval of Lee's visit has seriously violated the principles of the Sino-Japanese joint statement and betrayed its serious commitments, he alleged.

Mr Wang said that the Japanese side has yet to give a proper explanation on the Japanese history textbook issue to

the Chinese people, and has now caused a disturbance on the Taiwan issue again.

To safeguard the political foundation of the Sino-Japanese relationship and the seriousness of joint statement between the two countries, the Chinese side has to make a response, he said.

Mr Anami said he will report the Chinese stance to the Japanese government adding Mr Lee's visit to Japan will be strictly limited to medical treatments. The ambassador assured that the Japanese government will not change its stand on adhering to the principles of the Sino-Japanese joint statement.

THE STATESMAN

22 APR 2001

# China summons Japan's envoy over textbook

BEIJING, APRIL 4.—China today summoned the Japanese Ambassador and conveyed its strong indignation over Tokyo's approval of a controversial history textbook which whitewashes the atrocities committed by Japanese troops during World War II.

The Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, called in the Ambassador, Mr. Anami Koreshige, and made solemn representations with the Japanese side over Tokyo's approval and passage of the history textbook compiled by Japanese right-wing scholars, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

"China strongly demands the Japanese side to take effective measures immediately to remove the bad impacts arising from the textbook issue and safeguard the general situation of Sino-Japanese relations," Mr. Tang was quoted as saying.

Earlier, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Zhu Bagzao, in a

statement, said the Chinese government and people are strongly indignant about and dissatisfied with the new Japanese history textbook.

"The textbook, which intentionally blurs the nature of the aggressive war launched by the Japanese invaders, does not reflect on the deep tragedies brought about by the Japanese militarists to the Asian people, but instead whitewashes and exculpates the atrocities committed by the Japanese troops," the spokesman noted.

## Japan to go ahead

In Tokyo, Japan's Foreign Ministry said today it would not bow to foreign pressure to bar schools from using the controversial textbook that critics say glosses over the country's wartime aggression.

The Education Ministry endorsed the draft of the high school history textbook yesterday following a screening by a

ministry panel, which recommended that some 137 sections be revised due to their controversial content.

"The screening procedures were completed, and therefore there will be no change (to the content)," the Foreign Minister, Mr. Yohei Kono, told the Lower House of Parliament's foreign affairs committee.

"There is no possibility whatsoever that the Foreign Ministry will intervene," he added.

China and South Korea lambasted the Japanese government's decision to approve the textbook.

South Korea says the textbook glosses over Japan's 35-year occupation of the Korean peninsula — including the fact that Koreans were forced to use the Japanese language and pledge loyalty to its emperor.

— PTI, Reuters