

## China, Japan to continue dialogue

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, SEPT. 9. China and Japan have agreed upon a "consensus" to sustain their sensitive ties by launching a "consultation mechanism" to promote an economic partnership.

The resumption of "diplomatic consultation" through an exclusive "mechanism" for this purpose has also been agreed. The "lessons of history" have been recognised, too, as a factor in charting the future course of Sino-Japanese relationship.

China today outlined a six-point "consensus" as the outcome of the Japanese Foreign Minister, Yoriko Kawaguchi's talks in Beijing during her current visit there. Tokyo appeared eager, instead, to underscore its more immediate concerns by projecting China's perceived support for the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi's initiative of engaging North Korea through a summit in Pyongyang on Sept. 17.

The difference in emphasis did not translate into any major dissonance in the ongoing Sino-Japanese dialogue. Ms. Kawaguchi was invited for talks by her Chinese counterpart, Tang Jiaxuan, in the evolving context of global and regional politics about the all-consuming anti-terror agenda. Japan was quick to seize the moment to engage Beijing ahead of Mr. Koizumi's prospective summit with the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il, whose positive equation with the Chinese leadership was already a significant diplomatic dynamic in the Asia-Pacific region.

On the other hand, China reckoned that its current relationship with Tokyo required a course-correction if it were to attain the boost-trajectory. The recent wave of apprehensions about the possibility of a revival of Japanese "militant nationalism" had also weighed with the Chinese.

# North Korea figures in Sino-Japan talks

By P. S. Suryanarayana

9/9  
SINGAPORE, SEPT. 8. The Japanese Foreign Minister, Yoriko Kawaguchi, has begun talks with the Chinese leaders in Beijing today in a diplomatic exercise that is likely to influence North Korea's planned summit with Japan on September 17. Ms. Yoriko's agenda goes beyond this issue, but the immediacy of the summit lends her visit to Beijing an added dimension.

Speculation in the Japanese political circles about the Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi's likely strategy is gaining momentum, prompting him to put the issue in perspective. He has made it clear that Tokyo would not be in a position to consider serious talks with Pyongyang for the normalisation of their ties without resolving the mystery about the (alleged) abduction of 11 Japanese nationals by the North Korean authorities in the past so as to enlist them for spying activities in some form or other. The latest strand of speculation in Tokyo is that Mr. Koizumi might tender a formal

140-15  
apology to North Korea for imperial Japan's excesses during World War II. It is against such a run-up to the summit that the fragile process of inter-Korean dialogue towards an eventual political reunification today received a modest boost. South Korea and its estranged northern neighbour agreed to establish a centre where the divided families could meet.

The decision was reportedly taken at the remote site of Geumgang Mountain in North Korea where the Red Cross officials from both sides of the divide met for three days.

AP reports:

The agreement was reached during three days of inter-Korean Red Cross talks at a mountain resort on North Korea's east coast. The meetings came as North Korea is moving anew to reach out to the rest of the world. After months of tension, the communist regime restarted reconciliation efforts with South Korea in August and agreed to a host of political, economic, sports and cultural exchanges.

## China's appeal to Japan

BEIJING, AUG. 29. China is demanding that Japan "take a responsible attitude" toward its use of germ weapons on Chinese civilians, after a Tokyo court <sup>87-15 30) 8</sup> time acknowledged their use in World War II, state media said on Thursday.

"The facts are undeniable," newspapers <sup>87-15 30) 8</sup> quoted the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Kong Quan, as saying of the ruling issued on Tuesday in a lawsuit by Chinese who said they were injured or lost family members to germ attacks. "The Japanese side should take a responsible attitude towards its history and towards reality and correctly acknowledge and deal with history," Mr. Kong was quoted as saying. Japan has admitted that a germ warfare unit operated in China during the war but has refused to release details. — AP

30 AUG 2002

# Confirmed: Japan germ warfare in China

MASAYUKI KITANO

T-9  
246

Tokyo, Aug. 27 (Reuters): A Japanese court today recognised for the first time that Japan had conducted biological warfare in China during World War II — something that has never been officially acknowledged by the Japanese government.

But the Tokyo district court rejected a lawsuit for damages filed against the Japanese government by Chinese people who said their relatives were killed in the germ warfare.

The 180 Chinese plaintiffs had demanded that Japan pay them compensation of 10 million yen (\$83,430) each and apologise for the activities of biological warfare units such as the infamous Unit 731.

In dismissing the suit, the court said international law did not recognise the right of individuals to seek compensation from a state for damages suffered during war.

"It's positive that the court recognised the fact," said Kohken Tsuchiya, who headed the Japanese legal team acting for the plaintiffs. "However, it's still a loss for the plaintiffs so we would like to appeal."

The plaintiffs did not hide



A man holds a portrait of a victim of Japanese germ warfare in Tokyo. (AFP)

their bitterness.

"My father died of plague, my elder brother died of plague. But it's all over in a few minutes at the court, it's unfair," 71-year-old Chen Zhifa from Yiwu city in eastern Zhejiang province told reporters through an interpreter.

"I was so disappointed and angry at the verdict," said 62-

year-old Xu Wanzhi, a plaintiff from central Hunan Province.

"Of course we are not going to accept a verdict like this... We are ready for a prolonged fight," he said, adding that his son and grandson would continue the fight if he died.

The plaintiffs said there were eight outbreaks of plague or cholera in China's eastern Zhejiang province and central Hunan province from 1940 to 1942, which they alleged was the result of germ warfare by Japanese forces.

Germ warfare was already illegal under international law at the time.

When asked about the court's rejection of the lawsuit, Hideki Hama, director of the civil litigation division at the justice ministry, said: "We understand that the (Japanese) government's legal assertion was recognised."

The Japanese government's position as defendants in the case, was that there was no legal basis for the plaintiffs to seek compensation from it, Hama said.

Hama declined to comment on the court's decision to recognise the fact that Japanese force had waged germ warfare.

31 Jul 2002  
#0-12  
24/6

## China to play 'balancing role'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, JUNE 23.** China has once again made it known that it would play a 'balancing role' for reducing tension between India and Pakistan.

Speaking at a local function here on Saturday, the Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan, Zang Chunxiang, said, "our desire is that the troops on the borders should be immediately withdrawn and both countries should resolve their differences through negotiations".

He told the audience that China was very much concerned about the prevailing tension between the two countries. "War is no solution to the problem," he said adding that both countries would suffer if they resorted to war.

"We want that India and Pakistan should start a dialogue

for resolving their problems," Mr. Zang said. China has what it describes as 'all weather friendship' with Pakistan and Beijing has consistently talked about its neutrality in the current crisis between New Delhi and Islamabad.

Mr. Zang told the gathering that China was concerned about the current tension. It had tried and was still trying to bring peace between India and Pakistan. He said the Chinese President has spoken to the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, and the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, on the subject.

The Chinese envoy said Pakistan and India both were very important countries of South Asia, and therefore it was imperative that for the sake of peace they found out solution through negotiations.

24 JUN 2002

THE HINDU

# Japan, China avoid row over asylum-seekers

The Yomiuri Shimbun/ANN

TOKYO, June 9. - Tokyo and Beijing are yet to start discussions aimed at resolving a diplomatic row over North Korean asylum-seekers who were seized from the Japanese consulate general in Shenyang, China, a month ago.

A resolution has been indefinitely postponed as the two governments have not even scheduled talks over whether Chinese police infringed Japan's rights of inviolability by entering the facility.

Since the incident, the government has been reviewing its policy towards refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as the foreign ministry's crisis-management

system, which has been questioned by the public. A senior ministry official said on Friday, "I think it should be appreciated that the five (asylum-seekers) were able to go to a place where they can live freely." He described the move to allow the five to travel to South Korea as a "humanitarian resolution."

After the incident, the government was criticised for not having a clear policy on asylum-seekers and other refugees. In an effort to clarify such issues, it set up a private advisory panel to report to justice minister Mr Mayumi Moriyama. The Liberal Democratic Party also set up a discussion panel under policy research council chairman Mr Taro Aso to review policies toward refugees and asylum-seekers.

10 JUN 1997

THE STATESMAN

# Japan, China move to defuse tension

By Amit Baruah

**SINGAPORE, MAY 28.** Japan today dispatched its Vice-Foreign Minister, Seiken Sugiura, to Pakistan and India in a bid to defuse tensions between the two South Asian neighbours in conjunction with "other friendly nations".

In a separate development, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Tang Jiaxuan, spoke to his American counterpart, Colin Powell, and called for "more balanced and fairer attitudes" from the international community to encourage a "direct dialogue" between India and Pakistan.

In Tokyo, a Japanese Government spokesman said his Government was "deeply concerned about the situation, whereby the tensions are mounting day by day between India and Pakistan, namely since the terrorist attack on May 14 on an Army cantonment by Muslim militant forces".

Asked at a press conference how he could classify the Kaluchak attackers as "Muslim militant forces", the spokesman promptly altered his description to "Pakistani militant forces".

"We have been expressing our deep regret to the Pakistani Government over its missile launch testing, and we have also been conveying our strong hope that the Pakistani Government rein in and crack down on militant activities in Kashmir," the spokesman's remarks, posted on the Japanese Foreign Ministry website, said.

"Also, we are expressing our appreciation to the Indian side for the endurance shown by the Indian Government, and we have also been expressing our hope that the Indian Government, in response to the international community, makes exhaustive diplomatic efforts."

Interestingly, the spokesman said that Tokyo was taking a re-look at its decision to "discon-

tinue" economic sanctions imposed against Pakistan following its May 1998 nuclear tests.

"The sanctions that we imposed in 1998 on India as well as on Pakistan have been discontinued — they are not yet officially lifted ...we find it quite regrettable that Pakistan has carried out the missile launch test. At this time, we are not looking at our policy toward Pakistan, but we would like to see how the situation over Kashmir develops," he added.

In a separate statement, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Mr. Sugiura, would be in Pakistan and India from Tuesday to Saturday. "He will convey to them Japan's position that terrorism of any kind can never be justified, and urge Pakistan to strive further to effectively stop and prevent terrorist activities and India to make exhaustive diplomatic efforts in response to the appeal of the international community."

# Japan demands China's apology

By Amit Baruah

**SINGAPORE, MAY 12.** A major diplomatic row has erupted between Japan and China after Chinese police entered the Japanese consulate in the northeastern Chinese town of Shenyang on Wednesday and dragged out five North Korean asylum-seekers.

As a five-member Japanese delegation arrived in Shenyang for a full probe into the incident, the Japanese Foreign Minister, Yoriko Kawaguchi, demanded an apology from Beijing.

In summoning the Chinese Ambassador, Wu Dawei, Ms. Kawaguchi said that Tokyo wanted an explanation for the incident and a promise that such events would not recur.

"We cannot accept what the Chinese Government did regardless of the reason for their action ... we will deal with this issue resolutely from the standpoint of international law and humanitarian

principles," she said.

Under international law, the premises of an embassy, High Commission or consulate are considered sovereign territory and cannot be trespassed upon by personnel of the host country.

China has responded that its police entered the consulate only after receiving permission from a deputy Consul posted at the Japanese mission. The Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement: "On May 8, five persons of unknown identity tried to force their way into the Japanese consulate ... The Chinese armed police officers on duty took measures to intercept them, but two of them still got into the consulate grounds ... With the consent of a deputy Consul, the Chinese guards entered the consulate and brought the two persons out.

"According to the Vienna Convention on consulate relations, the Chinese side is responsible for ensuring safety of the consulate.

As the five persons are of unknown identity and have not gone through necessary procedures, they pose a threat to the consulate and its staff ... The Japanese side should keep calm and understand the Chinese move out of goodwill, and not aggravate the issue."

A North Korean was able to enter the American consulate in Shenyang on Thursday, a day after the incident.

Though the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, has repeatedly met top Chinese leadership, the Shenyang incident, coupled with the provocative visits by Mr. Koizumi to a controversial war shrine, have undermined relations between the two countries.

China and the Koreas remain deeply suspicious about Japan's military past and future intentions and Mr. Koizumi's two visits to the Yasukuni shrine have not helped Tokyo's relations with its neighbours.

10-19

136

13 MAR 2002



# China claims vice-consul nod

YOMIURI SHIMBUN  
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

Japan accused of 1998 entry

BEIJING, May 11. — Contrary to Japan's claims concerning a Wednesday incident in which five suspected North Korean asylum seekers were seized by Chinese police officers at the Japanese consulate general in Shenyang, China, the Chinese government announced the results of its own investigation into the incident early today, saying that police removed two men who entered the building "with the consent of a (Japanese) vice-consul". The statement said police obtained the vice-consul's consent to enter the consulate building and remove two of the five suspected asylum seekers.

It said a consul later agreed to allow Chinese public security officials to take the five into custody.

TOKYO, May 11. — Japanese police today investigated a claim by China that Japanese police officers entered the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo without China's consent to catch an intruder four years ago. China said last evening that Japanese police entered the main building of the Chinese Embassy in May 1998 to remove "persons of unknown identity" without China's consent. — AP

The statement contradicts the Japanese government's position, which has been that the police "invaded the sanctity of the consulate general", causing a diplomatic feud between the two countries.

The Japan foreign ministry today denied the Chinese statement saying "It's not true that consent was given" and reiterated Japan's demand that the five be handed over and China issue an apology for the intrusion.

China said the action taken by the police did not violate

the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and said Japan should treat the incident as an accident.

Analysts predict that the Chinese government will not accede to Japan's demand that the five asylum seekers be handed over. Beijing will probably deport them to a third country.

**Vice-consul's actions controversial:** The actions of a vice-consul at the scene filmed in video unknown to the official has raised questions about how he handled poten-

tially important evidence.

The vice-consul is seen in video footage picking up hats belonging to Chinese policemen who entered the grounds of the consulate in pursuit of the asylum seekers and handing them back to the police while they dragged two women and a child from the grounds. The hats' location on sovereign soil, if left undisturbed, would have constituted evidence of intrusion.

This incident has fueled criticism in Japan from Cabinet members, lawmakers and experts of the handling of the incident by consulate general officials.

Consulate staff also found two men seated on a bench in a visa application waiting room and had 10 minutes to take them away to ensure their safety but failed to do so which resulted in their arrest, analysts said. /

THE STATESMAN

1 MAY 2002

# Angry China blasts Koizumi's visit to Yasukuni shrine

Agence France-Press

BEIJING, April 21. — China today summoned the Japanese ambassador to Beijing to express its displeasure over a surprise visit by Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi to a controversial war shrine.

Vice-foreign minister Mr Li Zhaoxing told the ambassador, Mr Koreshige Anami, of the potential damage to bilateral ties after Mr Koizumi visited the Yasukuni Shrine, which honours class A war criminals, the Xinhua news agency said.

"The new visit to the shrine hurts the Chinese people's feelings and is an erroneous action that damages ties between China and Japan," Mr Li told the ambassador according to Xinhua.

China's reaction came just hours after Mr Koizumi's visit to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, a symbol of Japan's wartime imperialism which honours 2.5 million war dead. Among those honoured are 14 designated as Class A criminals by the Allies in trials that followed World War II.

"People will not easily forget the savage behaviour of imperial Japan in the Pacific area," Mr Li said. The global trend is for countries to strive hard for peace and



Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi is led by a Shinto priest after visiting the controversial Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo on Sunday. — AFP

stability. "If the leader of a country doesn't have a correct view of historical aggression and war

crimes, how easy will it be for him to get the confidence of the people of the world?" he asked.

bound for Lahore, ploughed into the tree near the town of Burewala when the driver lost control at a sharp bend. — AFP

**China fire:** At least seven people were killed and about 20 injured today when a fire swept through a seven-floor building on south China's tourist island of Hainan, state media said. The fire broke out early morning in a shopping centre inside the building, which is located in downtown Sanya city, Xinhua reported. — AFP

## WORLD BRIEFS

**Singer found dead:** Layne Staley, lead singer and guitarist for the grunge band Alice in Chains, was found dead in his apartment, authorities said. He was 34. With

Nirvana, Pearl Jam and Soundgarden, Alice in Chains was one of the most prominent

bands of the Seattle grunge scene of the early 90s. — AP

**Iran drug haul:** Several smugglers were killed, two arrested and four tons of opium seized in clashes between Iranian police and

drug traffickers near the Afghan border, a top security official said on Sunday. The traffickers, smuggling opium and other drugs as well as firearms to Turkey and Europe, were intercepted late on Saturday. — AFP

**Net suicide:** Two teenaged girls and a 34-year-old man leaped 28 floors to their deaths in the South Korean capital after making an Internet suicide pact, police said on Sunday. The two girls, aged 15 and 16, were found in an embrace with the man. Police said they jumped from a 28th floor apartment in Seoul on Friday night. — AFP

Li Peng slams  
'axis of evil'  
remark

TOKYO, APRIL 5. Criticising the U.S. President, George W Bush for branding North Korea part of "an axis of evil," the visiting Chinese leader, Li Peng, today said the United States was causing trouble in the region.

Mr. Li, meeting the Democratic Socialist Party leader, Takako Doi, also said China and Japan should cooperate to promote dialogue with North Korea to avoid any armed conflict in the region, a party spokesman, Takuya Kawai, said.

The U.S.-North Korea relations deteriorated after Mr. Bush in January branded Pyongyang — along with Iran and Iraq — as part of "an axis of evil" with ambitions to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Li welcomed recent contacts between Seoul and Pyongyang, and added that statements like Mr. Bush's that counter regional stability should be avoided, Kawai said.

Mr. Li, a former Prime Minister and now Chairman of China's Parliament, is visiting at the invitation of Japanese legislative leaders. Kawai said, however, that Mr. Li made no mention to Doi of Tokyo's plans to raise a suspected North Korean spy boat that sank after a December firefight with the Japan Coast Guard. — AP

APR 10 1992

# Jiang rejects U.S. plea for democracy

**BEIJING, MARCH 4.** The Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, today rejected a recent plea by the U.S. for a change in China's political system, saying the communist party would continue to dominate political power in the world's most populous nation.

The system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China remains the fundamental polit-

ical system of China, the official Xinhua news agency quoted Mr. Jiang as saying during a meeting with non-communist party leaders. Consulting the democratic parties on major issues and especially accepting their supervision would help the CPC improve its leadership and governance as a ruling party, Mr. Jiang, who is also general secretary of CPC, said.

Mr. Jiang made the remarks

at a joint meeting of members of the China Democratic League and China Zhi Gong Party who are here for the annual session of the ninth national committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the top advisory body, which opened yesterday. He called on non-communist parties to co-operate with the CPC, take the country's central tasks and

overall situation into account when playing their role in discussing and participating in State affairs, and contribute to the country's reform and modernisation drive.

The American President, George W Bush, during his visit to Beijing last month, advocated multi-party democracy in China, which has been ruled by the CPC since the People's Republic was founded in 1949. — PTI

THE HINDU

5 MAR 2002