

MOVE TO PROTECT DEMOCRACY, SAYS TAIPEI

China welcomes Bush snub to Taiwan

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China Daily/ ANN & Agencies

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10. — Beijing has appreciated Washington's "opposition" to the Taiwan referendum which might lead the island towards independence.

Chinese Premier Mr Wen Jiabao, presently on a visit to the USA, said: "We very much appreciate the position adopted by President Bush towards the latest moves and developments in Taiwan, that is, the attempt to resort to referenda of various kinds as an excuse to pursue Taiwan independence."

During a meeting between Mr Wen and Mr George W



The US President (right) and the Chinese Premier review the Fife and Drum Corp at the White House on Tuesday. — AFP

Bush in the White House yesterday, the US President said his government "opposes any unilateral decision" by either sides of Taiwan Straits "to change the status quo, and the comments and actions made by the leader of Taiwan indicate that he may be willing to make decisions unilaterally to change the status quo, which we oppose".

Reacting to Mr Bush's comments, Mr Wen later told reporters that China "respects the desire of the people in Taiwan for democracy", but some Taiwanese leaders were "only using democracy as an excuse" to move toward splitting Taiwan away from China, which the Beijing government "cannot tolerate".

He added that China was determined to uphold its "one-China policy" and maintain "national unity," but also would not give up "our aspiration for peaceful reunification".

In another development, the US administration attempted to reassure its allies that its opposition to Taipei's referendum on Chinese missile threat does not change the country's policy on Beijing, a senior American official has said.

Washington is "in no way abandoning" support for Taiwan's democracy, the official said yesterday on condition of anonymity. "We are in no way abandoning support for Taiwan's democracy or for the spread of freedom."

Chen defends referendum

Taiwan's President formally announced his re-election bid today with a speech loaded with blistering criticism of China's efforts to stop the Taiwanese from holding their first island-wide referendum, adds a report from Taipei.

The controversial vote — to be held during the 20 March presidential election — will ask voters to demand that China remove hundreds of missiles pointed at Taiwan.

Mr Chen said the referendum was part of his campaign to expand Taiwan's young democracy. He said just because China opposes democratic rights and political reform, it does not mean Taiwanese must also live in a repressive society. "China wants to use any method to solve the Taiwan problem," he said. "But for China, the biggest Taiwan problem is democracy, freedom and human rights." He also said his goal was to make Taiwan a "normal, complete and great democratic country".

He described the planned referendum as a normal democratic right. "The people of Taiwan have the right to say loudly 'We are against the missiles, we want democracy, we are against war, we want peace,'" the Taiwan President said. "There is no one who can force the people of Taiwan to see the missile threat as a normal thing."

THE STRAITSMAN

DEC 11 2004

China wants U.S. to oppose Taiwan move

By P. S. Suryanarayana

8/10/04 *110-15* *8/12*
SINGAPORE, DEC. 7. China has mounted a diplomatic offensive to secure an assurance from the United States that it opposes Taiwan's moves towards 'independence'. This aspect of Beijing's diplomacy has come into sharp focus in the context of the Chinese Prime Minister, Wen Jiabao's four-day visit to the U.S., beginning on Sunday.

The Chinese ambassador to the U.S., Yang Jiechi, told the official Xinhua news agency that Beijing 'hopes' that Washington would stick to the one-China policy and abide by the three Sino-U.S. joint communiqués. He underlined his country's 'hope' that the U.S. would honour its commitments and oppose Taiwan's activities that were aimed at 'splitting China'. The significance of these remarks goes beyond the nuances in Sino-U.S. political engagement, according to diplomats and analysts in East Asia. China's concerns are caused by the moves of the Taiwan President, Chen Shui-bian, to hold a "defensive referendum" next year, on the issue of the territory's future. Mr. Chen's stratagem is to cite China's missile deployments in Taiwan's neighbourhood and ask the people of the territory to vote on that 'threat' in a referendum. This move is widely interpreted to signify an indirect plebiscite on the issue of Taiwan's 'independence'.

Closely related to these developments is the ambiguity in the U.S. position that it does not support Taiwan's 'independence' moves. Some ranking U.S. officials, including Richard Armitage have indicated that this formulation is not the same as explicit opposition to the idea of Taiwan's 'independence' in violation of the one-China principle. This ambiguity has also been reinforced by the U.S. President, George W. Bush, through his statement that Washington would protect Taiwan. It is against this background that China is eager to influence Washington to clear such ambiguities through public diplomacy.

US and China locked in TV war

Hong Kong/Washington, Nov. 25 (Reuters): The US has accused Chinese companies of dumping televisions on the American market and slapped stiff duties on the products, in the latest flare-up in trade tension between the two economic giants.

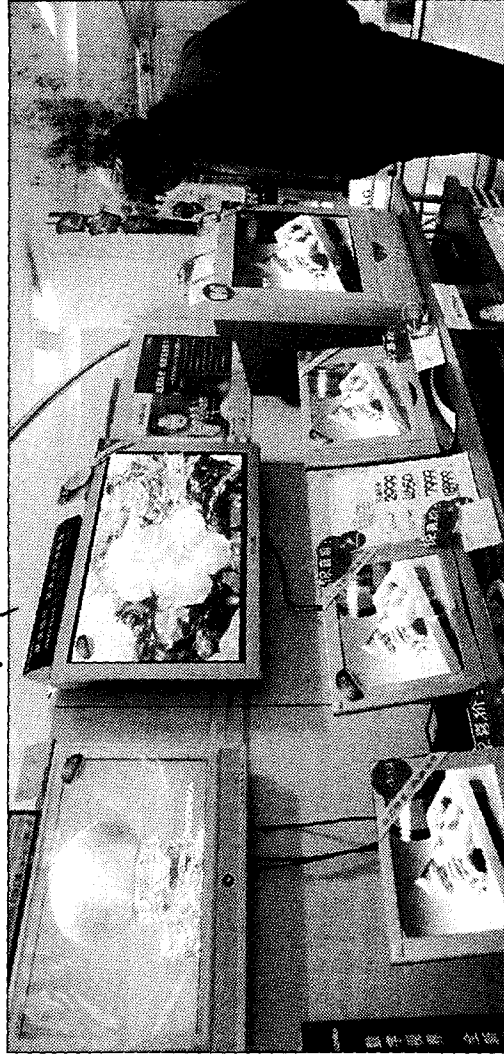
China called the US move discriminatory and unfair.

The US commerce department ruled yesterday that televisions from four Chinese firms were being sold in the US at less than fair value and announced provisional anti-dumping duties of 28 to 46 per cent on the sets.

China called for consultations to mend the trade rift. The TV ruling followed a US decision last week to limit Chinese textile imports that prompted threats of Chinese retaliation.

The disputes add to tensions between the world's biggest and fifth-biggest trading nations, fanning fears in Asia that the US is growing more protectionist.

American television makers and unions complained that imports from China and Malaysia had mushroomed to 2.65 million sets a year in 2002 from 210,000 two years earlier. No ruling was made against Malaysian televisions.



A customer looks at Chinese televisions at a department store in Shanghai. (Reuters)

iffs and called for talks to resolve the row. "As for the current differences over Sino-US trade, we support solving these problems through consultation on the basis of equality," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said.

Shares in TCL International Holdings, one of the firms affected by the ruling, initially slid almost three per cent before recovering to close unchanged in a Hong Kong market that rose 1.35 per cent. TCL, which formed a joint venture this month with French electronics maker Thomson SA to form the world's biggest TV maker, downplayed the impact of the US ruling.

"The impact is small. We are not too surprised about the ruling. The European countries have been imposing a 40-50 per cent (tariff)," Shirley Yau, investors relations manager at TCL International said.

Another affected firm, Sichuan Changhong Electronic Co, said it was extremely shocked by the US finding.

"All of Changhong's exports to the US have reasonable profit margins," the company said in a statement, as its shares slid 1.2 per cent.

Booming Chinese factories have become important suppliers to major US retailers such as Wal-Mart, boosting the American trade deficit with China to a record \$103 billion last year.

US officials have pressured China to revalue the yuan, to ease stress on American manufacturers who blame Chinese competition for the loss of millions of jobs.

Some analysts say they expect a series of trade skirmishes with China ahead of US elections next year. President George W. Bush's re-election bid could be determined by a clutch of manufacturing states.

Other US industries — including iron pipe and bedroom furniture makers — have also sought protection under anti-dumping laws.

Chinese officials expressed concern about the television tariff.

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China hits back at US with tariff hike

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Beijing, Nov. 20 (Reuters): China will raise tariffs on some American imports, the commerce ministry said today, in a step that comes just days after a fresh trade spat sparked by a US move to cap imports of selected Chinese textiles.

"The Chinese side will raise import tariffs on some commodities imported from the US and we are currently studying relevant plans," vice commerce minister Ma Xiuhong told the official Xinhua news agency.

Putting some distance between the announcement and the US move on textiles, Ma said the new tariffs were in response to US duties on steel imports enacted a year and a half ago — duties that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) has recently ruled illegal. She did not elaborate and a ministry spokesperson said details of the new duties were still being worked out.

Simmering tensions between the world's biggest and fifth biggest trade nations flared on Tuesday when Washington said it would cap imports of Chinese knit fabrics, bras and gowns.

Angry at the move, China summoned the US ambassador to Beijing late yesterday, telling him it was "shocked and dissat-

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isfied", Xinhua said.

Harsher words followed as the official *China Daily* accused the US of cheap point-scoring, and said the imports caps would not fix the huge trade imbalance.

"The cheap political points the Bush administration scored by touting trade protectionism will prove costly for US consumers as well as global trade," the newspaper said today.

Earlier today, a commerce ministry spokesperson said China could retaliate but wanted to take part in talks that are part of the process for invoking the tariff measures included in China's entry package for the WTO.

"I think we will definitely go into such talks to make clear our position," the spokesperson said. He gave no further details.

A foreign ministry spokesperson said the problem should be resolved through friendly negotiation. "We also oppose problems that occur in the field of trade relations being politicised," he said.

The US move appeared to blindsides China, said Tai Hui, an economist with Standard Chartered in Hong Kong.

"The fact that China bought 30 Boeing jets from the US plus

Siw-us ne,
GE engines, that established some goodwill," Hui said, referring to a \$1.7 billion aviation deal signed earlier this month.

After the import caps — which will affect less than 5 per cent of Chinese textile exports to the US — were announced, China postponed two delegations to buy US soybeans, wheat and cotton.

China said the cancellations were due to visa and scheduling problems, but many traders and analysts said they suspected links to the fresh trade row.

The delegations had been part of a Chinese effort to soothe tensions over a yawning trade surplus with the US, which US estimates see growing 20 per cent this year to \$120 billion.

The *China Daily* said Washington had "stubbornly resorted to short-sighted protectionism".

"Mounting US protectionism against China is by no means a solution to the exploding US trade deficit," it said.

The US textile industry says it has lost more than 300,000 jobs since early 2001 and has blamed much of that on soaring imports from China, which has emerged as a global textile force since it joined the World Trade Organisation in December 2001.

Bush, Hu discuss security issues

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, Oct. 19. The U.S. and China today held wide-ranging discussions on security and economic issues, ahead of a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Bangkok. The two-day summit will begin tomorrow.

While authoritative details of the discussions between the Chinese President, Hu Jintao, and his U.S. counterpart, George W. Bush, were not available immediately, it was understood that North Korea's nuclear-weapons programme and the value of the Chinese currency were addressed. Before the meeting, Mr. Bush said he was going to "talk to the



The Chinese President, Hu Jintao, with his U.S. counterpart, George W. Bush, in Bangkok on Sunday. — Reuters

leader of China" about "how to move the (six-party) process forward" on North Korea's nuclear-weapons.

host, as also Japan, South Korea and Russia, all with different degrees of a stake in a nuclear-weapons-free zone on the Korean peninsula.

Noting that China too had agreed that North Korea be 'disarmed' of its nuclear-weapons capabilities, Mr. Bush said, "we are furthering the process (of disarming) with my discussions with Mr. Hu Jintao". China, in Mr. Bush's view, "is now very much engaged in the (diplomatic) process". This, he noted, "hasn't been the case up until recently". The current exchange value of the Chinese currency is a sore point with the U.S., which tends to argue that market forces should be allowed to determine the issue in the case of not only China but also Japan.

20 OCT 2004

N Korea: Powell, China talk as clock ticks

LINDA SIIG
TOKYO, July 16

US SECRETARY of State Colin Powell discussed the North Korean nuclear crisis with his Chinese counterpart on Wednesday as diplomats said Pyongyang had little time to respond positively to Beijing's push to renew talks. "The two sides agreed to keep contact and exert efforts to further Sino-US constructive and cooperative relationship," China's official Xinhua news agency said after Powell spoke by telephone with Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

Unnerved by the standoff between Pyongyang and Washington, China is pushing a compromise for talks that it hopes will bring the two sides back to

the table after an initial round in Beijing yielded little. North Korea has demanded one-to-one talks with US Washington, which is demanding that Pyongyang abandon its nuclear programme, wants a multilateral format to bring in South Korea and Japan.

On Tuesday, China said it had suggested a framework that would allow for two-way talks on the sidelines—a proposal that has so far met a chilly US response. A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said on Wednesday that Beijing's proposal offered hope for a breakthrough. But he added that Pyongyang had limited time to respond before the US and its allies turned up the heat.

"The window of opportunity is limited and we hope that China will make a breakthrough, so that we can at least

arrive at an entry point for a settlement," the official said.

North Korea also dominated the agenda in talks in Tokyo on Wednesday between Japanese PM Junichiro Koizumi and Australian PM John Howard. "The threat of N Korea is real. But like all threats it has to be dealt with in a careful and sober fashion," Howard said in a speech in Tokyo.

At a news conference, Koizumi stressed that, in the N Korean crisis, dialogue and pressure were both vital. "(N Korea) is a difficult partner to negotiate with, but by cooperating with US and South Korea and by using dialogue and pressure, we must bring them to negotiate..." he said.

The senior Japanese official said there was no specific time limit for Pyongyang to respond to the China talks

solution, but one diplomatic source said it could be as short as two weeks.

Unless a positive response comes soon, pressure will mount for the UN Security Council to approve a chairman's statement condemning N Korea for reviving its nuclear weapons programme, the Japanese official said. A multi-billion-dollar nuclear power project under construction in North Korea might also be halted, he said, adding that members of the Korean Energy Development Organisation (KEDO) would have to decide in two or three months.

Impoverished Pyongyang announced on Wednesday that China, its long-time Communist ally and benefactor, had decided to donate 10,000 tonnes of diesel oil to N Korea.

—Reuters



South (left) and North Korean soldiers at the Panmunjom truce village in the demilitarized zone on Wednesday. Reuters

ROW OVER ARMS SALES TO IRAN

USA imposes sanctions on Chinese firms

Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON, July 3. — The USA today imposed sanctions on five Chinese firms and one North Korean company for arms sales to Iran that it said could “make a material contribution to weapons of mass destruction or missiles”.

The punitive sanctions, announced by the State Department in the Federal Register, were imposed on the final day of a visit here by Chinese vice-foreign

minister Mr Wang Yi, who had been meeting with US officials to discuss North Korea and more general non-proliferation issues.

“A determination has been made that five Chinese and one North Korean entities have engaged in activities that require the imposition of measures pursuant to... the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000,” the department said.

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That law “provides for penalties on entities for the transfer to Iran of equipment and technology controlled under multilateral export control lists or otherwise having the potential to make a material contribution to weapons of mass destruction or missiles”, it said.

The exact nature of the items sold was not disclosed. The penalties have been imposed against the Taian Foreign Trade General Corporation of China, the Zibo Chemical Equipment Plant of China, the Liyang Yunlong Chemical Equipment Group Company of China, China North Industries Corporation and the China Precision Machinery Import/ Export Corporation.

The North Korean firm was identified as the Changgwang Si-nyong Corporation. Several of the companies are already subject to US sanctions for similar sales.

US bans Chinese company for Iran sales

MARK MATTHEWS
WASHINGTON, MAY 23

THE US has slapped a two-year import ban on one of China's biggest conglomerates, a company with close ties to the Chinese army, for selling technology to Iran that could be used to develop missiles capable of delivering chemical, biological or nuclear weapons.

The sanctions, approved by President Bush, amount to the biggest penalty ever levelled against a Chinese company in connection with proliferation of weapons, a US official said. They are likely to roil US-Chinese relations at a particularly delicate

time, when Beijing has been instrumental in brokering talks between the US and North Korea aimed at halting Pyongyang's development of nuclear weapons.

China has long been accused by the US of supplying missile technology to Iran, Pakistan and other countries, but in the past several years it has pledged to crack down on the practice. The new sanctions will block all imports from North China Industries Corp, a state-owned defence consortium.

In addition to its role as a major arms exporter, NORINCO also manufactures goods ranging from teddy bears to hunting rifles. It does more than \$100 million worth of business annually with

the US. While damaging to NORINCO, the sanctions won't make much of an impact in overall US-China trade, which totals tens of billions of dollars annually.

The US often imposes sanctions on companies it suspects of weapons proliferation, rather than countries. In addition to holding negotiations recently in Beijing between the US and North Korea, China voted in the UN Security Council on Thursday to approve an indefinite US-led occupation of Iraq, giving the United States and Britain control over Iraqi oil revenue and reconstruction.

The sanctions are likely to be an embarrassment to China's new President, Hu Jintao, just as he makes his first overseas trip since

assuming office. While not participating formally in the meeting of major industrial nations at the end of May, he will be an informal participant and will confer with Bush, China announced Thursday. The meeting of the so-called Group of 8 will be held in Evian, France. Hu also will join Bush and other world leaders at the 300th anniversary celebrations of St Petersburg, Russia.

"The president decided to impose the import ban after US intelligence agencies recently revealed NORINCO's sales to Iran that could enhance Tehran's development of missiles," US officials said. The same type of sanctions were imposed on an Iranian company, the Shahid Hemmat

Industrial Group, but it won't have no impact since the US doesn't conduct any trade with it.

The sanctions, which took effect May 9, were revealed in a notice Thursday. The State Department issued a brief statement saying the penalties were imposed because "the US government determined that these entities contributed materially to the efforts of a foreign country, in this case Iran, to use, acquire, design, develop, produce or stockpile missiles capable of delivering weapons of mass destruction."

The department said China had been notified, but a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy declined to respond to a request for comment. —LAF/WP

China maintains silence

BEIJING: China was silent on Friday on sanctions imposed by the US for alleged ballistic missile cooperation with Iran, but analysts said it was unlikely to derail an imminent meeting between Chinese and US leaders. Washington imposed sanctions on North China Industries, or Norinco, and an Iranian firm, will deprive the Chinese conglomerate of more than \$200 million in exports to the US over the next two years, according to US estimates. "We have no comment," a Norinco spokesman said. "We will make a statement in a few days." —Reuters

U.S. sanctions against Chinese firm

WASHINGTON, MAY 23. The U.S. has imposed sanctions on China's largest state-owned conglomerate, for allegedly assisting the Iranian ballistic missile programme — a move that is expected to deprive the company of more than \$100 million worth of exports to the U.S. over the next two years.

The Iranian company, Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group, was also named in the sanctions order, published today in the Federal Register. But it will suffer fewer financial consequences because it has already been placed under U.S. sanctions and does little business with the U.S. as a result.

The American move comes ahead of the expected meeting next month between the President, George W. Bush, and the Chinese President, Hu Jintao, at a time when the U.S. is seeking Chinese cooperation on several issues including the resolution of North Korean nuclear issue.

According to U.S. State Department officials, the sanctions are the largest ever imposed on a Chinese company and is a "huge blow to the Chinese Company" which produces everything from weapons to consumer goods. — PTI

24 MAY 2003

THE HINDU

US, China plan nuke talks with N Korea

■ US-led victory over Iraq seems to have prompted N Korea to agree to multilateral talks

PAUL ECKERT AND
JOANNE ALLEN
SEOUL/WASHINGTON, APRIL 16

THE United States, North Korea and China will hold talks in Beijing next week on Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons ambitions, US and South Korean officials said on Wednesday, raising hopes of a way out of the six-month-old crisis.

Analysts said it was early days in the arduous process of dealing with Communist North Korea, whose reputation as a no-holds-barred negotiator stretches back to

the Korean war. "I don't think anyone is betting on an easy time," said a Western diplomat in Seoul.

But the prospect of easing of tension propelled South Korean shares to a 12-week closing high and was welcomed by Seoul and Tokyo — even though those two close US allies will not take part in the meeting in the Chinese capital.

The relatively quick US-led victory over Iraq appears to have played an important role in prompting North Korea to retreat from its insistence on bilateral talks with Washington, although South

Korea's Foreign Minister said Pyongyang's main ally, China, helped bring about a compromise on the talks format.

"We expect multilateral talks with North Korea to take place in Beijing next week," said a US official in Seoul, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We've consulted very closely with South Korea, and they have expressed their approval."

South Korean Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan, in a news conference confirming that talks would be held next week, said

Seoul intended to play a central role in multilateral diplomacy.

In the face of public dismay at South Korea's exclusion, Yoon said Seoul "chose the safer of two options" — oppose the trilateral arrangement and risk scuppering talks or support three-way dialogue on condition of future participation. "We will not bear any responsibilities arising from discussions in which we did not take part," Yoon said.

Seoul was shut out of a deal between Pyongyang and Washington in 1994 that ended the previous North

Korea nuclear crisis.

"It will be hard to achieve concrete results without South Korean participation," he said, adding that he believed Japan and Russia would also play a role as diplomacy unfolded.

North and South Korea have been technically at war since their 1950-53-civil conflict ended in a truce, not a peace treaty.

Officials in Washington earlier confirmed a *New York Times* report that President George W Bush had approved of a plan to begin talks with North Korea with China taking part.

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U.S. views on rights a sham, says China

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By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, APRIL 3. China today denounced the U.S. for causing "serious humanitarian disasters" during its ongoing war in Iraq in violation of the United Nations Charter. An impassioned condemnation of Washington's war-time conduct forms the centre piece of the Chinese Government's critique on the human rights record in the U.S.

Seeking once again to turn the tables on Washington over its tendency to sit in judgment over the alleged human rights violations by other countries, China lambasted the U.S. for its conduct of the military campaign in 2003, though Beijing's tit-for-tat document was more time-specific about last year.

Noting that the U.S. "is following unilateralism in international affairs", China alleged that Washington "has frequent-

ly committed blunt violations of human rights in other countries". China said that the U.S., acting in concert with a few other countries, had now gone to war in Iraq regardless of the international community's strong call against such military action.

Underlining that this war had already "caused casualties of innocent Iraqi civilians and serious humanitarian disasters", China turned the spotlight on the U.S. air attacks against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan in 2002.

The U.S. troops, according to Beijing's survey, "dropped nearly a quarter-million cluster bomblets and raided a number of non-military targets, causing heavy civilian casualties" in Afghanistan. Also criticised in the Afghan context was the U.S.' treatment of those taken into custody and transported to Guantanamo Bay for detention and interrogation.

Taking a close look at Washington's conduct in other countries, China said that "hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops are stationed overseas" and that "such troops have committed crimes and human rights abuses wherever they stay".

About America's domestic human rights record, China classified Washington's alleged violations according to their severity. China cited the violations as a reflection of a "ineffective protection of life and (ineffective) security of person". America's alleged "money-driven democracy" was also taken note of, while the "poverty, hunger and homelessness of Americans were also touched upon as critical aspects of human rights abuses.

The "deep-rooted racial discrimination" within the U.S. and Washington's "double standard" in the field of human rights were also flayed by China.

China keeps U.S. guessing on draft

By P. S. Suryanarayana

BEIJING, MARCH 13. China today amplified its opposition to any new resolution that might be tabled at the U.N. Security Council to secure a mandate for waging war against Iraq in the context of "bench-marks" being set by the U.K. to disarm Baghdad of its capabilities to produce and deploy weapons of mass destruction.

China did not indicate again whether it might either exercise its special right or merely abstain from voting on any such resolution. Keeping the international community guessing on this score, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Kong Quan, said at a press conference that the existing full-scope resolution 1441, which served as the mandate for the U.N. weapons-inspections, had "not (been) exhausted" yet. This resolution could even be enhanced, he said and underlined that China remained opposed to any military option for disarming Iraq.

Indicating that China would not draw a Maginot Line of diplomatic defences on the Iraq question at the U.N., unlike France and Russia in their efforts to assert their status as America's equals in the Security Council, Mr. Kong said China had "taken note of" the latest British proposals without having to shift its stand as a result. He maintained that China's stand should be seen in the context of the U.N. Charter and not the Sino-American ties which remained in a state of "very good momentum".

On a broad front, China would favour initiatives to 'safeguard' the "authority of the United Nations" in the context of the U.S.' efforts to bypass the global organisation, if considered necessary, to deal with Iraq as a designated 'proliferator'.

To a question from *The Hindu* on the moves for a U.N. Security Council summit, the Chinese Foreign Office Spokesman, Kong Quan, said that Beijing was 'studying' the relevant proposals while remaining in close consultations with the countries concerned. China was eager, he noted, to preserve the solidarity and authority of the Council on critical issues of international concern, including the present crisis over Iraq.

Mr. Kong's observations can be seen as emphasising China's diplomatic preferences in a fast-changing global strategic environment.

In U.S., a White House spokesman had said that the U.S. might even think of alternative international organisations if the U.N. were to marginalise itself in managing the Iraq crisis.

Addressing the nuances, Mr. Kong said that Beijing would like the parties concerned to display not only "courage and determination" but also 'wisdom'. Yet, resolution 1441 was still the last word of the international community on Iraq, he said.

14 MAR 2003

THE HINDU