

# China's growing military is a threat: Japan

Tokyo: China's expanding military budget represents a danger and is fuelling suspicion among other nations, Japan's Kyodo News agency quoted Japanese foreign minister Taro Aso as saying on Thursday.

"It's a neighbouring country with nuclear bombs, and its military expenditure has been on the rise for 12 years. It's beginning to pose a considerable threat," Kyodo quoted Aso as saying.

The foreign ministry could not immediately con-

firm the comments, which Kyodo said were made in a briefing to reporters.

Relations between Japan and China have deteriorated rapidly in recent years, and the two countries are feuding over interpretations of World War II, exploitation of maritime resources and territorial claims.

Aso's reported comments



## Beijing says it's peaceful

Beijing: China reiterated its intentions yet again on Thursday to rise peacefully as a global power, insisting that its new found economic might would be beneficial to the world.

"Building a harmonious world of sustained peace and common prosperity is a common wish of the people throughout the world as well as the lofty goal of China," said a central government paper.

"China did not seek hegemony in the past, nor does it now, and will not do so in the future when it gets stronger," the official paper said.

"China's development will never pose a threat to anyone, instead it can bring more development opportunities and bigger markets for the rest of the world."

The paper further reiterated that the China is a nation was still in the process of modernisation with "a formidable task of development lying ahead". AP

would represent an unusually clear expression of Japanese government unease with China's military rise. That also matches US concerns about Chinese secrecy surrounding its military spending. "China is fanning threat and anxiety," Kyodo quoted Aso as saying. "The content of China military expenditures is difficult for outsiders to know, and that fuels suspicion."

The reported comments come after several years in which Japan's Defence Agency has listed China's military expansion as a top security concern in the region. Aso's statement could further fan troubles between the two countries.

Beijing, for instance, has objected vociferously to Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's repeated visits to a Tokyo war shrine that critics consider a glorification of Japan's conquest of East Asia in the first half of the 20th century.

The tensions have blocked a formal summit between the leaders of the two nations since 2001. China recently snubbed Koizumi at the East Asian Summit in Kuala Lumpur this month, urging Tokyo to atone for its wartime past. Agencies

# Japan, China to remain polls apart

Straits Times/ANN

TOKYO, Sept. 8. — Japan's upcoming election on Sunday (11 September) is unlikely to bring any promise of better ties with China, as the political relationship between the two powers hits a record low.

The latest opinion polls suggest that the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led by Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi is likely to romp home with a majority in the 480-seat Lower House.

Mr Koizumi's annual visits to the Yasukuni war shrine — which honours 14 Class A war criminals among nearly 2.5 million war dead — are the cause of Japan's strained relationship with China. He has not gone to Yasukuni this year, but may do so to fulfil a campaign promise made four years ago — an act which will draw Beijing's ire for sure. Many Japanese are against Mr Koizumi's Yasukuni pilgrimages. A survey last month by the influential *Asahi Shimbun* daily showed that 47 per cent of the Japanese feel he should stop going to the shrine, while 41 per cent wanted him to continue doing so.

In the current campaign, the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), the country's largest Opposition group, has been selling itself to voters as a more savvy party than the LDP in dealing with China.

DPJ leader Mr Katsuya Okada has declared that, if elected to office, he would not pray at Yasukuni. His party has designated the repair of relations with China a major policy task, and has even positioned Japan's ties with China a notch higher than its relationship with Washington.

Security expert Mr Yukio Okamoto agrees with its stance. "In terms of security, the USA is the most important nation to Japan. But the country that gives us the most concern, and which requires the most time and diplomatic resources, is China," he said.

But even if Japanese voters feel diplomacy is important, many are likely to defer to Mr Koizumi's cleverly propagated view that the election is a "yes" or "no" vote on his postal privatisation reforms.

He has also sent voters the underlying message that a "no" vote could jeopardise other reforms that Japan needs so badly.

# Germ warfare: Chinese denounce Tokyo court verdict

Victims vow to press for justice, dignity

**CHANGSHA:** Though the Tokyo High Court ignored Chinese plaintiffs' second appeal concerning germ war on Tuesday, the warfare victims will press for justice and dignity, said the plaintiff group leader Wang Xuan.

The plaintiff group will submit its appeals to the Supreme Court of Japan, though "it is almost impossible to win the lawsuit," said Mr. Wang.

The judgment of the Tokyo High Court basically was identical with the one made by the Tokyo District Court, which acknowledged the facts that the Japanese army used germ warfare and harmed many Chinese during its aggression but refused to make compensations or apologise. "We are not surprised at this result," said Mr. Wang. The plaintiffs lost all their lawsuits at various levels of Japan's courts in March and April including the appeals concerning the comfort women, the compensation to warfare victims and the human experiments of the "notorious" Unit 731.

## Time-consuming task

"But we will continue our appealing activities, because it is more than a normal lawsuit," said Mr. Wang.

"From the very beginning, the lawsuit was imbued with the task to reveal the crimes that the Japanese army committed in China and to uphold justice and retrieve national dignity. The trans-national and time-consuming task is destined to be an odyssey." For a long period, the plaintiffs have demanded that Japan tell the truth about the germ war and apologise to the



## TO PRESS AHEAD:

*Chinese plaintiffs hold a banner denouncing "unfair judgment" during a protest in front of the Tokyo High Court on Tuesday. -*

PHOTO: AFP

victims. The Tokyo District Court has already acknowledged the fact of germ warfare in its verdict, but the plaintiff group will still have a long way to go to retrieve the dignity of the victims. The Tuesday lawsuit was brought by 180 plaintiffs who are the survivors or relatives of the victims of Unit 731, which conducted human experiments and bombed cities with plague, cholera and other germs.

The plaintiffs, who were in Zhejiang and Hunan provinces from 1940 to 1942, had demanded a court order that the Government apologise and grant them each 10 million yen (about \$90,000) in compensation. - Xinhua

# CHINA AND JAPAN-II

Si-6

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19/7

## Taiwan The Real Cause For The Hate Campaign

By DIPAK BASU

Although Beijing now claims that Taiwan is an integral part of China, history cannot support that claim. China has no continuous history as a nation state. Before 1279 only the central part of what is China today was Chinese — that is, inhabited by the Chin or Han Chinese tribe. For example, China is still called in Japan Chugoku or the Middle Kingdom. From 1279 to 1368 China was part of the Mongolia Empire, and it ceased to exist as a sovereign state.

From 1368 to 1644 China had the Ming Dynasty of the Chin or Han Chinese tribe. At that time, Taiwan was occupied first by the Dutch and then by the Portuguese. For a brief period between 1645 and 1662 a half-Japanese general of the Ming Dynasty, Tei Seiko in Japanese or Zheng Chenggong in Chinese, after being driven from China by the invading Manchus from the north, occupied Taiwan. However, soon the Portuguese regained control of the island, which they had renamed Formosa, or the beautiful.

### Manchu Empire

The Manchurian government of China managed Taiwan for just a brief period from 1887, when it reluctantly adopted the island as one of its provinces (sheng), to 1895 and gladly ceded it to Japan. Despite earlier attempts by the Dutch and Spaniards to colonise parts of the island, it was regarded as barbarous, disease-infested and dangerous, as it was inhabited by ferocious head-hunting tribes. When the Manchu Empire ceded Taiwan to Japan in 1895, China had forfeited its rights to the island permanently or until the signing of another international treaty.

Japan during its rule from 1895 to 1945 promoted inter-racial mixture of Japanese and the local people as a means of wiping out the Taiwanese identity. The Kuomintang forces, after their defeat in 1949, came to Taiwan along with thousands of Mainland Chinese. They committed large-scale massacres of the local people during the 1950s and imposed a draconian dictatorial rule over Taiwan until very recently. These Kuomintang Chinese are the most vocal in demanding unification of Taiwan with China. The majority of the local population have started asserting their rights as a separate nationality

and are calling for an independent state for Taiwan, which China resents.

If the behaviour of the Japanese Imperial Army 60 years ago is the determining factor in denying Japan membership of the UN Security Council, how could China, which has no basic hu-

man rights for its people and still maintains ruthless control over Tibet and wants to incorporate Taiwan, be a member of the Security Council since 1972.



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The current demonstrations in China against Japan hide the growing anger and frustrations of the Chinese people against the economic reform policy of China implemented since 1989. The business community in the West is taking advantage of the very low wages and inhuman working condition of Chinese labourers, growing unemployment, inequality between different regions and people with different status, closure of state industries and severe reductions of welfare measures.

### Chinese colonialism

In 1962 China invaded India to divert the attention of its people from the suffering caused by the famines in 1960-1962 in which at least 10 million Chinese perished. In the same way, China is trying to redirect the anger of its people against Japan and Taiwan.

India has endorsed Chinese colonialism over Tibet and eastern Turkistan. India accepts Taiwan as an integral part of the

expanding Chinese empire. China invaded India in 1962 and still occupies about 10 per cent of Jammu and Kashmir. China since 1963 has supplied every type of weapons, including nuclear weapon and missiles, to Pakistan. China was about to invade India again during the

1971 Indo-Pak war but was deterred by the warning from the Soviet Union. China was opposed to India on every international issue. The Chinese map of the world does not include Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim and large parts of north-eastern India as parts of India even today. China is opposed to membership of India in the UN Security Council. Chinese exports to India are causing unemployment and closure of small manufacturing units in India. Chinese exports are also driving out Indian exports from the world market. However, Indian policy makers are still considering China a "strategic partner".

Any other country would have cut off all links with China and ban Chinese imports, recognised Taiwan as an independent country, opposed the membership of China both in the UN and particularly in the UN Security Council. However, India has taken no action at all.

The USA has warned Taiwanese leaders against the declaration of independence of Taiwan, which would definitely invite the invasion of China. That would test the resolve of the

USA which is in short supply owing to the changed perception of the American corporate world on China. Abnormally low wages, lack of trade union rights or even any human rights, and artificially low exchange rate of China have made China the most attractive destination for the American companies.

Big corporations in the western world control the mass media. For example, Walmart, the biggest retail chain store in the US and which receives most of its supplies from China, is owned by Rupert Murdoch, who also owns some of the most important newspapers and television channels in the USA, UK, Australia, India, and East Asia.

### Propaganda

The result is a continuous pro-Chinese propaganda in the media, which is blaming the democratically elected Taiwanese leaders for provoking China by not accepting Chinese colonialism. When the interests and ambitions of the Kuomintang Chinese and China have now merged it will not take a long time for the US to discard Taiwan in order to please China and protect the commercial interests of the American companies in China.

That will leave only Japan to defend Taiwan against the Chinese invasion. A growing number of Japanese politicians are demanding that Japan change its pacifist constitution so that the Japanese army, called the Self Defence Force, can fight in foreign lands. There are also demands that Japan should develop both nuclear weapons and missiles, which it can do within a few months given the level of superior technological base of Japan.

Membership of the UN Security Council would give Japan the freedom to have its own foreign and defence policy rather than depend on American goodwill. China knows that Japan will be the last resort for Taiwan. That is the reason China has organised its hate campaign against Japan with so much intensity. It is up to Japanese politicians to decide whether they want to protect Taiwan against Chinese imperialism or stand aloof as they did during the Vietnam War and watch 22 million people of Taiwan being enslaved by China.

(Concluded)

# China protests Japanese move

## Tokyo approves oil and gas drilling in East China Sea

AP-45  
 Bina Jari  
 16/7

**BEIJING:** A Chinese Foreign Ministry official summoned a Japanese diplomat in Beijing on Friday to lodge solemn representations to the Japanese side and express "strong protest" against the Japanese Government's approval of a Japanese oil and gas company's drill request in the East China Sea.

The Japanese Government granted the Teikoku Oil Co. concessions to conduct experimental drilling in the East China Sea, Japanese Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Shoichi Nakagawa said on Thursday.

### "A provocation"

Cui Tiankai, director of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's Asian Department, told Chihiro Atsumi, Minister of the Japanese embassy in China, that such activity is a "severe provo-

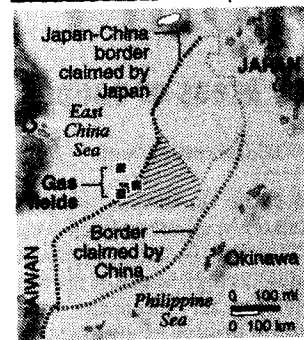
cation and violation" against China's sovereignty and interest, which is also against the rules in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Mr. Cui said China and Japan have not settled their demarcation in the East China Sea as they have disputes over demarcation there.

It is untenable for the Japanese side, employing its unilateral position on the so-called "middle line", to grant test drilling rights to Japanese enterprises in the disputed sea area.

Mr. Cui said the Chinese side reiterates clearly that it has never recognized the so-called "middle line" and it will never recognise the line.

He said the sea area to the east of the "middle line" is under dispute, and the Japanese side is



SOURCES: ESRI; Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry AP

Chinese side, the Chinese side will stand firmly opposed to and will never accept it, said Mr. Cui. He said China and Japan should properly handle their disputes and actively explore resolution ways through dialogues and consultations on an equal footing, which is the important consensus reached between leaders of the two countries.

### "Breach of sovereignty"

The Chinese side seriously requests the Japanese side, in the above-mentioned spirit, to correct its decision and stop any action that impairs China's sovereign rights and interests, Mr. Cui said.

The Chinese Embassy to Japan also lodged solemn representations to the Japanese Foreign Ministry on Friday, said sources with the Chinese Foreign Ministry. — Xinhua

not entitled to taking unilateral action in that area. If the Japanese side attempts to impose its unilateral action as a fact on the

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THE STATESMAN

# Japan shrine upsets China

Associated Press

BEIJING, May 24. — In a new surge in tensions between China and Japan, Beijing today cited its anger over a Tokyo war shrine when explaining why it abruptly pulled out of talks with Japan's Prime Minister. Japanese officials, however, said they expected an apology for the snub.

The flap over Chinese Vice-Premier Ms Wu Yi's cancelled meeting with Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi in Tokyo yesterday sparked the most heated exchange in weeks between the two neighbours as they seek to ratchet down rancour that unleashed violent anti-Japanese protests in China last month.

The Chinese government said it was upset over remarks Japanese leaders made during Ms Wu's eight-day trip about visits to the Yakusuni Shrine, which honours war dead, including convicted war criminals.

China's state-run Xinhua news agency criticised Mr Koizumi for

spokesman Mr Kong Quan said. Japanese officials today denounced the abrupt cancellation, with foreign minister Mr Nobutaka Machimura complaining to reporters in Tokyo that "there was no word of apology". Even if Ms Wu was returning to take care of urgent matters at home, "there is supposed to be a word of apology and without it a society cannot function", the minister added.

Internal affairs minister Mr Taro Aso said the cancellation "in terms of manners, lacked common sense".

Ms Wu's was the first high-level Chinese visit to Japan in more than a year, part of efforts to smooth over relations in the wake of last month's riots in China over Japan's World War II aggression, and Beijing's resistance to Tokyo's bid for a permanent UN Security Council seat.

Underscoring those disputes is the two powers' long-standing rivalry for economic and political dominance in Asia.

Beijing has long been angered

by Mr Koizumi's annual pilgrimages to a Tokyo war shrine, saying they ignore Chinese sensitivities and pay homage to Japan's militarist past.

On Sunday, Chinese President Hu Jintao met Japanese ruling party lawmakers in Beijing and reportedly expressed Beijing's displeasure at the Japanese Prime Minister's visits to the Yasukuni Shrine.

Mr Koizumi, who has visited the shrine four times since 2001, refused last week to vow not to worship there again this year, repeating his statement that he would decide "appropriately" when to pay homage to Japan's war dead.

"I don't understand why Yasukuni visits are linked to militarism," the Prime Minister told a parliament committee. "China says (that Japan) should show through its actions that it is reflecting on the war, but in the 60 years since the war Japan has shown it has reflected on the war by... staying true to its word never to wage war," he added.



TIF-FOR-TAT: The Koizumi government expects Beijing to apologise for snubbing the Japanese Prime Minister. — AFP

what it said was his remark that he didn't see why he should stop visiting the memorial. "We are very dissatisfied that Japanese leaders have made repeated remarks that are negative for the development of better relations during Ms Wu's visit to Japan, which have deprived such meetings of necessary conditions and atmosphere," Chinese foreign ministry

# China upsets shrine

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# China cancels Koizumi talks

China Daily/ANN & AP

BEIJING/TOKYO, May 23. — China abruptly canceled a meeting between Chinese Vice-Premier Ms Wu Yi and Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi scheduled for today, ruffling feathers in Tokyo as the two countries are trying to mend their troubled relations.

China's foreign ministry said Ms Wu had to cut short her trip to Tokyo and return to Beijing today for urgent but unspecified matters at home. Japanese officials said they had no further details and expected a full explanation.

Ms Wu and Mr Koizumi had been scheduled to meet late this afternoon, and the Japanese leader seemed surprised by the sudden change in plans. "It was their (China's) request to hold a meeting, and I thought it would have been a good opportunity," Mr Koizumi told reporters. "I don't understand why they're cancelling it now."

Ms Wu's visit was to be part of a string of official contacts between Tokyo and Beijing aimed at repairing tense relations. After Ms Wu's departure, the Chinese foreign ministry released a statement saying she had to "return home to handle important and urgent official business".

A Japanese foreign ministry official said senior diplomats expected Beijing to



Beijing recalled Vice-Premier Ms Wu Yi before her scheduled meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister on Monday. — AFP

show them the "courtesy" of a full explanation, but Japanese media said Tokyo wouldn't formally request one.

Chief Cabinet secretary Mr Hiroyuki said it was unlikely the pullout was connected to Mr Koizumi's recent justifications for his visit to a Tokyo war shrine. Mr Koizumi also rejected the idea that the cancellation was Tokyo's fault. "I have tried not to have a negative influence (on Japan-China relations)," he said. "We will meet whenever they want to."

In her speech before a group of leaders of Japan's key business lobby today, Ms Wu did not mention the cancellation of her talks with Mr Koizumi, and only said she hoped the two countries work together to improve their ties.

24 MAY 2005

THE STATESMAN

# Against a sea of mistrust

To those with knowledge of Sino-Japanese relations, the locking of horns by the two sides in the wake of the massive anti-Japanese demonstrations across China does not come as a surprise. It was a natural fallout of tensions — resulting from disputes about history and territory — that had been simmering for a long time.

The ugliness of the protests, which were ignited by Japanese approval of school textbooks that China says “glorifies” Japan’s wartime behaviour, was further stoked by the announcement that Japan would start allocating rights for test-drilling in a disputed area of the East China Sea. China called Japan’s plan to allow gas exploration in disputed waters a serious provocation.

The two sides have traded barbs. Beijing says Tokyo is at fault for mishandling its own “history of aggression”. Japan, on the other hand, wants China to accept the blame for letting the protests get out of hand. Tokyo believes the protests could not have happened without approval from local officials. The Japanese foreign minister, Nobutaka Machimura, flew to Beijing for what were expected to be difficult talks. He demanded an apology and compensation from China. But the Chinese foreign minister, Li Zhaoxing, said that the Chinese government had never done anything for which it had to apologize to the Japanese people. “It shouldn’t be us who should apologize. It is Japan who should,” said the Chinese vice-foreign minister, Wu Dawai. The talks ended with a vague promise to “work towards” a meeting of Chinese premier Wen Jiabao, and his Japanese counterpart, Junichiro Koizumi.

Both sides are aware of the need for showing restraint. China has sought to rein in the anti-Japanese sentiment that sparked the protests. Japan too avoided escalating the war of words, saying that a dialogue was needed to resolve the feuds. China has also called for talks. But the sensitivities on both sides are such that this is easier said than done.

The Sino-Japanese relationship is the key bilateral relationship — potentially the most disruptive — that is most likely to affect stability throughout east Asia. Japan and China are suspicious of each other’s aims. Needless to say, the suspicions will remain and influence their threat perceptions as well as policies. Japan fears a rising China and wants to prevent it from gaining dominance in Asia. Both Tokyo and its top ally, Washington, are uneasy about the European decision to lift the 16-year-old embargo on arms sales to China, imposed after the Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989.

China too has apprehensions concerning Japan’s role and policies. In the post-Cold War period, China has come to view Japan as one of its most important adversaries. China’s security concerns vis-à-vis Japan can be summed up as follows: the possibility that Japan might become a major mil-

An apology here, a change in policy there, and relations between China and Japan could be on the right track again, writes **Rabindra Sen**



Troubled road to Yasukuni

itary power, the hidden agenda of a US-Japan security alliance, and the possibility that Taiwan might be incorporated into the scope of Japan-US defence guidelines. Japan’s interest in ballistic missile defence, its military engagement with North Korean vessels, and continued refusal to specify its defence arrangement with the United States of America on the defence of Taiwan have all had an unsettling effect on Beijing. Beijing views the US-Japan defence guidelines as aimed at itself since they cover waters adjoining Japan, including the Taiwan Strait. Beijing sees Tokyo aligning itself with a US-led circle of containment that stretches from India via southeast Asia and Australia round to Japan. According to the Chinese, a redefined US-Japan alliance presages a Washington-Tokyo condominium on regional affairs, with an aim to marginalize China.

On May 28, 1998 China’s assistant foreign minister, Wang Wei, met the Japanese ambassador, Tanino Sabutaro, and asked the Japanese to abandon their “Cold War” mentality and confine cooperation to bilateral relations without having anything to do with Taiwan or China’s sovereignty. Again, during his visit to Tokyo in November the same year, the Chinese president, Jiang Zemin, pressed for a private acknowledgement that the revised security guidelines did not cover Taiwan. But to Jiang’s disappointment, the Japanese made no such promise. Not surprisingly, an article in the official *China Daily* in 2001 warned that further solidification by Tokyo of the US-Japanese security alliance would constitute “a threat to security in East Asia”.

China sees Japanese ambitions as a key obstacle to its goals. Beijing may

not welcome a continuation of US strategic presence in the Asia-Pacific region because of the tensions that it might bring to Sino-US relations. But it has actually done so, at least implicitly, believing that it would have a restraining effect on Japan’s military development programme. Now, instead of relying on American foreign policy, China wants to develop its own capability to contend with Japan’s growing regional presence.

China worries that militarily Japan is going from strength to strength. Japan already has the world’s third largest defence budget, and its self-defence forces is a euphemism for what, in fact, is a small but powerful state-of-the-art military machine. In the wake of the September 11 attacks on the US, China has thought it wiser to reserve its comments about Japan’s new military role. Beijing has also been reticent about America’s new military foothold in central Asia, even while it applauds the war on terrorists who have stirred up trouble from time to time in its restive province of Xinjiang.

A dominant school of thought in China is that “militarism” will play a significant role in Japanese politics and that the expansionist instinct will once again dominate Japanese foreign policy. This has been supported by recent increases in Japan’s military capabilities and calls to revise the country’s peace constitution. In May 2002, Japan’s chief cabinet secretary, Yasuo Fukuda, went to the extent of hinting that Japan might revise the “three non-nuclear principles” it introduced in 1971. Fukuda’s comment came barely a week after another senior official said publicly that Japan could legally possess nuclear weapons so long as they were “small”.

Despite Koizumi’s affirmation of Japan’s policy against building or possessing nuclear weapons, a major shift in security thinking is under way, enough to ring alarm bells in Beijing.

However, a clash between China and Japan is yet to loom on the horizon. The leaders of China, Japan and South Korea, which form the ASEAN-plus-three grouping, now meet one another regularly. Japan and China too have been learning to accommodate each other. In May 1993, for example, the two countries agreed to establish a bilateral security dialogue, and in January 1995, held the second round of security talks.

A further confirmation of the desire to avoid confrontation was the assurance given by the Japanese foreign minister, Makiko Tanaka, in 2001 that Tokyo would issue no new visas to the Taiwanese ex-president, Lee Teng-hui, whose visit in April 2001 for treatment had enraged China. Koizumi too made a trip to China in October 2001 in an attempt to mollify the Chinese leaders who had been upset by his visit to the Yasukuni shrine that honours the Japanese war dead, including convicted war criminals such as the former prime minister, Hideki Tojo. Koizumi apologized for Japan’s wartime excesses, symbolically paving the way for the normalization of Sino-Japanese relations.

It would be wrong to think, though, that Tokyo’s diplomatic drive has melted Beijing’s opposition to Japanese militarism. Koizumi’s annual visit to Yasukuni continues — though he gave it a miss this year. Beijing has called Koizumi’s annual visits “the crux” of the difficulties between the two countries.

Confidence-building talks are desperately needed at this hour to lower, if not completely remove, the barrier of mutual suspicions. The economic ties have already started having a sobering effect. In 2002, for the first time, China replaced the US as Japan’s biggest source of imports while Japanese exports to China surged by 39.3 per cent. Not only did China account for 32 per cent of Japan’s 2003 export growth, capital spending was driven by expansion in industries trading with China.

The two countries know that they cannot neglect each other. Both have to launch damage control exercises whenever there is a crisis. For China, the first priority is peace in its neighbourhood without which its goal of economic development will be impossible to realize. Peace is as important in Japan’s agenda if it does not want to go back to the days of economic uncertainty. Each side must be willing to be sensitive to the other’s problems which have their roots in history. Handling issues emotionally will not help matters at all. Koizumi’s apology at the Asian-African summit in Jakarta is a step in the right direction.

China and Japan may find a way out of their worst dispute in decades, but the tension and mutual mistrust are too deep-rooted to be wished away overnight.



# SINO-JAPANESE RELATIONS

## Chinese Nationalism A Cause For Concern

By HARSH V PANT

52-6 12/5  
After weeks of escalating tensions, China and Japan have finally decided to bury their hatchet, at least for now. The Chinese President, Hu Jintao and the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, met on the sidelines of the Afro-Asian summit held to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference of 1955 and decided to look beyond their disagreements and focus on the future. This was preceded by a public apology, the most public in a decade, from the Japanese Prime Minister over Japan's wartime aggression. Though the tensions have somewhat eased, critical problems in Sino-Japanese relations remain.

### History textbooks

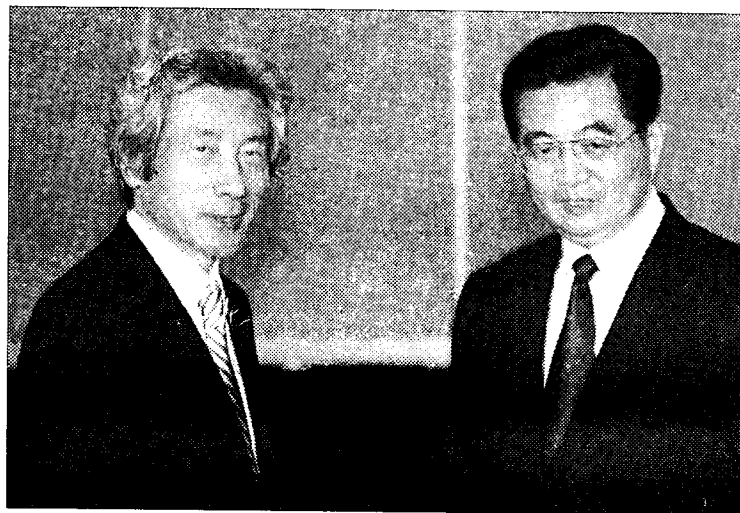
The immediate reason for the public outcry of the Chinese was the approval of history textbooks by Japan's education ministry that are said to whitewash Japan's militarism in Asia during the first half of the last century. It is argued that about 200,000 to 300,000 Chinese were killed during the Japanese occupation of Nanjing that began in 1937 and the new Japanese textbooks refer to this as the "Nanjing incident". China has asked Japan to take responsibility for the unrest in Chinese cities because it has continued to rewrite the history of its World War II era occupation of China.

Unrest erupted in Chinese cities including Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu, and Guangzhou even as the police had been rather reluctant to maintain order. Japan, meanwhile, asked for an apology from China for violent attacks against Japanese government offices and businesses in China. Japan has also dismissed Chinese complaints about the Japanese Prime Minister's repeated visits to the Yasukuni shrine which includes 14 major war criminals among the 2.5 million Japanese war dead honoured there. It also did not help when Tokyo's High Court rejected an appeal for compensation by Chinese survivors of biological-warfare experiments conducted by Japan during the

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Second World War.

But it would be a mistake to view this Sino-Japanese tension merely through the prism of history. It is also about the future of Asian balance of power. Both Japan and China are competing for pre-eminence in the Asian political and strategic landscape and this is producing



some inevitable tensions. The recent spat over Japan's historical behaviour is just one of the manifestations of this dynamic.

The two economic giants are also competing for vital energy reserves. A dispute has emerged over exploratory oil drilling in the East China Sea. Japan has announced its intention of permitting private companies to start drilling in a contested area between Japan and China, just east of a halfway line between the Japanese island of Okinawa and the eastern shore of China.

### Offshore drilling

The Japanese government has maintained that it has sovereignty over all waters east of the midway line between Okinawa and eastern China. But China has strongly disputed this interpretation and has argued that the Asian continental shelf must be taken into account. Japan, on its part, has also claimed that China's offshore platform drilling could be pulling oil from an undersea deposit that also stretches into an area claimed by Japan.

At its foundation, what is fueling these Sino-Japanese ten-

sions is a burgeoning sense of strategic rivalry as China's power expands across Asia and Japan redefines its regional military role in close cooperation with the United States. Japan has made it clear that it considers China a potential military threat that would have to be faced and countered in the coming years.

This was followed by Japan's announcement that a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan issue is a strategic objective that it shares with the United States, signaling to China that it might help America defend Taiwan in the event of a war.

China has hit back by announcing its strong opposition to Japan's bid to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council on the ground that Japan has failed to show sufficient contrition for its wartime atrocities. But the real reason might be a reluctance on the part of China to view Japan as global power on par with itself. After all, even Chinese textbooks are selective in their portrayal of Chinese history and to argue that the quality of a nation's textbooks should determine whether a state qualifies for Security Council membership is weird, if not dubious.

But Japan has become a convenient target as the Chinese government tries to deal with growing Chinese nationalism. Initially, the Chinese authorities allowed the protests to go on unimpeded, even fanned it to an

extent, in the hope of letting some steam out of the protests. The security forces took no action as protestors damaged Japanese offices and businesses and no arrests were made in connection with protests even though most of these protests were not authorised by the Chinese authorities and so were illegal. The Chinese government seemed to have calculated that if they try to prevent the protests, the protestors could turn against the Communist Party itself. It was only after the demonstrations had continued over three successive weekends, the most sustained street protests since the pro-democracy uprising in China in 1989, that China officially called for an end to anti-Japanese protests.

### Social stability

The Chinese political authorities seem to have realised that there is now little to be gained from further protests but rather some risk to social stability, a euphemism for democracy, if the protests continued. Therefore, the Chinese leadership is now trying to portray the continuing anti-Japan demonstrations as a "conspiracy" to undermine the Communist Party.

Sino-Japanese relations have come to such a pass despite an annual bilateral trade of \$200 billion. Last year, China edged out the US as Japan's number one trading partner and Japanese firms and factories on the mainland employ an estimated one million Chinese. Political and strategic considerations, however, seem to have edged out economic rationality. The Chinese political authorities have unleashed the genie of nationalism in the service of its aspiration to emerge as a global power without any rivals in Asia and before this rising nationalism devours them, it will devour its antagonists as defined by the Chinese authorities. It is time for other neighbours of China, including India, to take note of this rising Chinese nationalism. Today it is defining itself in opposition to Japan, tomorrow it may be India. And those who have faith in the sobering effects of economics might just be disappointed.

12 MAY 2005

THE STATESMAN

# Putin thanks Hu Jintao for Chinese help to veterans during and after World War II



**FIRMING UP TIES:** Russian President Vladimir Putin (left) and his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao in Moscow on Monday. - PHOTO: AFP

<sup>US</sup>  
**I am looking forward to Russia visit, says Chinese leader**

**MOSCOW:** Russian President Vladimir Putin thanked his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao on Monday for the aid Chinese people offered to Russian soldiers fighting in China during World War II and for tending soldiers' graves on Monday.

Soviet forces briefly fought in Manchuria against the Japanese, entering after the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima in August 1945.

Mr. Putin said Moscow was happy with the level of cooperation between the two giant countries, including the implementation of all agreements, and that he was looking forward to a visit by Mr. Hu in July.

"It will be the highest point in our relations," Mr. Putin said. Mr. Hu said that his visit would give the two leaders "more time to discuss questions."

Mr. Putin and Mr. Hu met, accompanied by small delegations, following the Red Square parade and Kremlin reception commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Allied victory in Europe.

After decades of rivalry, Moscow and Beijing have developed what they call a strategic part-

nership following the 1991 Soviet collapse, pledging their adherence to a "multipolar world," a term that refers to their opposition to a perceived U.S. domination in global affairs.

China has purchased billions of dollars worth of fighters, missiles, submarines and destroyers.

## North Korean issue

A Kremlin source told ITAR-TASS ahead of the meeting that Russia and China agreed on the need for patience and dialogue in resolving the international community's standoff with North Korea over its nuclear programme.

"Moscow and Beijing are deeply convinced that there is no other way for resolving the Korean peninsula's nuclear problems except for patient, attentive dialogue taking into account the worries of all sides and aiming at ensuring the nuclear-free status of the Korean peninsula," ITAR-TASS quoted the source as saying.

Russia and China also agree on the need for reform of the U.N. Security Council, the Kremlin source said. - AP, AFP

10 MAY 2005

THE HINDU

# China, Japan patch-up

ANN & AGENCIES 4/23/72

JAKARTA, April 23. — The leaders of China and Japan agreed to mend ruptured ties during ice-breaking talks in Jakarta on Saturday, although Chinese President Hu Jintao said Japan needed to learn from its wartime past.

The talks came a day after Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi made an unusually public apology for Japan's past atrocities in Asia during a summit of Asian and African leaders in the Indonesian capital.

Ties between the Asian giants had deteriorated to their worst since the normalization of relations in 1972, putting at risk economic links worth \$212 billion in annual trade.

"If the appearance of serious problems in Sino-Japanese relations is not handled properly... not only will it be detrimental to China and Japan, but it will also affect the stability and development of Asia," Mr Jintao said.

"Remorse expressed for the war of aggression should be translated into action. Japan should never do anything again that would hurt the feelings of the Chinese people or the people of other Asian countries."



**NOT EXACTLY POLES APART: Mr Junichiro Koizumi with Chinese President Hu Jintao in Jakarta on Saturday. — AFP**

Mr Koizumi downplayed the tensions, calling for China not to be affected by "temporary confrontations and differences of opinion." "We were able to confirm at the meeting that rather than criticizing each other's past shortcomings and aggravating antagonistic feelings, we should make efforts to develop the bilateral friendship," Mr Koizumi told a news conference after nearly an hour of discussions.

It was the first top-level discussion since massive anti-Japanese protests

erupted earlier this month in major Chinese cities over Tokyo's approval of school textbooks that China claims play down wartime atrocities.

Mr Jintao said the strong reaction of the Chinese people is "something the Japanese side should seri-

ously reflect on". Mr Koizumi's expression of "deep remorse" broke no new ground, but the rare appeal was a clear attempt to reverse the worst erosion of ties between Tokyo and Beijing since diplomatic relations were established in 1972.

The talks on the fringes of the Asia-Africa summit were hastily arranged to try and defuse the bitter row. Tensions have boiled over onto the streets of Chinese cities with Japanese businesses targeted by sometimes violent demonstrations, protesting Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council among other issues.

China has refused Japan's demands to apologise for the protests, instead saying that Tokyo's refusal to admit its dark past has placed Sino-Japanese relations at their lowest ebb for 30 years.

Mr Koizumi said: "Every country has confrontations, but when you look at them in the long term we all know how important it is for us to overcome the confrontations in order to promote friendly relations and how that action benefits not only the interests of both countries but the interests of the world as a whole."

# China asks Japan to take concrete measures to back up remorse

Japan caused tremendous suffering to people of many countries, says Koizumi

**JAKARTA:** The Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, on Friday issued Japan's most public apology in a decade for its wartime aggression and confirmed a meeting this weekend with China's President to defuse tensions between the two Asian powers.

"In the past, Japan, through its colonial rule and aggression, caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries, particularly to those of Asian nations," Mr. Koizumi told the Asia-Africa summit with the Chinese President, Hu Jintao, looking on.

"Japan squarely faces these facts of history in a spirit of humility. And with feelings of deep remorse and heartfelt apology always engraved in mind, Japan has resolutely maintained, consistently since the end of World War II, never turning into a military power but an economic power," he said.

Japan has apologised numerous times for its World War II conduct, but Friday's remarks carry added importance with Tokyo seeking to resolve a spat with Beijing sparked by its approval of a nationalist textbook that downplays Japan's wartime atrocities.

Tensions have boiled over on-

to the streets of Chinese cities with Japanese businesses being targeted by sometimes violent demonstrations, also protesting Japan's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

China has refused Japan's demands to apologise for the protests, instead saying that Tokyo's refusal to admit its dark past has placed Sino-Japanese relations at their lowest ebb for 30 years.

## Bitter row

The bitter row has largely overshadowed a gathering in Jakarta of almost 50 Asian and African leaders with everyone wondering whether Mr. Hu and Mr. Koizumi would use the occasion to address their differences.

Mr. Koizumi appeared to end this speculation after his conference speech, telling journalists as he hurried from a hotel in the centre of the Indonesian capital that they would meet at some point on Saturday.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said both sides were still trying to arrange the meeting and gave China's first official reaction to Mr. Koizumi's apology. "Regarding 60 years ago, the great damage it (Japan) has caused in Asian countries, in-

cluding China, we welcome Koizumi's attitude," he told journalists in Jakarta.

He also indicated that talks alone would not solve the issue and said Beijing urged Mr. Koizumi to take concrete steps to back up his expression of remorse.

Mr. Koizumi has enraged China with his annual visits to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, which venerates 2.5 million war dead, including seven World War II figures hanged for war crimes.

Since taking office in April 2001, he has never missed the annual pilgrimage to the shrine, which draws some five million visitors a year. While Mr. Koizumi's apology was seen as the latest attempt by Tokyo to appease Beijing, China has also taken steps in the last few days to draw a line under the crisis.

Authorities in Beijing have taken a tougher stance on the demonstrations with state media reporting on Thursday that China's Public Security Ministry had warned that any unapproved demonstrations would be considered illegal. — AFP



**DARK PAST:** A picture of a World War Two Japanese soldier holding the head of a Chinese man is displayed as part of anti-Japan protests in Hong Kong.

— PHOTO: REUTERS

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23 APR 2005

THE HINDU

# Japan-China talks fail to halt free fall in ties

Beijing, April 18 (Reuters): Japan and China held talks in Beijing today but failed to halt a free fall in ties after a third weekend of demonstrations in China against what many see as Japan's inability to face up to its wartime past.

There was little sign of headway after the violent protests which, along with disputes over territory, a Japanese history textbook and Tokyo's bid for a permanent UN Security Council seat, have dragged relations to their lowest point in decades.

Japanese foreign minister Nobutaka Machimura met state councillor Tang Jiaxuan, a former foreign minister with broad responsibility for diplomatic issues, who noted that Machimura was visiting "under very difficult circumstances in Sino-Japanese relations", established in 1972.

Tang urged Japan to "seriously review" its actions and take measures to correct them, Xinhua news agency reported.

"I had thought that the



Japanese foreign minister Nobutaka Machimura in Beijing. (AFP)

Chinese side would express a somewhat more frank feeling over the repeated destruction as well as violence toward Japanese," Machimura said after the meetings.

"I find it unfortunate that they could only deal with the situation by reading from a prepared text," he said. "It is very unfortunate that there

is no consideration of the feelings of the Japanese."

But Machimura also said there were positive aspects to his trip. "There have been several agreements to promote exchanges in various areas between Japan and China," he said.

"If we can successfully coordinate the dates, (Chinese) President Hu (Jintao) and (Japanese) Prime Minister (Junichiro) Koizumi may be able to hold a meeting later this week" in Indonesia, when they visit the country for the Asia-Africa summit, the minister said.

Thus far, the two sides have appeared to be talking past each other in discussions on a high-stakes economic partnership that brings \$178 billion in annual trade and which Tang has described as "at a crossroads".

Even as a violent demonstration raged in Shanghai, authorities headed off protests in Beijing, where thousands of demonstrators had hurled rocks and bottles at the Japanese embassy only a week earlier.

19 APR 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

# চিন বনাম জাপান

পূর্ব এশিয়ার ইতিহাসে চিন ও জাপানের প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা নূতন নয়। আয়তনে বিশাল চিনের তুলনায় ক্ষুদ্রাতিক্ষুদ্র হইলেও ভূতপূর্ব সাম্রাজ্যের অধীশ্বর হিসাবে, এশিয়ার অর্থনৈতিক ও রাজনৈতিক শক্তি হিসাবে জাপান অনন্য। বিংশ শতাব্দীর সূচনায় জার নিকোলাসের রাশিয়াকে যুদ্ধে পর্যুদস্ত করার পর হইতেই নব পর্যায়ের জাপানের অর্থ-রাজনৈতিক উত্থানের শুরু। দ্বিতীয় বিশ্বযুদ্ধের অন্তিম পর্বে মার্কিন পরমাণু আগ্রাসনে সম্পূর্ণ বিধ্বস্ত হওয়ার পর যে-ভাবে জাপান আবার পুনরায় গা-ঝাড়া দিয়া উঠিয়া দাঁড়ায়, তাহা আধুনিক রূপকথার পর্যায়ের পড়ে। ইতিমধ্যে চিনের ফরমোজা (তাইওয়ান) ও মাঞ্চুরিয়ায় জাপানি ঔপনিবেশিকতার আমলে চিনা জনসাধারণের উপর যে অকথ্য নির্যাতন চলে, তাহার প্রতিবাদে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী চিন দীর্ঘ ত্রিশ বছর জাপানের সহিত যাবতীয় সম্পর্ক ছিন্ন রাখিয়াছিল। সেই নির্যাতনের জন্য জাপান সরকারের দুঃখপ্রকাশ ও ক্ষমাপ্রার্থনার পরেই দুই দেশের সম্পর্ক স্বাভাবিক হয়। সম্প্রতি চিনের শহর-শহরে জাপানের বিরুদ্ধে যে জঙ্গি প্রতিবাদ মুখরিত, তাহার নেপথ্যেও ওই ঔপনিবেশিক ইতিহাসের জের। জাপানের ইতিহাসের নূতন পাঠ্যপুস্তকে ওই নির্যাতনের কথা অনুল্লিখিত হওয়ার বিরুদ্ধেই এই প্রতিবাদ।

চিনে সফররত জাপানের বিদেশমন্ত্রী এই বিক্ষোভের জন্য চিনা কর্তৃপক্ষের দুঃখপ্রকাশ দাবি করিলেও চিন তাঁহাকে বাধিত করে নাই। এমনকী বিক্ষোভে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত জাপানি দূতাবাস ও ব্যবসায় প্রতিষ্ঠানের ক্ষতি পূরণ করিতেও অস্বীকৃত হইয়াছে। সরকারি ভাবে এই বিক্ষোভ সংগঠিত না হইলেও চিনা নেতৃত্বের আচরণে বিক্ষোভের প্রতি প্রস্রবের ব্যাপারটি অনুমান করা কঠিন নয়। তবে নিছক ইতিহাসই তাহার কারণ নহে। কারণ দুই এশীয় অর্থনৈতিক প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বীর তীব্র প্রতিযোগিতাজনিত অনাস্থা, এমনকী বিদ্বেষও। প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা পূর্ব ও দক্ষিণ এশিয়ার বাজার দখলের জন্য। এমনকী প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা পরস্পরের অভ্যন্তরীণ বাজার দখলের জন্যও। এখন শিল্পেও চিন জাপানের প্রতিস্পর্ধী হইয়া উঠিয়াছে। মার্কিন যুক্তরাষ্ট্রের পরেই জাপান চিনের প্রধান বাণিজ্যিক অংশীদার। চিন-জাপান বাণিজ্য এই হারে বাড়িলে এক দশকের মধ্যেই জাপান হইয়া উঠিবে চিনের এক নম্বর বাণিজ্য সহযোগী। প্রযুক্তি ক্ষেত্রে পশ্চিমের সমকক্ষ হওয়ার সাধনায় সিঙ্কিলাভের পর জাপান পূর্বের দিকে তাকাইবার নীতি অনুসরণ করিতেছে, যাহার অংশ হিসাবে ভারতের সঙ্গেও তাহার বাণিজ্য দ্রুত বাড়িতেছে। উপরন্তু আছে আন্তর্জাতিক মঞ্চে জাপানের উত্তরোত্তর গুরুত্ববৃদ্ধি, যাহার ফলে নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী সদস্যপদের অন্যতম দাবিদার আজ জাপানও। চিন জাপানকে নিজের সহিত অভিন্ন পঙ্ক্তিতে বসিতে দিতে নারাজ। বিশ্ব বাণিজ্য সংস্থায় চিনের সদস্যপদ প্রাপ্তিতে জাপান সহযোগিতা করিলেও নিরাপত্তা পরিষদের স্থায়ী আসন লাভে সেই আনুকূল্য ফিরাইয়া দিতে চিন দ্বিধাশ্রিত। এই প্রেক্ষিতেই চিনা শহরে জাপান-বিরোধী বিক্ষোভ তাৎপর্যপূর্ণ।

জাপানের অর্থনৈতিক আগ্রাসন ঠেকাইতে আমেরিকা ও ইউরোপ উত্তরোত্তর রকমারি বিধিনিষেধের বেড়া খাড়া করিতে থাকায় পূর্বের দিকে নজর ফেরানো তাহার পক্ষে আবশ্যিক। কিন্তু ইতিমধ্যে পূর্বে অর্থাৎ জাপানের নিজস্ব সাবেক সাম্রাজ্যের এলাকায় চিনও প্রবল শক্তিতে পরিণত। প্রযুক্তিতে জাপান আগাইয়া থাকিলেও চিন তাহার বিপুলসংখ্যক শস্তা শ্রমশক্তি ও অবিশ্বাস্য গতিতে প্রসরমাণ পরিকাঠামোর জোরে রকমারি ভোগ্যপণ্যে এশিয়ার বাজার ছাইয়া ফেলিতেছে। একদলীয় কমিউনিস্ট শৈশ্রাচার চিনকে অর্থনীতির একমুখী বিকাশে যে অবাধ স্বাধীনতা দেয়, জাপান সহ কোনও গণতান্ত্রিক রাষ্ট্রেই তাহা কল্পনা করা যায় না। সেখানে গণতন্ত্র শাসকদের বাধ্য করে জনসাধারণের কাছে জবাবদিহি করিতে, বহুদলীয় ব্যবস্থা বাধ্য করে শ্রমের অধিকতর মূল্য ও শ্রমজীবীদের উন্নততর জীবনযাত্রার দাবিতে প্রতিবাদ, বিক্ষোভ ও আন্দোলন শিরোধার্য করিতে। আবার, চিনের একরৈখিক উন্নয়ন এশিয়ার বাজারে তাহাকে রফতানি ও বিনিয়োগের যে সুবিধা দিবে, জাপানের উন্নততর প্রযুক্তি অংশত তাহা বানচাল করিতে পারে। এই সব জ্বলন্ত সমস্যাই ঔপনিবেশিকতার রাজনৈতিক বশ্যতাজনিত অমর্যাদাবোধের সহিত মিশিয়া বর্তমান সমস্যা ঘনাইয়া তুলিয়াছে।

# No apology, China tells Japan

Beijing/Tokyo, April 17 (Reuters): China today bluntly told Japan it had no reason to apologise after weeks of anti-Japanese protests, some violent, in cities across China.

The Chinese are furious at a revised Japanese school textbook they say whitewashes atrocities during Japan's 1931-45 occupation of China. They also strongly oppose Tokyo's bid for a permanent seat alongside Beijing on the UN Security Council.

China denies tacitly encouraging the anti-Japanese unrest and has pledged to protect Japanese businesses and nationals.

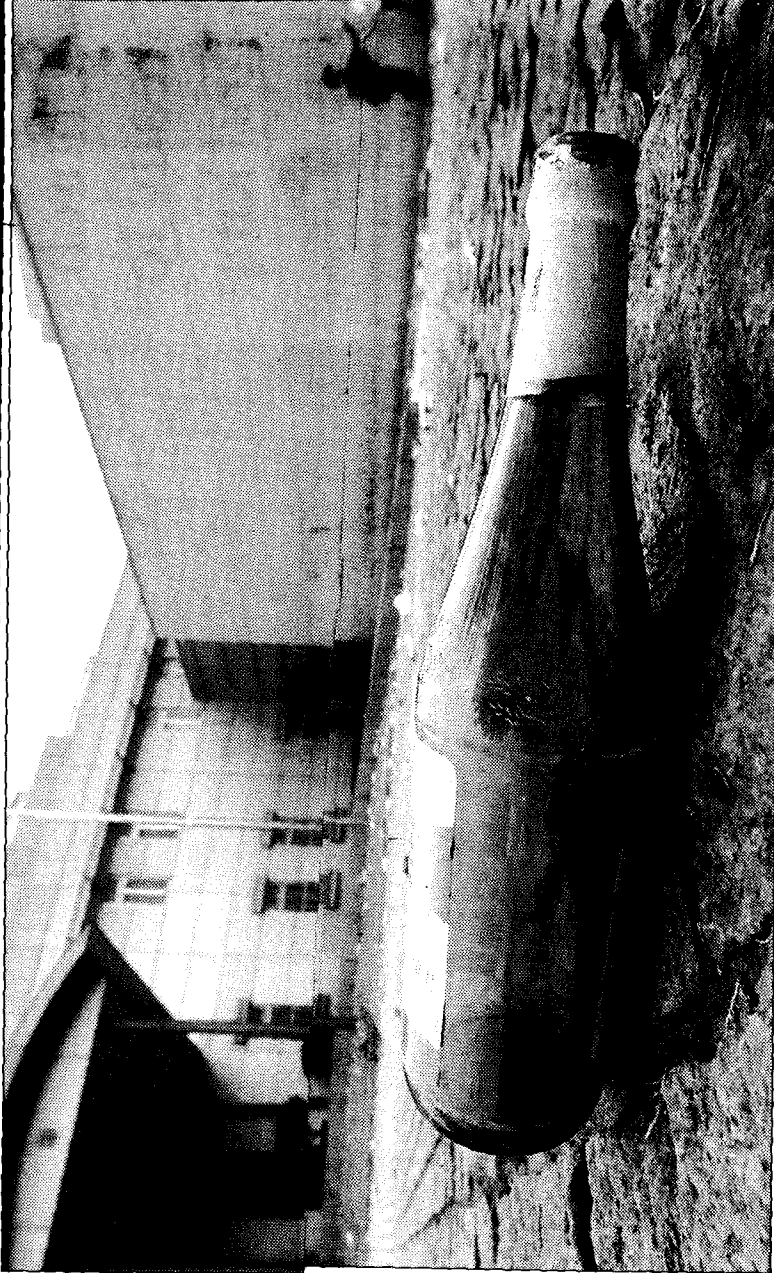
"The Chinese government has never done anything for which it has to apologise to the Japanese people," foreign minister Li Zhaoxing told his visiting Japanese counterpart, Nobutaka Machimura.

"The main problem now is that the Japanese government has done a series of things that have hurt the feelings of the Chinese people ... especially in its treatment of history."

Machimura flew to China today to try to heal relations between the two Asian powers, which are at their worst in decades. He demanded China deal with the protests swiftly even as they spread from Shanghai yesterday to other cities today.

Japan is asking for compensation for attacks on Japanese property in China and an official apology, but Li

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AFTER BOTTLES, BLUNT WORDS FLY



A beer bottle, hurled by Chinese protesters, lies inside the Japanese consulate in Shanghai. (Reuters)

did not offer either, Japanese foreign ministry spokesperson Hatsuhiro Takashima said.

Machimura said he was disappointed by China's response. "They kept saying that the root of the problem was the history issue and we could not find common ground and I

found this attitude disappointing," he told a news conference. "Also it was unfortunate that China's top leaders could not seem to understand that the Japanese people were greatly shocked by what has happened," he said.

In the third weekend of violent protests, thousands marched yesterday to Japan's consulate in Shanghai, smashing windows, pelting it with paint bombs and eggs and attacking Japanese restaurants along the way. China's official Xinhua news agency put the number of protesters in Shanghai at 20,000. Two Japanese were slightly injured in the city, home to thousands of Japanese firms and about 34,000 Japanese expatriates. Hong Kong Cable Television said there were protests in about 10 Chinese cities, including southern Dongguan and southwestern Chengdu.

18 APR 2005

THE TELEGRAPH

# China erupts, Japan protests

**Shanghai/Beijing, April 16** (Reuters): Shouting "Japanese invaders must die", thousands protested against Japan's wartime past in eastern China today, hurling rocks and bottles and burning Japanese flags at Tokyo's consulate in Shanghai.

But with thousands of paramilitary police on the streets of Beijing and students warned against protests, authorities headed off a repeat of last weekend's violent demonstrations in the capital, which hosts Japan's foreign minister tomorrow.

Police also barred incidents in southern Guangzhou and southwestern Chongqing, where thousands marched last weekend.

Chinese are protesting against textbooks they see as whitewashing Japan's

dozen protesters were dragged away.

During moments of relative calm, protesters and police alike were spotted buying lattes at a nearby coffee shop. The demonstration broke up in the early evening.

Japan's foreign ministry lodged a protest, saying the Chinese government failed to protect Japan's diplomatic and commercial facilities from damage by the protesters and urging Beijing to take severe and serious efforts to prevent a recurrence.

"This sort of incident seems to have been repeated every week since the beginning of the month. Whatever the reason for this violent and destructive behaviour, we will not accept it, but strongly criticise it," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Japan's National Police Agency has told police to tighten security at Chinese facilities throughout the country. Police are keeping a close eye on Japanese Right-wing groups that might take action in response to the anti-Japanese protests in China.

In the eastern city of Hangzhou, 10,000 protesters chanted anti-Japanese slogans and handed out fliers calling for a boycott of Japanese goods, witnesses said. Journalists were told not to report on it and warned they would be sacked if they took part. Shopkeepers covered up billboards featuring Japanese electronics goods in Hangzhou.

Another 2,000 people marched in Tianjin city, near the capital.

In Beijing, hundreds of police in riot gear secured the ambassador's home in the northeast diplomatic district and the embassy in the south-east. Both were hit by rocks and bottles by thousands of protesters last weekend but spared this time around.

Japanese foreign minister Nobutaka Machimura is due to meet his counterpart Li Zhaoxing tomorrow, and aims to ensure disputes — on everything from gas exploration in disputed waters to Japan's history — do not hurt \$178 billion in annual trade between the economic powers.

Japan has pledged not to let the series of disputes hinder their broader relationship. Even so, Machimura noted security in Shanghai was inadequate and he would share his views with Li.



A protester shouts slogans during an anti-Japanese rally in Shanghai. (AFP)



# Japan calls for talks to resolve China dispute

China Daily/ANN

TOKYO, April 14. — Japan avoided escalating a war of words with China today, saying dialogue was needed to resolve disputes, including one over energy projects in the East China Sea.

Simmering tensions between the two Asian giants over a range of topics, especially what Beijing sees as Japan's failure to own up to wartime atrocities, erupted in China at the weekend, with thousands taking part in protests. The situation worsened yesterday after Japan announced it had started procedures to allocate rights for test-drilling in a disputed area of the East China Sea.

"As the Prime Minister said yesterday, it is in the interest of both Japan and China to make the East China Sea a sea of cooperation rather than a sea of confrontation," Japan's top government spokesman told a news conference.

"We believe that we need to discuss this from a broad perspective," chief Cabinet secretary Mr Hiro-yuki Hosoda said.

China earlier today reacted angrily to Japan's plan to allow gas exploration in a disputed area of the East China Sea, calling the move a "serious provocation" at a time when ties are at rock-bottom in a dispute over Tokyo's wartime past.

"This move by Japan is a serious provocation of China's rights and interna-

tional norms," foreign ministry spokesman Mr Qin Gang said in remarks on the ministry's website.

"China has already made a protest to Japan, and reserves the right to take further reaction," Mr Qin said, without elaborating.

The protests, triggered by Japan's approval of textbooks critics say whitewashes its past military aggression and colonisation, also took aim at Tokyo's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Since then, the two sides have traded barbs, each pointing the finger at the other. Beijing says Tokyo is at fault for its mishandling of its history. Japan wants China to accept the blame for letting the weekend protests get out of hand.

15 APR 2005

THE STATESMAN

# Japan gas hunt draws China fire

Beijing/Tokyo, April 14 (Reuters): China called Japan's plan to allow gas exploration in disputed waters a serious provocation today, but sought to rein in anti-Japanese sentiment that sparked violent protests last weekend.

Japan avoided escalating the war of words, saying dialogue was needed to resolve the feuds. China also called for talks.

Simmering tensions between the two Asian giants over a range of topics, especially what Beijing sees as Japan's failure to own up to wartime atrocities, erupted in China at the weekend, with thousands taking part in protests across the country.

The situation deteriorated yesterday after Japan announced it had started procedures to allocate rights for



A student reads a history textbook in a junior high school in Tochigi, north of Tokyo. (Reuters)

test-drilling in a disputed area of the East China Sea.

"This move by Japan is a serious provocation of China's rights and international norms," foreign ministry spokesperson Qin Gang said on the ministry's website.

"China has already made a protest to Japan and reserves the right to take further reaction," Qin said, without elaborating.

Later today, Qin said: "We strongly demand the Japanese side attach importance to the Chinese side's serious concern. The consequences hinge on the Japanese side."

He repeated Chinese opposition to Japan becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council, saying: "We hope the Japanese side will fulfil its promise to seriously

re-examine its history of aggression."

China and Japan, respectively the world's second- and third-biggest oil consumers, are at odds over China's exploration for natural gas near an area Japan claims as its exclusive economic zone.

Asked about Qin's remarks, Japanese chief cabinet secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda urged dialogue.

"As the Prime Minister said yesterday, it is in the interest of both Japan and China to make the East China Sea a sea of cooperation rather than a sea of confrontation," Hosoda, Japan's top government spokesperson, told a news conference.

"We believe that we need to discuss this from a broad perspective."

# Japan raises stake in East China Sea, grants rights for drilling

Atmosphere of heightened tensions between Beijing and Tokyo

Since Jap

P. S. Suryanarayana

**SINGAPORE:** Japan on Wednesday announced its intention of granting "concessions" or rights to some of its firms to carry out test-drilling for oil and natural gas in the disputed waters of the East China Sea.

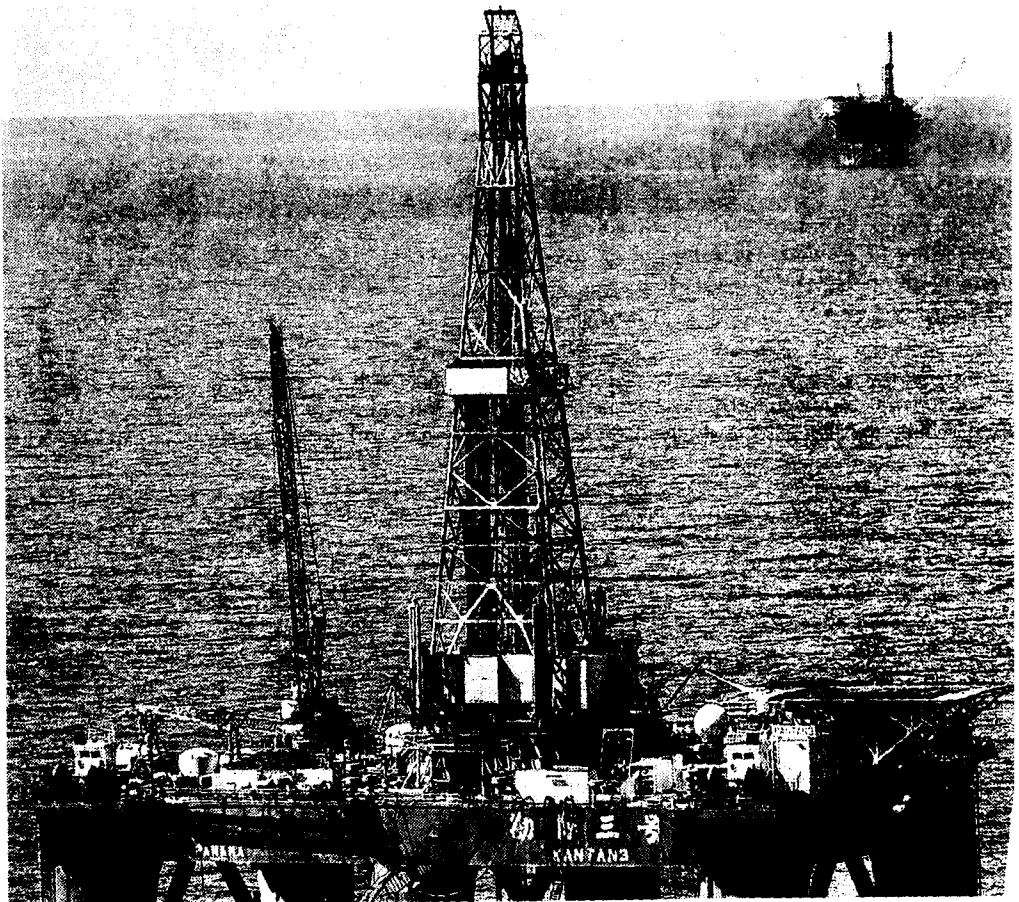
The move, which may put Japan on a course of collision with China in the present atmosphere of heightened tensions between the two countries over a Japanese history textbook, was announced by the Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, in Tokyo.

A Chinese consortium, under the auspices of the state-run China National Offshore Oil Corporation, is at present operating in an area close to the maritime zone that Japan has earmarked for private sector firms.

## Maritime dispute

The dispute pertains to the magnitude of the economic zones of the two countries in relation to the "median line" across the relevant part of the East China Sea.

Raising the stakes over East China Sea, Mr. Koizumi told journalists in Tokyo today that Japan "will carry forward the procedures as planned" in regard to the granting of "concessions" for test-drilling in the disputed waters. He denied suggestions that the move was meant to counter the latest anti-



**A STICKY ISSUE:** Chinese-operated gas exploration facilities are stationed in the East China Sea near an area which Japan claims as its exclusive economic zone, on which the two countries are at odds, in this file picture. - REUTERS

Japan protests across China. Japanese officials indicated that talks would be sought with China on the nature and scope of

presence of its companies in the stretch of the sea. On a related plane, Japan announced that its Foreign Minister, Nobutaka Ma-

chimura, would visit Beijing on April 17 and 18 for talks, which had been scheduled prior to the latest downturn in relations.

13 APR 2005

# China-Japan ties sink to 30-year low

Sr 3  
18/9

David McNeill in Tokyo

April 12. — China has told Japan to “face up to history”, while Tokyo responded by saying Beijing was “scary” as a bitter row which began over school textbooks sent relations between the two to a 30-year low.

China’s Premier Mr Wen Jiabao today refused to apologise after thousands of Chinese took part in weekend protests over what many in Asia see as Japan’s failure to own up to atrocities before and during World War II.

“The strong responses from the Asian people should make the Japanese government have deep and profound reflections,” Mr Wen told reporters in New Delhi after being questioned about attacks on Japanese businesses and property in China by protestors angry at textbooks they said whitewash Japan’s colonial rule. The demonstrators burned Japanese flags, pelted

## WW II Japanese gas bombs found in China

China Daily/ANN

BEIJING, April 12. — Military shells, including gas bombs abandoned by the Japanese forces during the Japanese invasion in China, have been found in Qiqihar in north-east China’s Heilongjiang province. Acting on information from local people, police dug up more than 20 intact mortar rounds and gas bombs near Qiqihar’s Nenjiang river last Saturday. Those threatened by the abandoned ordnance urged the Japanese government to seriously address and tackle the problem.

On 4 August 2003, one person was killed and 43 others wounded when several barrels of mustard gas left by Japanese forces in 1945 leaked at a construction site in urban Qiqihar. When surveying nearby areas, police found many similar abandoned shells in the Nenjiang river.

“All the munitions we dug out this time were left by the Japanese troops during their invasion of China (1937-45),” said bomb expert Mr Yu Shangqing. “Although they have lain abandoned for over 60 years and are wet from the river, if they were to dry out they could still explode with considerable power. “We need more time to examine all the different kinds of bombs,” he said.

Japanese-owned restaurants and supermarkets with rocks and bottles and beat up exchange students.

“Only a country that respects history, takes responsibility for past his-

tory and wins over the trust of the people in Asia and the world at large can take greater responsibility in the international community,” Mr Wen said.

North Korea’s govern-

ment joined the critics, describing Japan as a “political dwarf” today, denouncing what it said were gross distortions in a new Japanese school textbook and joining South Korea and China in the feud with Tokyo.

The failure to condemn the attacks, even as dozens of cross-cultural friendship groups met in Tokyo today to try to defuse the row, was greeted with dismay in Japan.

Japan’s trade minister Mr Shoichi Nakagawa said today he was “worried” about the impact of anti-Japanese sentiment. “They’re a country that’s trying to become a market economy and we need them to take a proper response,” he said, adding: “It’s a scary country.” China has condemned the “over-reaction of some individuals” during the protests but refused compensation even as a scheduled visit by Japan’s foreign minister Mr Nobutaka Machimura looms this weekend. — The Independent

13 APR 2005

THE STATESMAN

# Face up to history, Japan told

Reuters  
New Delhi/Tokyo, April 12

CHINA'S PREMIER told Japan to "face up to history" and Tokyo's trade minister called China "scary" on Tuesday as a dispute over Japan's wartime past rumbled on after violent weekend demonstrations.

Thousands of Chinese took part in the protests over what many in Asia see as Japan's failure to own up to atrocities before and during World War Two and Tokyo's bid for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told reporters in New Delhi that Japan must "face up to history squarely" and that the protests should give Tokyo reason to rethink its bid for a permanent council seat.

“The strong responses from the Asian people should make the Japanese government have deep and profound reflections,” he said. “Only a country that respects history, takes responsibility for past history and wins over the trust of the people in Asia and the world at large can take greater responsibility in the international community,” he added.

China overtook the US as Japan's biggest trading partner in 2004 with about \$178 billion in trade. Japanese corporations sank about \$9.2 billion into China.

Japanese trade minister Shoichi Nakagawa said he was concerned about the impact of Chinese anti-Japanese sentiment on Japanese companies. “Yes, I'm worried ... they're a country that's trying to be-

come a market economy and we need them to take a proper response,” he told a news conference. “It's a scary country.”

The weekend protesters burned the Japanese flag, smashed Japanese-made cars, targeted Japanese businesses and broke windows at the Japanese embassy in Beijing while police stood by.

On Tuesday, the Chinese protests spilled over into Hong Kong, with teachers and students writing letters to Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi telling him not to gloss over Tokyo's wartime atrocities.

Representatives of some 60 Chinese and Japanese friendship groups including lawmakers from both countries met in Tokyo and issued a joint appeal for dialogue to resolve the disputes.

“Based on the spirit of facing the future while using history as a mirror, problems, differences in opinion, and disputes that exist between the two countries and their citizens should be resolved appropriately through friendly discussions,” they said.

Tokyo demanded an apology and compensation after the weekend violence and urged China to protect Japanese firms and expatriates but repeatedly urged dialogue as the best solution. Beijing has not apologised.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang reiterated that the government did not approve of the “overreaction of some individuals” but added the protests showed Chinese citizens were “not satisfied with the wrong attitude of Japan toward history”.

# Trade twist in China-Japan brawl

**New Delhi/Tokyo:** China's premier has told Japan to "face up to history" and Japan's trade minister called China "scary" as a dispute over Japan's wartime past spiralled higher after sparking demonstrations at the weekend.

Thousands of Chinese joined the violent weekend protests over what many in Asia see as Japan's failure to own up to atrocities before and during World War II and Tokyo's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council.

Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao told reporters in New Delhi that Japan must "face up to history squarely" and that the protests should give Tokyo reason to rethink its bid for a permanent council seat. "The strong responses from the Asian people should make the Japanese government have deep and profound reflections," he said on Tuesday.

"Only a country that respects history, takes responsibility for past history and

wins over the trust of the people in Asia and the world at large can take greater responsibility in the international community," he added. China overtook the US in 2004 to become Japan's biggest trading partner with about \$178 billion in trade, and Japanese corporations sank about \$9.2 billion into China that year.

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On Tuesday, the protests spilled over into Hong Kong, with teachers and stu-

dents writing letters to Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi telling him not to gloss over Tokyo's wartime atrocities. Tokyo has demanded an apology and compensation and urged China to protect Japanese firms and expatriates, but has also said the best way to resolve tensions was through dialogue.

Foreign minister Nobutaka Machimura told reporters he wanted China to reply soon to Japan's demand. He is expected to visit China around April 17.

There is concern about possible repercussions in Japan.

The Chinese embassy in Tokyo urged the Japanese government to take adequate measures to ensure security for Chinese people and facilities in Japan, Kyodo news agency reported.

It made the request after an office building in Yokohama housing a branch of the Bank of China was shot at on Sunday, Kyodo said. Agencies

13 APR 2005

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# More anti-Japan protests in China over textbook

BEIJING, APRIL 10. Anti-Japan protests erupted for a second day in China on Sunday, as Tokyo demanded an apology and better protection for its citizens and interests a day after demonstrators smashed windows at Japan's embassy in Beijing.

Demonstrations have spread in China since Tokyo approved a new history textbook that critics say glosses over atrocities by its military in the first half of the 20th century, including forcing tens of thousands of women into sex slavery.

Beijing slammed the decision, calling the book "poison" for youthful minds.

Some 10,000 protesters surrounded a Japanese-run Jasco supermarket in the southern city of Shenzhen on Sunday, said the Japanese Embassy in Beijing.

They shouted "Boycott Japanese goods!" and some threw plastic bottles of mineral water at the store.

About 3,000 persons marched toward the Japanese Consulate General in the southern city of Guangzhou for a "spontaneous demonstration"

and police were maintaining order, said an official. Police prevented demonstrators from getting near the consulate, he said.

Hong Kong Cable Television showed a huge crowd of people protesting outside a shopping centre in Guangzhou.

They were trying to knock down police barriers set up around the centre, and police were shoving the crowd as they struggled to contain it.

A correspondent said protesters threw eggs at Japanese restaurants as they passed by.

## Boycott call

On Saturday, about 1,000 protesters hurled rocks and broke windows at Japan's embassy in Beijing, demanding a boycott of Japanese goods to oppose the new schoolbook. They also urged their Govern-

ment to prevent Tokyo from gaining a permanent seat on the United Nations' Security Council.

China said on Sunday it had ordered anti-Japanese protesters in Beijing to stay "calm and sane" and mobilised extra police to maintain order but Japanese officials complained that not enough was done.

Japan's Ambassador to China, Anami Koreshige, called the incident "gravely regrettable" and called on Chinese authorities to protect Japanese citizens and businesses, as well as the embassy and other consulates in China, an official said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura also summoned China's ambassador on Sunday to protest the rally and demand compensation for damages. — AP

11 APR 2005

THE HINDU

# Beijing protest targets Japan embassy

1979  
Sino-JAP  
4-10-99

CHINA DAILY/ANN & PTI

**BELJING, April 9.** — A demonstration by over 10,000 Chinese people against Japan's attempt to "distort" its wartime past turned violent with protesters throwing rocks at the Japanese embassy and ambassador's residence, triggering an angry reaction from Tokyo.

The protesters also reacted angrily to Tokyo's bid for a permanent seat on the Security Council. People, echoing a call on Internet bulletin boards, came to the Hailong shopping centre in northern Beijing's Haidian district, carrying Chinese flags and anti-Japanese banners. Japan officially approved new textbook on Tuesday which glosses over Japanese wartime atrocities.

The gathering participants called out slogans as "boycott Japanese-made products", "safeguard Diaoyu Islands" and "smash Japan's day-dream of seeking permanent seat on the UN Security Council".

About 1,000 people started the gathering in the morning and more people joined the protest. The number reached 10,000 at noon, and the group marched from Zhongguancun street to the east part of Beijing where the Japanese embassy is located.

The demonstrators pelted the Japanese embassy in Beijing with bottles and stones, breaking the glass windows, eyewitnesses said.



*The protest was the biggest since 1999. — AFP*

## JAPAN FILES COMPLAINT

THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN/ANN & AP

**TOKYO, April 9.** — TOKYO, April 9. — Japan today filed a formal protest to the Chinese embassy in Tokyo over violent protests at the Japanese embassy in Beijing, an official said. Japan's vice-foreign minister Mr Shotaro Yachi complained to Chinese envoy Mr Cheng Yonghua about broken windows at Japan's diplomatic compound and asked that security in the vicinity be bolstered to prevent a recurrence, a Japanese foreign ministry official said.

In another development, Tokyo today expressed its disappointment after the USA opposed setting a deadline for UN member countries to agree on an expansion of the Security Council.

"We're disappointed, though we expected the decision. We understand that the USA supports Japan becoming a permanent Security Council member, yet, to protect its vested interests, it has not yet reached the point at which it will support the recommendation made by UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan," a foreign ministry official said.

The Beijing government had deployed police in large numbers during the demonstration. There were minor scuffles with protesters in an attempt to keep traffic going, but there were no overt attempts to stop the march.

The day-long protests had caused major traffic

jams throughout the Chaoyang embassy district in the Chinese capital. Sino-Japanese ties have suffered in recent times due to differences of opinion over historical issues, territorial disputes and a Chinese nuclear submarine's intrusion into Japanese waters.



# Japan talks tough on China arms

Associated Press

TOKYO, March 27. — Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi told visiting French President Mr Jacques Chirac today that Japan “strongly opposed” the lifting of a European embargo on arms sales to China, and would not give up its bid to host an experimental fusion reactor also sought by France.

France and Germany have been leading a push to end a 16-year-old European arms embargo imposed after the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989. But Tokyo and its top ally, Washington, have been wary of such a move amid a military buildup by Beijing.

In a joint press meet with Mr Chirac later, Mr Koizumi said: “Japan is worried about the lifting of the embargo, and we are strongly opposed to this European decision.”

He pointed out that while Japan has been steadily decreasing its military expenditures, China has boosted its military budget at a rate of more than 10 per cent a year over the past decade. “It is a question of security,” Mr Koizumi said, noting tensions in the Taiwan Strait.

The EU had planned to lift the ban by June, though that deadline has come into question amid reservations by Britain and others over the threat posed to Taiwan. Mr Chirac said Europe was still committed to that deadline. “The conditions that once justified the embargo are no longer the conditions of today... We believe on political grounds that China’s appeal to lift it is legitimate.”

THE STATESMAN

28 MAR 2005