

## **SEEKING PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT: CHINA GOES HAND IN HAND WITH THE WORLD**

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I was asked by Mr. Rector NDU Warsaw to talk about China's perspective on contemporary security challenges. It is certain that different countries have different understanding on that issue. Here I am going to share some of my views.

"Peace and development are the two themes of the world". That was a statement in 1985 by Mr. Deng Xiaoping, chief architect of China's opening up and reform as well as the modernization drive. Even though the world is undergoing profound and complex changes, the theme of the times remain unchanged, i.e. peace and development.

Today the trend towards a multi-polar world and economic globalization has gathered momentum. There has been greater cultural diversity and an information society is fast emerging. New breakthroughs are in the making in the scientific and technological revolution. Global cooperation is expanding at multiple levels and on all fronts. Emerging market economies and developing countries are gaining in overall strength, balancing the international forces in favor of the maintenance of world peace. We are pleased to see that more favorable conditions for the maintenance of overall stability in the world are on the increase.

Yet at the same time, the world is still far from being peaceful and is facing many challenges.

We still face a tough situation regarding traditional security challenges. Disputes over territories, ethnic strife and religion have led to numerous regional conflicts. Some hot-spot issues are still unsolved. In countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, and others, there are civilian losses almost everyday. Palestine-Israel peace talks still have a long way to go. The situation in West Asia and North Africa is still volatile.

As for non-traditional security challenges, economic crisis, natural disasters, climate change, cyber security, energy security, and some others are also on the rise. The European debt crisis led to the rising unemployment rate, intensified social conflicts and the weary recovery of the economy. In 2012, a total economic loss of US\$160 billion and a loss of more than 10,000 human lives in the world were caused by natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, hurricanes, etc. More incidents of cyber security were reported on the front pages of newspapers and hacker attacks are increased. Numerous greenhouse gas emission leads to global warming and some low-lying coastal areas or island countries are facing the danger of being submerged. Phenomenon like terrorism, weapon proliferation, spread of diseases, transnational crimes, drug smuggling, and illegal immigration are increasingly affecting the world peace and stability.

For the causes of the above-mentioned critical problems, the reasons are as follows.

Firstly, it is because of the old international political and economic order, which is unequal, unfair and unreasonable. Since modern times, the oppression and exploitation of developing countries by imperialism and colonialism have left behind many historical issues, which caused some regional conflicts long unsolved and provided a breeding ground for terrorism.

Secondly, it is because of the outdated cold war mentality. Regardless of other countries' security needs, some countries only focus in pursuing their own maximized interests, imagining threats and provoking confrontation.

And thirdly, it is because of the economic development model built at the price of environment. In the economic development, the short-term interest overrode the long-term interests of mankind. Human development is thus greatly endangered by the severe environmental problems such as serious air pollution, water crisis, forest damage, less biodiversity, global warming, and so on.

As globalization deepens, countries are interdependent with their interests more closely entwined than ever before. Global challenges become the main threats, and common security issues get more prominent. We are living in a world that all countries are interconnected in times of both peace and danger. No single country can face all the challenges alone. We have to join our efforts in pursuing a peaceful route of development for the whole mankind.

To achieve peaceful development, it is a prerequisite that we build up equality and mutual trust as the first thing. Countries, big or small, strong or weak, rich or poor, are all equal members of the international community. Only by treating each other equally and enhance mutual trust steadily can we overcome differences, resolve the contradiction and estrangement, achieve mutual understanding and live together peacefully and amiably among nations and peoples. Only by doing so, a more solid basis for world peace and stability can be secured.

Take the China-US relation as an example. Being the largest developing country and the largest developed one respectively, China and the United States have different social systems. But since its founding, China has been advocating the five principles of peaceful coexistence with equality and mutual trust as the core. We have been all the time seeking the deepening of the mutual trust based on mutual respect in handling the bilateral relation with the US, which is developing steadily from confrontation to dialogue and cooperation. We then reached consensus on co-building a new type of relationship between major countries that features mutual respect and mutual benefit. At this point, I would like to mention the contribution of Poland. Between 1958 and 1970, China and the United States, without diplomatic relations then, held dozens of ambassadorial talks in Lazienki Park. The talks served as the chief means of communication between China and US at that time and played an important role in building mutual trust between the two countries. Last year, the unveiling ceremony for a plaque commemorating the historic China-US talks at Myslewicki Palace was held in Lazienki Park and his Excellency Mr. Komorowski, President of Poland, attended the event. The Myslewicki Palace thus became the symbol and embodiment of friendship among China, US and Poland.

Another example is the China-Russia relation. Being the largest neighboring countries, China and Russia had gone through twists and turns in the bilateral ties. Thanks to joint efforts from both countries, a comprehensive strategic

partnership of cooperation between China and Russia has now been established. With the features of equality and trust, mutual support, common prosperity and friendship from generations to generations, the relationship is non-aligned, non-confrontational, and is not targeted at any third country. Besides, in the last decade or so the two countries have been working together in the global security affairs and making joint efforts to seek for a peaceful development in advocating the new security concept of mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation.

Last month I paid a visit to Auschwitz concentration camp, the biggest Nazi concentration camp during World War II, and the biggest killing center of Jews in Europe. The misfortune of Auschwitz is that of all human beings. It constantly reminds us that goodwill of mutual trust can be understood only by having the attitude of equality towards a person, the other peoples or a country. Otherwise we will fall to the abyss of hatred and massacre.

On the basis of equality and mutual trust, we have to make sure to promote inclusiveness and mutual learning. In other words, we have to show respect to the diversity of civilizations and development paths, to show respect to and safeguard the rights of all peoples for their own choice of their social system and development path, to complement one another for the advancement of human civilization.

All rivers run into sea, a great tolerance. In today's world, there are more than 200 countries and regions with a total population of 6 billion in 2500 ethnic groups, speaking 6000 different languages. There are different kinds of religions such as Christianity, Catholicism, Islam, Buddhism, Taoism, and so on. All civilizations have their own features. However, they draw on each other's strength and constantly improve themselves, resulting in the making of such an abundant and colorful world.

Chinese philosopher Confucius said that two heads are better than one. It proves to be true in that the world makes progresses as all countries learn from each other. The Chinese invention of gun powders and compass accelerated the western countries' stepping into modern society. The learning of advanced technology from the western countries also promoted the development of the Chinese natural sciences. Ancient Chinese philosophers Confucius and Mencius are well known here and Chinese cultures have made deep tracks in Poland, such as the Chinese Alley in the Lazienki Park and the Chinese Pavilion at Wilanow Palace.

Likewise, Copernicus, Madame Curie, Adam Mickiewicz, and Chopin, the great Polish figures are also known and respected by the Chinese people.

After equality and mutual trust are founded and inclusiveness and mutual learning are in practice, we can make peaceful development possible via win-win cooperation. The awareness of the Community of Common Destiny is to be raised. Every nation should accommodate the legitimate concerns of others when pursuing its own interests and should promote common development of all countries when seeking its own development. A new type of global development partnership which is more equitable and balanced shall be established so that all countries are pulled together in times of trouble, share rights and responsibilities, and boost the common interests of mankind. Problems of traditional and non-traditional security can be effectively resolved only when countries take part in candid and in-depth dialogues and consultation, comprehensive and sustained exchanges and cooperation. A win-win situation can be reached only when all countries' confluence of interests are concerned and expanded under the principles of cooperation for peace, for security and for the exchange of the plough for the sword.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Élysée Treaty. The Franco-German reconciliation serves as a good example for the win-win cooperation. After years of joint efforts and sincere cooperation, the two countries have shown the world how the two former enemies can take the path of win-win cooperation and make deep and long-lasting contribution to regional peace.

Conversely speaking, any nation could end up being blamed by the international community and punished by history if it tried to maximize its own interests by ignoring or even at the expense of other countries' interest. Its failure is just like sowing the wind and reaping the whirlwind. When World War II broke out in 1939, the allies sold Poland out and dreamed to live by the policy of appeasement. However they paid a heavy price for their action in less than a year's time.

China understands very well the importance of win-win cooperation. We have committed ourselves all the years and together with the international community to confront with the risks and challenges of mankind, and make our due contribution to the world stability and development.

China joined the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001. Since then, China has been importing commodities valuing about US\$750 billion on an annual

average, which is equivalent to having created more than 14 million jobs for the relevant countries and regions.

As the largest emerging economy in the world, China has contributed over 20% to the annual world economic growth in consecutive years and became an important engine to push the world out of economic crisis.

After the breaking out of global financial crisis and the European debt crisis, China, together with the international community, acted in a cooperative spirit to cope with the difficulties and made major contributions to the stability and recovery of the world economy. Last year when Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao met with leaders from 16 central and eastern European countries in Poland, he proposed to set up a special loan of US\$10 billion and a cooperative fund of US\$500 million, which will enhance the economic and trading cooperation between China and the 16 countries and at the same time promote the economic development of the relevant countries.

China has sent about 21,000 personnel successively to 30 United Nations peacekeeping operations. We are the largest contributor of peacekeepers among the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

China actively takes part in international operations concerning anti-terrorism, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, response to climate change, food and energy security, major natural disaster relief, and so on.

China has participated in more than 100 intergovernmental organizations at international level and signed more than 300 international treaties. She is actively involved in the international system and builds and contributes to the system.

Peaceful development is a new path China has explored and pursued. For more than 60 years since its founding, the People's Republic of China has achieved the success that attracted worldwide attention in its modernization drive. In the 30 odd years after the opening and reform policy was introduced in particular, China's economy has been undergoing a rapid growth with an annual average rate of 9.9% and residents' income grew at an average annual rate of 7.4%. For 2012, China's GDP reached 51.93 trillion RMB (equivalent to about US\$ 8.2 trillion), an increase of 7.8%, becoming the world's second largest economy. Its total volume of import and export of the same year reached US\$ 3.87 trillion, becoming the

world's largest trade body. And the total grain output was 589 million tons, for which the problem of feeding the population of 1.3 billion was solved successfully. The country is undergoing new changes constantly.

A more developed China will be more closely linked with the world. And a peaceful international environment is more needed for China's development. A prosperous and stable China will not be a threat to any country. It will only be a positive force for world peace and development. China will unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development, aiming at achieving self development by way of safeguarding world peace and vice versa.

China and Poland are situated in Asia and Europe respectively but we have similar historical experiences, both gone through vicissitudes. The Old Town in Warsaw is a historic witness. Actually the site is not old at all. History told us that during World War II, 85% of the buildings in Warsaw, including the Old Town area, was razed to grounds. Yet in a few years time, the Polish people rebuilt the old town at the shocking "Warsaw Speed" with their intelligence and patriotic enthusiasm. As for China, during World War II, we were victims of the Japanese aggression and more than 35 million people were killed during the war. Both China and Poland understand very well about the importance of security and the preciousness of peace. I believe that all people, regardless of nationalities, share one dream. We all wish that the world could be peaceful and stable, nations could be rich, strong and prosperous, and people could live in peace and plenty.

The Chinese people cherish peace and have the desire for development. We sincerely hope that the international community including Poland would have a better understanding and offer support to China's sincerity and resolve to pursue peaceful development. China is ready to join hands with other countries in making continued efforts to the great cause of peace and development of mankind and in building an ever bright future for the whole world.

According to the Chinese zodiac, each year is associated with one of 12 animals. The year 2013 is the year of snake. And in Chinese culture, snake symbolizes good fortune, longevity, happiness and wealth. In conclusion, I wish that everyone will enjoy peace, good health and happiness in the year of the snake. And may our world be more peaceful and secured.