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I. United States

1. Alleged Demilitarized Zone Incidents

The Associated Press ("US, S.KOREA ACCUSED OF PROVOCATIONS," Seoul, 05/12/99) reported that the DPRK's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on Wednesday accused US and ROK forces of staging military provocations inside the demilitarized zone. KCNA said that US and ROK soldiers clandestinely deployed "combat equipment" at a guard post inside Panmunjom on Monday. It added that more armed soldiers and military vehicles were spotted on a hill inside Panmunjom and about 10 illuminating flares were fired in "deliberate and premeditated provocation." It also said that in a separate incident on Monday, ROK guards disturbed DPRK soldiers by pointing flashlights at a DPRK guard post. US Forces Korea spokeswoman Lee Ferguson called the charges "an absolutely false report." She added, "It appears to be an attempt on the part of the North Koreans to raise tension."

2. DPRK-Japan Normalization Talks

Dow Jones Newswires ("JAPAN, N. KOREA DISCUSSED RESUMING NORMALIZATION TALKS-KYODO," Tokyo, 05/12/99) reported that Kyodo news service quoted unnamed government sources as saying on Wednesday that senior Japanese and DPRK officials met early last month in Singapore to discuss resuming talks for normalizing bilateral ties and other issues. The sources said that Koreshige Anami, director general of the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, secretly contacted a senior official of the DPRK's Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee. The sources said there was no concrete progress. Anami was the highest-level Japanese official to contact the DPRK.

3. Food Aid for DPRK

Agence France-Presse ("FAMINE-STRICKEN NORTH KOREA SAYS MORE AID NEEDED," Seoul, 05/12/99) reported that the DPRK's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said that a World Food Program (WFP) team has determined that more international aid is needed for the DPRK. KCNA said that the team toured "food for work projects, nurseries, kindergartens, hospitals and houses" during a week-long stay which ended Tuesday. The team "recognized that assistance given by the international community up to date has proved effective and it is necessary to continue international aid in the future." KCNA added that DPRK officials "expressed thanks to the international community for rendering humanitarian assistance to the Korean people who have been suffering from years of natural disasters and exchanged views with it on a series of matters arising in continuing assistance."

Bridge News (Mark Tarallo, "GLICKMAN HINTS US MAY GIVE MORE FOOD AID," Washington, 05/11/99) reported that US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Dan Glickman told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Wednesday that USDA was considering more food aid donations to the DPRK because the food shortage there appears to be worsening. Glickman stated, "Their needs are monumental." He emphasized that he had nothing new to announce, but the US has been monitoring the food situation closely, and the DPRK would be one of the key recipients of USDA's food donation program. " He added that any future donations would probably be in wheat, with some rice possible as well.

Bridge News (Ros Krasny, "US RICE GROWERS ASK USDA TO BUY RICE FOR EXPORT DONATION," Chicago, 05/11/99) reported that the US Rice Producers Association on Monday asked USDA to buy 250,000 tons of rice for export donation and domestic use to boost the US rice market. The group noted that rice is a "preferred food" for many food aid recipients. The group also called

for reform of US sanctions.

4. NATO Bombing of PRC Embassy

Reuters (Andrew Browne, "CHINA IN MOURNING AS ASHES RETURN," Beijing, 05/12/99), the Washington Post (John Pomfret, "VICTIMS' ASHES RETURNED TO CHINA POLICE CLAMP DOWN ON PROTESTS; TV BROADCASTS U.S. APOLOGIES," Beijing, 05/12/99, Page A24), the Associated Press (Charles Hutzler, "US AMBASSADOR LEAVES CHINA EMBASSY," Beijing, 05/12/99) and the Wall Street Journal (Matt Forney, "CHINA UNREST SUBSIDES FOLLOWING APOLOGY; FOCUS TURNS TO POSSIBLE LEADERSHIP RIFTS," Beijing, 05/12/99) reported that the ashes of the three Chinese victims of the Belgrade embassy bomb attack arrived in the PRC on Wednesday. Police sealed off the US and British embassies to avoid violent protests. US Ambassador James Sasser, leaving the embassy for the first time since Saturday, stated, "I think we need to give our Chinese friends a day of grief, and then we can move on and discuss with them how to mend this situation." He added, "I think wise heads will say that it's in the interest of both nations to try to mend this rift and to cooperate and work together in a productive fashion." Flags at the six US missions in the PRC were lowered to half-staff. The PRC media broadcast apologies by US and NATO leaders for the attack.

5. Chinese Views of US

The Washington Post (John Pomfret and Michael Laris, "BOMBING INTENDED, CHINESE BELIEVE U.S. EXPLANATIONS WIDELY DISCOUNTED," Beijing, 05/12/99) and the New York Times (Elisabeth Rosenthal, "CHINA STUDENTS ARE CAUGHT UP BY NATIONALISM," Beijing, 05/12/99) reported that most Chinese believe that the US attack on the PRC embassy in Belgrade was deliberate. A poster near Beijing University read, "After the breakup of the Soviet Union, China has become United States' No. 1 strategic enemy, not only today but into the 21st century. While we are calling: 'Down with the USA,' the United States is seriously engaging in work to overthrow China." Zhang Bin, a Beijing software engineer, argued, "It wasn't an attack on the embassy; it was that America wanted to make a point. America has a strategy. It wants to feel out China. It wants to do an experiment -- to hit you and see if you respond, to see if Chinese people will submit to this kind of American power politics." Yu Jie, an essayist and graduate student, stated, "There is a tone of irrational extremism, and people aren't thinking clearly about what they think and write. I think this will have a very bad effect on the economic, social and cultural development of China." Lin Yijin, a journalism student at People's University, stated, "What the Chinese want is an explanation and an apology that will restore our dignity. I wouldn't take the stuff about 'Blood for blood' and 'Attack NATO' too seriously. For us, this is about saving face."

6. US Views of PRC

The Associated Press (Tom Raum, "CHINESE REACTION INFLAMES CONGRESS," Washington, 05/12/99) reported that US Defense Secretary William Cohen and General Henry H. Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, testified before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee on Tuesday about the PRC's reactions to the NATO bombing of its embassy in Belgrade. Cohen cautioned, "I think we should cool down the passions that have been inflamed." He added, "I would urge the Chinese to accept the president's statement (of apology) and answer his phone calls." Tom Mann, director of governmental studies at the Brookings Institution, stated, "A lot of people, including those who favor more normal relations between the two countries, were really put off" by the anti-US demonstrations in the PRC. "It's given at least in the short term the rhetorical advantage

to critics of China."

7. German Apology for NATO Bombing

The Associated Press (Chris Bodeen, "SCHROEDER MAKES APOLOGY TO CHINA," Beijing, 05/12/99) reported that German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder on Wednesday apologized "unconditionally" to the PRC for NATO's bombing of the PRC Embassy in Belgrade. Schroeder said that he issued his apology to PRC Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan and Premier Zhu Rongji. He was to meet President Jiang Zemin late Wednesday before flying home. Schroeder said that Zhu told him his apology was "noted," adding that he believed it had the "intended effect."

8. Editorials on NATO Bombing

The New York Times carried an editorial ("THE TEMPEST IN CHINA," 05/12/99) which said that the PRC's response to the NATO bombing of its embassy in Belgrade was "ominously volatile." The article stated, "Clearly, the embassy bombing was a terrible event. Mr. Clinton must insure that the mistake is thoroughly investigated and that the families of the Chinese victims receive American financial assistance.... But the violent, stage-managed reaction to the Belgrade bombing was unwarranted. It suggests that improved relations between Washington and Beijing have rested on a dangerously unstable foundation." It added, "Mr. Clinton should proceed with caution, and a determination to protect American interests, as he tries to repair relations."

The Associated Press (Jasmina Kuzmanovic, "SINGAPORE PAPER CRITICIZES CHINA," Singapore, 05/12/99) reported that Singapore's Straits Times newspaper said in an editorial on Wednesday that the PRC's reaction to the NATO Embassy bombing is "playing with fire." It said that there is no reason for the Chinese people to disbelieve US explanations "not least because they are so embarrassing." It added, "What is regrettable is the failure of the Chinese media to report the apology promptly, and for the Chinese government not to accept it." It warned that anti-US protests could "graduate to another Tiananmen Incident."

Franz Schurmann in Pacific News ("U.S.-CHINA PLAYING FIELD EVENS OUT -- GOOD FOR WORLD PEACE," 05/11/99) predicted that, despite the flare-up over the NATO bombing of the PRC Embassy in Belgrade, that PRC-US relations will settle down to an all-around peaceful direction by the end of this year. The author quoted the Singapore-based Lianhe Zaobao as saying, "China is in no position to challenge America militarily nor can it do much to help Yugoslavia or impact on the Balkan military scene. No matter how much the bombing got a lot of people upset the Americans know China can't go too far." It added, "China needs to continue developing its economy. Any kind of military action it got involved would be highly detrimental to it." The editorial stated, "looking at the bigger picture this is just a trough in the ups-and-downs of their relations. What matters is that both get beyond this trough so relations can heal." It argued that the PRC's reaction aims to hurt US interests through non-military means, and to demonstrate that the PRC is moving from a passive to an active role in the world. It stated, "In this sense the bombing of the embassy was an amazing stroke of luck for the leadership. It has aroused a powerful sentiment of protecting home and country among the people." [Ed. note: The full text of this article is available at: <http://www.pacificnews.org/jinn/toc/predictions.html>]

San Jose Mercury News carried an analytical article (Michael Dorgan, "FIXING THE HOLE IN U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS," 05/11/99) which said that while repairing US-PRC relations will be a long and challenging process, both sides have too much at stake not to try. Michel Oksenberg of Stanford University said that US leaders must consider historical and cultural considerations in formulating

their response to the crisis. He argued, "Always lurking beneath the surface in China is a strong sense of nationalism -- a feeling that outside world has taken advantage of China over the past century. This tragedy has tapped into that sentiment."

9. Hacking of US Government Websites

The Washington Post (Stephen Barr, "ANTI-NATO HACKERS SABOTAGE 3 WEB SITES," 05/12/99, Page A25) reported that US officials said Tuesday that computer hackers placed anti-NATO messages on Web pages operated by the Energy Department, the Interior Department, and the National Park Service. Energy Department spokeswoman Michelle Del Valle said, "We don't know who did it," but "the hackers claimed in a message that they were Chinese."

The New York Times (David Stout, "CHINA PROTEST KNOCKS OUT WHITE HOUSE WEB SITE," Washington, 05/12/99) reported that Mike Hammer, a spokesman for the US National Security Council, said Tuesday that the White House website was shut down Monday afternoon due to a flurry of emails from people protesting the NATO bombing of the PRC Embassy in Belgrade. Since the White House site (www.whitehouse.gov) runs on an independent system, no other White House computer systems were affected. Hammer said, however, that the enormous volume was a sign of hope for improving Chinese views of the US. He noted, "All those users can access and receive our information. It works both ways."

10. US-Taiwan Relations

The Wall Street Journal (Russell Flannery, "TAIPEI WORRIES SUPPORT MAY WEAKEN AS U.S. TRIES TO REPAIR TIES WITH CHINA," Taipei, 05/12/99) reported that Taiwanese analysts expressed concern that the Bill Clinton administration will compromise its support for Taiwan in order to repair relations with the PRC. Jaw-ling Joanna Chang, a research fellow at the Institute of European and American Studies at the Academia Sinica, stated, "Of course, China is going to try to obtain concessions" from the US. Chang said that the PRC will be emboldened because Clinton has compromised so much in the past on trade and other issues. She added, however, that pressure by the US Congress will make it harder for Clinton to compromise on Taiwan. An unnamed US State Department spokesman said that the US "doesn't contemplate any changes in its China policy that could have an impact on Taiwan or on its security." Andrew Yang, secretary general of the Chinese Council of Advanced Policy Studies, argued, "Good relations between the U.S. and China mean good relations for the U.S. and Taiwan." Taiwan Foreign Minister Jason Hu on Tuesday expressed hope that the embassy bombing "shouldn't influence the normal relations between" the US and the PRC. Officials at the Mainland Affairs Council said they are still preparing for a visit later this year by PRC negotiator Wang Daohan. Government officials also expressed concern that soured US-PRC disputes would damage Taiwan's chances to enter the World Trade Organization.

II. Republic of Korea

1. US Special Envoy to DPRK

Joongang Ilbo (Jangsoo Seo, "CHARLES KARTMAN VISITS NORTH KOREA," Seoul, 05/12/99) and the Korea Herald (Jun Kwan-woo, "KARTMAN FLIES TO N.K., HONG TO U.S. TODAY TO DISCUSS PENDING ISSUES," Seoul, 05/12/99) reported that Charles Kartman, US special envoy to the Korean peninsula four-party peace talks, will visit the DPRK for two days from May 13. During his visit Kartman will discuss several pending issues, including US access to a suspected DPRK nuclear site.

He is also likely to exchange his views with the DPRK on the itinerary of William Perry, the US DPRK policy coordinator, who is supposed to visit the DPRK at the end of this month. An unnamed source from Japan said that the DPRK already agreed at the end of last month to allow Perry to visit the DPRK.

2. Six-Nation Talks

The Korea Herald (Chon Shi-yong, "KIM TO DISCUSS 6-NATION TALKS WITH YELTSIN," Seoul, 05/12/99) reported that ROK President Kim Dae-jung said Tuesday that when he holds a summit with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow later this month, he would discuss the proposal to start six-nation multilateral talks on security in Northeast Asia. Presidential spokesman Park Jie-won announced that Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi called President Kim to brief him on his recent visit to the US, informing Kim that he discussed the proposal of six-nation conference on security in Northeast Asia with US President Bill Clinton. In a telephone conversation with Obuchi, Kim also said he supports an economic cooperation mechanism involving the ROK and the DPRK, Japan, the PRC, and Mongolia. Kim has said that if necessary, the regional security forum could also involve Mongolia, as well as the six nations in the region, which are the two Koreas, the US, Japan, the PRC and Russia. President Kim plans to visit Mongolia following his trip to Moscow later this month.

3. ROK Military Development

Chosun Ilbo (Yoo Young-won, "TWENTY MORE KF-16S TO BE PRODUCED," Seoul, 05/12/99) reported that the government decided to produce twenty more KF-16 fighter aircraft. This decision is designed to maintain fighter aircraft production facilities at Samsung Aviation and others facilities and to preserve jobs from April next year when the KF-16 Project is terminated, until 2005 when the KTX-2 program begins. The Korean Fighter Project (KFP) is a program that started in 1994 and was to manufacture and assemble 120 KF-16 fighters. This is to be followed by the FX program that is to introduce the next generation warplanes to the ROK Air Force (ROKAF). The ROKAF said that the KF-16 cannot cover all of the DPRK and can only loiter over Tokdo islets for five to ten minutes, and lacks all weather capability.

4. Russia-ROK Financial Issues

The Korea Times (Oh Young-jin, "PATIENCE LAST THING NEEDED TO SETTLE RUSSIAN DEBT ISSUE," Seoul, 05/12/99) reported that ROK Minister of Finance and Economy Lee Kyu-sung participated in a joint economic committee meeting in Moscow. One of the key topics discussed was Russia's US\$1.7 billion debt to the ROK. Rumors have been spread that the ROK is on the verge of accepting a Russian proposal that the bulk of the debt be paid in submarines. Each submarine, in the range of 3,000 tons, reportedly costs US\$300 million. The speculation that the two countries are close to a deal is gaining momentum because Lee is in Moscow just ahead of an expected visit by ROK President Kim Dae-jung to Russia planned for later this month. Previously, economic cooperation bureau chief Kim Chang-lok of the Ministry of Finance and Economy had traveled between Seoul and Moscow to negotiate the terms of a debt repayment formula without much success. The Russian external debt managers demanded during the previous meetings that the ROK accept raw materials and weapons for the bulk of the debt. "Whether or not to accept Russian subs is outside our domain of decision," a senior Finance and Economy ministry official said. "But if a decision is made to accept Russian subs, it would be much easier to clear the debt issue," he added.

III. People's Republic of China

1. Li Ruihuan's Visit to ROK

China Daily ("CPPCC HEAD IN SOUTH KOREA," Seoul, 5/10/99, A1) reported that Li Ruihuan, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), arrived in Seoul on May 9 for a five-day official visit at the invitation of the ROK Government. In his statement upon arrival, Li said that the PRC highly values the rapid development of Sino-ROK relations in all fields since the two countries established diplomatic ties six years ago. He said he believes those ties will benefit the two peoples and make important contributions to the prosperity and development in Northeast Asia and to the whole Asia-Pacific region. Li said he was confident that his visit would help enhance mutual understanding, expand common understanding and push ahead the healthy and stable development of bilateral relations.

People's Daily ("KIM DAE-JUNG MEETS WITH LI RUIHUAN," Seoul, 5/12/99, A1) reported that at a meeting with ROK President Kim Dae-jung on May 11, Chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Li Ruihuan said that the US-led NATO missile attack on the PRC Embassy is not only a serious provocation against the Chinese people but also a grave act of sabotage towards world peace and development. In response, Kim said that the ROK Government expressed regret over NATO's attack and said such an incident should not happen again. Kim added he could understand the position of the PRC Government and the feelings of the Chinese people about the incident. Regarding the situation on the Korean Peninsula, Li said that as a near neighbor and friend, the PRC sincerely hopes that the tension on Korean Peninsula will continuously ease. Li said that the PRC consistently believes that without the improvement of the relationship between the ROK and the DPRK, it is impossible to ultimately resolve the Korean problem. Hence, Li said, the PRC consistently supports efforts beneficial to the improvement of ROK-DPRK relations and the increase of dialogues and exchanges between the two Koreas.

2. Remains of US Soldiers from Korean War

China Daily ("JOINT SEARCH FOR REMAINS TO START," Seoul, 5/10/99, A11) reported that the US and the DPRK will launch a joint search this month for remains of US soldiers missing in action as a result of the Korean War. The three-week search will start on May 25 in Kujang and Usan in the country's Northwest, the ROK's Yonhap news agency said. It will be the second excavation this year of US soldiers who were killed or ruled missing in the DPRK during the 1950-53 war, it said. Yonhap quoted an ROK government official as saying, "The two countries will decide whether to expand the excavations, based on the outcome of the first and second searches."

3. PRC Reaction to Embassy Bombing

People's Daily ("FM SPOKESMAN DECLARES DECISIONS," Beijing, 5/11/99, A1) reported that PRC Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao announced on May 10 that China had decided: 1) to postpone high-level military contacts with the US; 2) to delay consultations with the US involving proliferation prevention, arms control, and international security; and 3) to suspend dialogue with the US over human rights.

People's Daily ("CHINA DEMANDS OPEN, OFFICIAL APOLOGY," Beijing, 5/11/99, A1) reported that PRC Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan made a "solemn" representation on May 10 to US Ambassador to the PRC James Sasser. On behalf of the PRC Government, Tang demanded: 1) the US-led NATO to

openly and officially apologize to the PRC Government, the Chinese people, and relatives of the Chinese victims; 2) to carry out a complete and thorough investigation of the NATO missile attack on the PRC's embassy in Yugoslavia; 3) to promptly publicize the detailed results of the investigation; and 4) to severely punish those responsible for the attack.

People's Liberation Army Daily ("PLA FIRMLY SUPPORTS GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT," Beijing, 5/10/99, A1) reported that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China and the armed police expressed their indignation and strongest denouncement over US-led NATO's bombing of the PRC Embassy in Yugoslavia. The report said that PLA officers and soldiers firmly support the PRC Government's solemn statement and the television speech made by Vice-President Hu Jintao on May 9. The officers and soldiers pledged the determination that they will make efforts to strengthen national defense and improve the modernization of the army and defend the national sovereignty and territorial integrity from being violated.

4. PRC-Russian Consultation on Embassy Bombing

People's Daily ("JIANG ZEMIN AND BORIS YELTSIN HOLD A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION," Beijing, 5/11/99, A1) reported that PRC President Jiang Zemin received a call from Russian President Boris Yeltsin on their personal hotline on May 10 to express Russia's "utmost indignation" over the US-led NATO's "barbarous" act of attacking the PRC Embassy in Belgrade. Yeltsin said that, as soon as he was informed of the news, he issued a statement to express his strongest condemnation. Yeltsin also condemned NATO's air strikes against Yugoslavia, a sovereign state. He appealed to NATO to halt the bombing immediately, and return to the negotiation table to seek a solution to the Kosovo problem. Jiang said that the US-led NATO's attack on the PRC Embassy was an act of the utmost barbarity, and a gross violation of PRC sovereignty, rare in diplomatic history. "US-led NATO should bear all the responsibilities arising therefrom," he told Yeltsin. Jiang pointed out that the military attack by the US-led NATO against the sovereign state of Yugoslavia, bypassing the UN, is the demonstration of "absolute gunboat diplomacy." He told his Russian counterpart that the two countries have conducted sound cooperation in major international issues including that of Kosovo, and he suggested that the two countries maintain close consultation and further coordination.

People's Daily ("PRESIDENT JIANG MEETS WITH RUSSIAN PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL ENVOY," Beijing, 5/12/99, A1) reported that PRC President Jiang Zemin met with Russian presidential special envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin in Beijing on May 11. During the meeting, Jiang said that the US-led NATO's missile attack on the PRC Embassy in Belgrade is a severe act of aggression against China's sovereignty. He demanded that NATO give a clear explanation to the Chinese people in accordance with the requests of the PRC Government. Expressing "deep sorrow" for the families of the Chinese victims, Chernomyrdin said NATO's attack on the PRC Embassy was an act of aggression. It demonstrated again that the Kosovo crisis must be solved politically within the UN, the Russian presidential special envoy said. Jiang said he appreciated Russian President Boris Yeltsin's clear stance of solving the crisis through political means, adding that both of them condemned the attack during their Monday telephone conversation. Jiang said that issues such as European security and international order in the post-Cold War era and the realization of long-term peace and universal prosperity in the next century must be discussed and decided by people of each nation. As permanent members of the UN Security Council and important countries in the world, the PRC and Russia shoulder common responsibilities in upholding justice and safeguarding peace, Jiang said. He stressed that military interference is completely wrong and extremely dangerous. An immediate halt to the NATO bombing is the only correct way to solve the Kosovo crisis, Jiang said. Yeltsin had agreed with him on this during their telephone conversation, according to Jiang. He expressed the hope that the two countries would strengthen consultation and cooperation in international issues, including the Kosovo issue. This is an important reflection of the Sino-Russian strategic cooperative

partnership geared towards the 21st century, Jiang added.

5. PRC View on Nonproliferation and Arms Control

China Daily ("NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT VITAL," United Nations, 5/12/99, A2) reported that a top PRC arms control official said on May 10 that nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons complement each other, and their progress is closely linked to international peace and security. Addressing the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, PRC delegate Sha Zukang said hegemonism and power politics are seriously jeopardizing certain countries' sovereignty, security and even existence at this very moment. Innocent civilians are subject to brutal and indiscriminate bombardment by US-led NATO and even diplomatic missions are not being spared, making it hard to imagine that discussions on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation at the forum could lead to progress, Sha said. People have every reason to be concerned that if the US, instead of changing its course, continues to threaten or bully other countries, those countries would be forced to resort to any means possible to protect themselves, Sha said. This might eventually result in the collapse of existing international disarmament regimes. In such case, the bombardment by NATO would be solely to blame, and it would be the US and NATO which had provoked the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Sha said.

6. PRC Satellite Launch

China Daily ("CIVILIAN SATELLITES LAUNCHED INTO ORBIT," Xi'an, 5/11/99, A1) reported that the PRC launched two civilian satellites on a Long-March 4B rocket at 9:33 am on May 10. It was the nation's first satellite launched this year. The rocket deployed meteorological and scientific experimental satellites from Taiyuan Satellite Launch Center in North China's Shanxi Province. Both are synchronous solar orbiting satellites. The mission, guided by Xi'an Satellite Monitoring and Control Center, went smoothly and according to plan, officials from the center confirmed. The launch ended, deemed a success, about 7 minutes later, according to reports from various control centers throughout the PRC.

The NAPSNet Daily Report aims to serve as a forum for dialogue and exchange among peace and security specialists. Conventions for readers and a list of acronyms and abbreviations are available to all recipients. For descriptions of the world wide web sites used to gather information for this report, or for more information on web sites with related information, see the collection of [other NAPSNet resources](#).

We invite you to reply to today's report, and we welcome commentary or papers for distribution to the network.

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