

China Chemical Chronology

Last update: June 2012

2012-2009

14-18 May 2012

The “Advanced Assistance-and-Protection Course” is held from 14 to 18 of May 2012 at the Institute of Chemical Defence of the People’s Liberation Army in Beijing. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the Chinese government jointly host the event. The course aims to provide “training in the use of chemical protective equipment and the techniques of monitoring, detection and decontamination of chemical warfare agents.” Experts from Belarus, Burundi, Cote d’Ivoire, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mongolia, Mexico, Pakistan, Peru, Uganda, Uruguay, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe also take part in the course.

— Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, “Advanced Assistance-and-Protection Course Held in China,” 24 May 2012, www.opcw.org.

15 February 2012

At the 67th Session of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Chinese Permanent Representative to the OPCW, H.E. Ambassador Zhang Jun points out that the extended deadline for the destruction of CW stockpiles has “significant and profound impact on the global arms controls and disarmament process.” China repeats its serious concern over the final deadline of removing abandoned chemical weapons (ACW) has not been fully met by Japan. Japan and China submit a report on the destruction plans at the meeting. Japan commits to continue the destruction of the ACW in China after the deadline of 29 April 2012. Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs Koichiro Gemba and Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, Yang Jiechi share the recognition in disposal of ACW.

— H.E. Ambassador Zhang Jun, “Statement by H.E. Ambassador Zhang Jun, Permanent Representative of China to the OPCW At the 67th Session of the Executive Council,” distributed by Embassy of the People’s Republic of China in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, 15 February 2012, www.chinaembassy.nl; “China ‘Seriously Concerned’ Over Delayed Destruction of Japanese Chemical Arms,” Xinhua, 16 February 2012, www.news.xinhuanet.com; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, “Japan-China Foreign Ministers’ Meeting (Overview),” 23 April 2012, www.mofa.go.jp.

6 October 2011

At the 66th session of the Executive Council of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), H.E. Ambassador Zhang Jun, the Permanent Representative of China to the OPCW expresses that China is seriously concerned with Japan’s inability to complete the removal of chemical weapons from China by its deadline on 29 April 2012. He stresses that the large quantities of chemical weapons that were abandoned by Japan on the territory of China pose “a grave and real threat” to the people who live in affected areas. Japan used chemical weapons against China during its occupation from 1931-1945 and abandoned approximately 700,000 chemical munitions in China after war. The Japanese government established the Office for Abandoned Chemical Weapons in 1999 to carry out removal activities.

— H.E. Ambassador Zhang Jun, “H.E. Ambassador Zhang Jun Delivered a Statement in the General Debate of the 66th Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW,” distributed by the Embassy of The People’s Republic of China

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in The Kingdom of the Netherlands, 6 October 2011, www.chinaembassy.nl; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, "Budget for the Destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons in China," 24 December 1999, www.mofa.go.jp; Department of Arms Control of the People's Republic of China, "The Issue of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in China," distributed by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, www.fmprc.gov.cn.

15 June 2011

The Chinese government and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) jointly organize a seminar on regional assistance and protection against chemical weapons in Xi'an. Eighteen Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) states parties, and Myanmar, a signatory of the CWC, attend the seminar. The focus is "assistance-and-protection-related issues," as well as to provide "an overview of assistance-and-protection activities in the region."

— "Seminar on Protection against Chemical Weapons Held in Xi'an," Xinhua, 17 June 2011, www.xinhuanet.com; "Regional Workshop on Assistance and Protection against Chemical Weapons Held in China," Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 28 June 2011, www.opcw.org; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, "The Chemical Weapons Convention," June 2011, www.fmprc.gov.cn.

31 March 2011

China's Information Office of the State Council releases its biennial publication on "China's National Defense in 2010." Regarding chemical weapons, the report states that "China sincerely fulfills its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) by setting up implementation offices at both central and local levels, by submitting timely complete annual declarations, through declarations subsequent to newly discovered chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China, and through submission of the annual national protection program."

— Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, "China's National Defense in 2010," Editor Wang Guanqun, March 2011, www.xinhuanet.com.

27 September 2010

The Chinese ministries of Public Security and Industry and Information Technology issue a circular that bans individuals from selling narcotic precursor chemicals online. Illicit drug traders have learned to use the booming e-trade to acquire the necessary ingredients and sell their products online anonymously. Although the restrictions focus on chemicals used for illegal drugs, the same techniques could be used to acquire precursors to chemical weapons. One official points out that these precursors are commonly used, "but once they fall into the wrong hands, they could be made into dangerous drugs."

—"China tightens restrictions on online transactions of drug precursor chemicals," Xinhua, 27 September 2010, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1 September 2010

Japan begins destruction of chemical weapons outside the city of Nanjing at the first mobile destruction facility established in China. Excavations of chemical weapons have been ongoing in China, but this is the first instance of destruction. At the facility's opening ceremony, the senior vice minister of Japan's cabinet office expresses that "today's move marks a new phase in the disposal of abandoned chemical weapons in China, in which the work has shifted from excavation and recovery to destruction."

—Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, "Ceremony Marks Start of Destruction of Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in China," 8 September 2010, www.opcw.org; Zhang Xiang, "Japan starts destroying chemical weapons abandoned in China during WWII," Xinhua, 1 September 2010, www.xinhuanet.com; and "Japan to Begin Destruction of Abandoned WWII Weapons in China," *Japan Today*, 8 September 2010, www.japantoday.com.

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8 October 2009

China detects sarin gas at its border with North Korea and suspects an accidental release inside the neighboring state. Citing anonymous sources from the Chinese military, a Japanese newspaper reports that Chinese special operations forces detected the gas while conducting regular surveys in the Liaoning Province. The report also indicates that the Chinese military has strengthened its surveillance of gas releases since detecting sarin in the area, presumably released accidentally by North Korea, in November 2008 and February 2009.

—China detects deadly nerve gas at border with NKorea: report," Agence France Presse, 8 October 2009, www.google.com.

18-24 June 2009

In its first international military operation devoted to enhancing homeland security, China conducts joint anti-terrorism training exercises with Singapore in the southwest Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Code-named 'Cooperation-2009,' the exercise involves 61 Chinese soldiers of the anti-biochemical unit within the People's Liberation Army's Guangzhou Military Command and 61 of their counterparts from the Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosives (CBRE) Defense Group within the 2nd People's Defense Force. During the drill, the teams respond to simulated use of radioactive contaminants, biological, and chemical weapons on a world expo. Chinese chief director of the exercise Senior Colonel Luo Mingcan says of the drill, "During the training exercise, the officers and soldiers from both sides had close exchanges and observed each other's equipment and skills to fight terrorists...Sharing radioactive, biological and chemical defense practices could greatly improve the military's ability to deal with more unconventional security threats."

—China, Singapore hold joint anti-terror training exercises," Xinhua, 19 June 2009, <http://eng.mod.gov.cn>; "Sino-Singaporean joint exercise boosts military ties," Xinhua, 25 June 2009; <http://eng.mod.gov.cn>.

10-12 June 2009

China and the OPCW co-host a regional workshop for customs officials in Asia to discuss the roles that customs authorities play in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Over 40 senior customs officials from 26 countries in the Asia-Pacific region as well as officials from the technical secretariat of the OPCW attend the workshop, which is held in Hong Kong and organized by the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. It is the first joint seminar between China and the OPCW held in Hong Kong. During the workshop OPCW Director-General Rogelio Pflirter, commends China's support for the CWC and contributions to the work of the OPCW. He also praises Hong Kong's full and effective implementation of the Convention, noting that the "practices of Hong Kong customs authorities in tracking the transfers of scheduled chemicals are exemplary."

—China, OPCW hold seminar jointly in Hong Kong," Xinhua, 10 June 2009, <http://news.xinhuanet.com>; "OPCW director-general commends Hong Kong for customs monitoring of controlled chemicals," Xinhua, 11 June 2009, <http://news.xinhuanet.com>; and "OPCW Director-General opens regional workshop in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region," OPCW News Release, 11 June 2009, www.opcw.org.

28 May 2009

The Japanese Supreme Court rejects two appeals for compensation for Chinese nationals killed or injured by Japanese ACWs. In ruling against the Chinese victims, the Japanese government effectively denies its responsibility to have prevented post-war incidents with abandoned chemical weapons, also underscoring the sore point between China and Japan caused by their wartime past.

—Court rejects appeal by chemical victims," Macau Daily Times, 28 May 2009, www.macaudailytimesnews.com.

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11 May 2009

Chinese representatives participate in the "Fifth Regional Assistance-and-Protection Course of Asian States Parties," put on by the OPCW in South Korea. 25 people from 17 CWC member states participate in the meeting. Participants are trained in the CW detection and decontamination, and participate in information exchanges.

— "Asian Training Course on Chemical Weapons Begins in S. Korea," Yonhap, 11 May 2009, in LexisNexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; Jung Sung-ki, "Asian Training Course on Chemical Weapons Underway," Korea Times, 11 May 2009, in LexisNexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

17 February 2009

In his opening statement to the OPCW Executive Council at its 55th session, OPCW Director-General Rogelio Pfirter reports that China and Japan have completed their first trial excavation at Ha'erbalong, which will yield necessary information for eventual ACW recovery efforts. Pfirter also reports that China and Japan have begun discussions with the Technical Secretariat regarding a draft facility agreement and detailed plan for verification, but that the destruction of Japanese ACWs in China and the construction of destruction facilities have not yet begun.

—Opening Statement by the Director-General to the Executive Council at its Fifty-Fifth Session," 17 February 2009, www.opcw.org.

23 January 2009

The Japanese newspaper Sankei Shimbun reports that Japan will freeze its chemical weapons destruction program in Harbaling, Jilin Province, China. According to Foreign Ministry spokesperson Jiang Yu, "China has already asked Japan for clarification. The Japanese side has expressed explicitly that the Sankei Shimbun report is not consistent with facts. The Japanese Government's policy on accelerating the processing of Japanese-abandoned chemical weapons has remained unchanged. We hope that the Japanese Government will honor its commitment."

— "Fulfill Pledge to Destroy Abandoned WWII Chemical Arms, China Urges Japan," Xinhua General News Service, 23 January 2009, in Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; "Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Jiang Yu's Remarks on Destruction of Japanese-Abandoned Chemical Weapons in China," States News Service, 23 January 2009, in Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

2008

13 December 2008

Japan begins test removal of chemical weapons munitions abandoned by the Japanese government in the Harbaling area of China's Jiling province at the end of World War II. The Harbaling area is suspected to contain 300,000 to 400,000 abandoned shells. A team of 40 Japanese under supervision by and with the assistance of Chinese authorities, attempts to determine the types and conditions of munitions in there area, so that they could be safely removed to a planned facility which will render them harmless. Mobile units are currently processing some previously removed shells.

— "Japan Begins trying to Remove Chemical Weapons Abandoned in China During WWII," Xinhua General Service, 13 December 2008, in Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; "Jiji: Japan Starts Test Removal of Chemical Weapons in China," *Tokyo Jiji Press*, OSC Document JPP20081213969041.

2 December 2008

Zhang Jun, China's ambassador to the Netherlands, speaks at an annual meeting of the states parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. He calls upon all possessor states to honor their obligations by completing the destruction of chemical weapons by the 2012 deadline. He goes on to say that while industrial verification is an

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important way to enhance mutual trust between states parties, it should be strengthened gradually and orderly with regard to the capacities of the concerned states.

— "China Urges Chemical Weapons Owners to Destroy Stockpiles by 2012 Deadlines," Xinhua General News Service, 3 December 2008, in Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

30 October 2008

China unveils a new outline for military training and evaluation for Chinese chemical defense troops. This new outline updates the training for a variety of military tasks and expands training for newly created units and sub-units of chemical defense troops. New training drills have been devised to help troops prepare for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear terrorism, as well as chemical, biological, and nuclear emergencies, and the handling of chemical weapons left in China by Japanese forces during World War II. The purpose of the new training is to advance the transformation of chemical defense troops into a force capable of "accomplishing the dual mission of providing support in wartime and responding to emergencies in peacetime."

— "Military Report" [Junshi Baodao] program on Beijing CCTV-7 in Mandarin, 30 October 2008 available from Open Source Center "DVD/Web Product on PRC Military Activities in Oct 08," OSC Document FEA20081205797918.

17 July 2008

In preparation for the Olympic Games, the Bureau of Counterterrorism of China's Ministry of Public Security prints and distributes "Brace Yourself Against Terror Attack: A Citizen's Handbook." The handbook describes how a citizen might recognize a chemical or biological terror attack, as well as what practical responses a citizen might take in reporting or dealing with such an attack.

— "China publishes handbook on signs of poison attack," BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific, 20 July 2008 in LexisNexis www.lexis-nexis.com; "China hands out manuals teaching citizens to escape terrorist attacks," Xinhua General News Service, 17 July 2008 in LexisNexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

24 June 2008

The coastal city of Tianjin hosts the first in a series of anti-terror drills dubbed "Binhai 6." The drill simulates a chemical weapons attack by terrorists using the explosion of a parked car to spread a chemical gas outside of an Olympic football venue. Other drills over the course of two days include simulations of bomb attacks and the spread of rumors of attacks. These drills coordinate action between local and national police offices, utility departments, rescue officers, and the military.

— "China holds anti-terror drills in Tianjin ahead of Olympics," Xinhua General News Service, 24 June 2008 in LexisNexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

19 June 2008

The Chinese government has established an anti-chemical unit and deployed 100,000 law enforcement and military officials to provide anti-terrorist security during the Olympic Games. The security forces have practiced anti-terrorist drills which include the response to a simulated chemical weapon attack. In addition, 290,000 volunteer civilians have pledged to join security forces against terrorist activities.

— "China Deploys 100,000 Anti-Terrorist Forces Ahead of Olympics," Tokyo Kyodo World Service, 19 June 2008, Open Source Document JPP20080619969083. "Anti-Chemical Unit Takes Part in Security for Beijing Olympics," *Ming Pao*, 17 December 2007, in Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

5 June 2008

Three are killed and 15 injured by a toxic gas leak in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. There are reports that the toxic gas phosgene, a chemical used both in chemical weapons and the production of glass was released when

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workers recycling scrap metal tried to break apart World War II era munitions bottles found in a local field.

— "Gas leak in China contained phosgene - Russian ministry," RIA Novosti, 6 June 2008 in LexisNexis www.lexis-nexis.com; "Toxic gas leakage causes 18 casualties in N.E. China," Xinhua General News Service, 6 June 2008 in LexisNexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

7 May 2008

The government of China and Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) co-sponsor a weeklong course on protection and assistance against CW attack at the People's Liberation Army Institute of Chemical Defense in Beijing. Seeking to implement the article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) which provides for protection and assistance to member states in the case of chemical attack, the course aimed to help students from 18 nations in the Asia-Pacific region develop skills to deal with the threat of chemical weapons and chemical accidents.

— "Xinhua: China Launches Five-Day Chemical Weapons Training Course," Xinhua New Agency, 12 May 2008, in OSC Document CPP20080512968158.

23 April 2008

Tokyo prosecutors arrest four executives of Pacific Consultants International (PCI), which is the parent company of Abandoned Chemical Weapons Disposal Corporation (ACWD)—the company contracted to cleanup WWII era chemical weapons left by the Japanese in northeast China. Prosecutors accuse the executives of misusing 300 million yen, allocated by the Japanese government to ACWD for the cleanup. The contract was awarded to ACWD in a no-bid process, reportedly due to close ties between former PCI president, Tamio Araki and the Japanese government. This is one of many missteps that have led to delays in the project, the deadline for the completion of which has already been extended by five years to 2012.

— "4 arrested in scandal over Japan's removal of WWII chemical weapons in China," *International Herald Tribune*, www.iht.com; Shari Oliver and Stephanie Lieggi, "Program to Clean-up Abandoned Chemical Weapons in China Moves Sluggishly," *WMD Insights*, June 2008, www.wmdinsights.com.

8 April 2008

China's delegation to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) Review Conference, led by Ambassador Cheng Jingye, calls on all possessor nations to complete the destruction of their chemical weapons by the April 29, 2012 deadline. The Chinese delegation emphasizes the need to prioritize funding for verification and destruction activity, as well as the need to improve programs for international exchange and co-operation in the field of chemical activities, so as to provide incentives for nations to join the CWC.

— "China says destruction of chemical weapons top priority of convention," BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific, 8 April 8 2008, in Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; "Xinhua: Destruction of Chemical Weapons Top Priority of Convention, China says," Xinhua News Agency, 8 April 2008, in OSC Document CPP20080408968215.

10 March 2008

The Japan-based firm, Pacific Consultants International (PCI), has officially pulled out of its contract to clean up abandoned chemical weapons left in China by Japanese forces in WWII. This withdrawal is a result of the scandal that surfaced in 2007 where PCI executives were charged with corruption and embezzlement of government funds that were allocated for the purpose of chemical weapons removal in China.

— Shari Oliver and Stephanie Lieggi, "Program to Clean-up Abandoned Chemical Weapons in China Moves Sluggishly," *WMD Insights*, June 2008. "Consultancy to pull out of arms disposal," *The Daily Yomiuri* (Tokyo), 10 March 2008, in Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

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17 January 2008

Two Chinese teenagers file suit in a Tokyo district court demanding compensation for injuries sustained in July 2004, when they were exposed to abandoned chemical weapons left in Jilin province. The plaintiffs claim that chemicals from a Japanese bomb leaked into the Dunhua River staining their skin, and leading to swelling around their hands and feet. They cite ongoing illnesses including respiratory issues and damage to their eyesight.

— "Chinese youths sue over chemical shell injuries," *Japan Times*, 18 January 2008, in EBSCOhost, ebscohost.com; "Chinese victims of WW2 chemical weapons want compensation from Japan," BBC Monitoring Asia Pacific, 17 January 2008, in Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

2007-2005

19 October 2007

Japanese investigators raid two companies, Abandoned Chemical Weapons Disposal Corporation and Pacific Consultants International, who are involved in removal and disposal of abandoned Japanese chemical weapons from China. The companies are accused of diverting a portion of the funds (roughly \$866,000) intended for weapons cleanup and engaging in illegal outsourcing to cover their tracks. It is unclear whether the scandal will further delay Japan's efforts to remove the abandoned weapons.

— Mari Yamaguchi, "Japan Firm Beset by Poison Gas Scandal," Associated Press Online, 19 October 2007; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

28 September 2007

At the 50th session of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Executive Council in the Hague, Xue Hanqin, China's permanent representative to the OPCW, stated that Japan had not yet disposed of a single abandoned chemical weapon recovered from Chinese territory.

— "Japan 'Hasn't Disposed' a Single Chemical Weapon," *China Daily*, 28 September 2007; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

18 July 2007

The Tokyo High Court overturns a September 2003 lower court ruling which awarded a settlement of 190 million yen (roughly \$1.6 million) to 13 Chinese victims, or families of victims, injured by Japanese chemical weapons abandoned on Chinese territory during World War II. In issuing his ruling, Judge Katsumi Kobayashi stated, "I cannot recognize that if Japan had dealt more properly with arms that these accidents would have inevitably been prevented." Nevertheless, he urged the Japanese government to help identify "a thorough and fair solution [...] taking into account financial, political, and diplomatic considerations."

— Harumi Ozawa, "Tokyo Court Rejects Compensation for Chinese Chemical Victims," Agence France Presse, 18 July 2007; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

2 June 2007

The US government is closely watching a Chinese national, Qingchang (Q.C.) Chen, who is suspected of heading a supplier network engaged in the proliferation of chemical weapons-related materials to Iran. According to a media report, one former US official referred to Chen as "the A.Q. Khan of chemical weapons," referring to the Pakistani nuclear weapons scientist who directed a nuclear weapons technology proliferation ring. The US government has repeatedly imposed sanctions on Chen, which have largely been of symbolic value.

— "U.S. Closely Monitoring Asian Chemical Black Market," Japan Economic Newswire, 2 June 2007; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

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13 March 2007

The Tokyo High Court upholds a May 2003 ruling that rejected a claim by Chinese plaintiffs seeking compensation for injuries caused by leaking chemical weapons that were abandoned by Japanese forces during World War II. The court ruled that while Japan had illegally disposed of chemical weapons on Chinese territory, after WWII it was impossible for successive Japanese governments to adequately clear the weapons.

— Mari Yamaguchi, "Tokyo Court Rejects Appeal in Gas Case," Associated Press Online, 13 March 2007; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

25 January 2007

Chinese plaintiffs sue the Japanese government for 1.43 billion yen (roughly \$12 million) for injuries sustained in 2003 to 44 people, including one death, when a group of Chinese construction workers opened a barrel of poison gas left by the Japanese after World War II. The survivors suffered chronic illness, including vision problems, respiratory illness, and fatigue. Japan had agreed to pay 300 million yen to the victims, but the plaintiffs allege this is insufficient to cover medical costs and other financial damages resulting from the accident.

— Mari Yamaguchi, "Chinese Victims of Japanese Chemical Weapon Sue Japan's Government," Associated Press Worldstream, 25 January 2007; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

5 January 2007

The US government imposes sanctions on three Chinese-run state companies under the Iran and Syria Nonproliferation Act of 2005 in response to "an interagency review of intelligence on transfers that happened within the last two years." According to a media report, one of the companies, the Zibo Chemical Equipment Plant, has been linked to chemical weapons sales.

— Bill Gertz, "Sanctions Imposed on Iran, Syria Arms Suppliers," *Washington Times*, 5 January 2007; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

29 December 2006

China releases National Defense white paper that summarizes and reiterates major themes of the 2005 white paper on arms control and nonproliferation. With respect to chemical weapons, the document emphasizes CWC compliance and progress achieved regarding chemical weapons abandoned by Japan.

— Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, *China's National Defense in 2006*, Beijing, 29 December 2006, www.china.org.cn.

21 December 2006

Japanese and Chinese officials agree to form a joint body to recover and dispose of Japanese chemical weapons left on Chinese territory after WWII. The body will be centered in northeast China, in the Jilin province, where most of the 700,000-2,000,000 individual weapons are believed to be located.

— "Japan, China to Form Body for Disposal of Chemical Weapons," Agence France Presse, 21 December 2006; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

14 September 2006

In testimony before the US Congress, US officials expressed concern over China's commitment to the nonproliferation of biological weapons. Assistant Secretary of State for Verification, Compliance, and Implementation Paula Desutter stated, "We maintain reservations about China's current research activities and dual-use capabilities, which raise the possibility that sophisticated BW and CW work could be underway. [...] In addition, the United States believes that China maintains a CW production mobilization capability, although we

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simply do not have enough information to determine whether China maintains an active offensive CW research and development program." The next day, the Chinese Foreign Ministry strongly refuted the claims.

— US Congress, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, "China's Proliferation to North Korea and Iran, and Its Role in Addressing the Nuclear and Missile Situation in Both Nations," 109th Cong., 2nd sess., September 14, 2006, p. 10; "China Exclusive: China Refutes U.S. Officials' Criticism on Nonproliferation," Xinhua General News Service, 15 September 2006; in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexis-nexis.com.

June 2006

In Beijing, Chinese officials representing several government ministries participate in negotiations with a delegation from the Australia Group (AG). The negotiations may establish the foundation for China's future membership in the AG.

— Jay Philip Nash and Richard Glen Young, "East Asian Export Control Update: Continued Development of Key Supplier and Transit States," *International Export Control Observer*, March/April 2007, p. 16, <http://cns.miis.edu>.

27 December 2005

The US government imposed sanctions on several Chinese government-run companies under the Iran Nonproliferation Act for selling missile- and chemical arms-related goods to Iran. According to a media report, one of the Chinese companies, Zibo Chemet Equipment Company, is "known to make glass-lined containers that can be used to make chemical weapons." The Chinese foreign ministry responded by calling for the sanctions to be lifted, describing them as an "unlawful action."

— Bill Gertz, "U.S. Puts Sanctions on Chinese Firms for Aiding Tehran," *Washington Times*, 27 December 2005; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; Bill Gertz, "China Raps Sanctions for Iran Arms Sales; U.S. Action Undermines Relations, Beijing Says," *Washington Times*, December 29, 2005, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1 September 2005

China's Information Office of the State Council issues China's white paper on arms control, disarmament and nonproliferation. The paper states that China has suffered from the use of chemical weapons used by the Japanese army during World War II and still continues to suffer from the abandoned weapons. It also states that China has received 95 on-site inspections by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and all conclusions demonstrate that "China has strictly implemented its obligations under the Convention."

— "China Issues White Paper on Arms Control," *Asia Pulse*, 1 September 2005; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

30 August 2005

In a report to Congress on international compliance with arms control and nonproliferation agreements, the US Department of State found with respect to a potential Chinese CW program: "The United States judges that China maintains a CW production mobilization capability, although there is insufficient information available to determine whether it maintains an active offensive CW research and development program. Moreover, in violation of its CWC obligations, China has not acknowledged past transfers of chemical weapons and it may not have declared the full extent of its CW-related facilities." This finding is significantly different than the finding of a June 2003 Department of State report, which stated, "The United States assesses that China maintains an active offensive R&D CW program, a possible undeclared CW stockpile, and CW-related facilities that were not declared. Such activities are inconsistent with the CWC."

— Department of State, Bureau of Verification and Compliance, *Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments*, Washington, DC, 30 August 2005, www.state.gov.

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2004-2000

9 December 2004

In a joint declaration with the European Union, China commits to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC) by promoting the "universalisation of the CWC and cooperating to help strengthen its national implementation."

— "Joint Declaration of the People's Republic of China and the European Union on Non-proliferation and Arms Control," Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Beijing, 9 December 2004, www.fmprc.gov.cn.

29 June 2004

China's Department of Arms Control in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that: "In the chemical field, China made positive contributions to the negotiation and conclusion of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction ... by submitting initial and annual declarations of all kinds on schedule and in their entirety."

— "China's Non-Proliferation Policy and Related Export Control Mechanisms," Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, Department of Arms Control, Beijing, 29 June 2004, fmprc.gov.cn.

28 April 2004

The UN Security Council (UNSC), of which China is a permanent member, unanimously adopts UNSC Resolution 1540, which seeks to prevent non-state actors from acquiring chemical and weapons and other WMD. UNSC 1540 requires all member states to adopt domestic laws designed to prevent non-state actors from acquiring, producing, transporting, or using WMD and their means of delivery. The resolution also calls for states to develop effective accounting measures to quantify and track sensitive materials, maintain adequate physical protection and border security, and establish export controls governing the export and trans-shipment of sensitive items.

— "Resolution 1540 (2004)," UN Security Council document S/Res/1540, 28 April 2004.

31 March 2004

China participates in a two-day Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF) in Manila to boost co-operation in combined anti-terrorism efforts in the transport sector through protection of travel documents and visa systems, transportation of arms, explosives and bio-chemical weapons, as well as an increase in exchange of information on terrorist groups and related activities.

— "ARF Agrees to Boost Co-operation in Combating Terrorism in Transport Sector," Agence France Presse, 31 March 2004; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

5 March 2004

Japan's Center for Information on Security Trade Control (CISTEC) hosts the Sino-Japanese Export Control Seminar in Beijing. Japan and China plan to work together to strengthen export controls on products that may be used for the production of weapons of mass destruction. Japan will offer Chinese companies and high-ranking officials of trade-related ministries advice on export control and provide China with a list of export-restricted products.

— "Tokyo to Offer Advice on Stopping Export of Dangerous Products," *The Asahi Shimbun*, 1 March 2004; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; Center for Information on Security Trade Control, 2440 Sino-Japanese Export Control Seminar, Beijing, 20 April 2004, www.cistec.or.jp.

11 February 2004

Chinese chemical weapons defense troops are deployed to locate a football sized lead container of cesium-137

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stolen from a power plant construction site in Pucheng, a county in northern China's Shaanxi Province. Police believe that the highly radioactive material was mistaken for scrap metal to be sold to salvage companies. Investigators have ruled out the involvement of terrorists, but the material could potentially be used to build radiological "dirty bombs."

— Elaine Kurtenbach, "Racing to Find Radioactive Material, Chinese Authorities Warn Thieves: Don't Open It," Associated Press, 11 February 2004; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

27 January 2004

President Hu Jintao of China and President Jacques Chirac of France issue a joint communiqué where they agree to strengthen cooperation in arms control, proliferation prevention, and export controls on sensitive items, and both reiterate the importance of strictly abiding by the Chemical Weapons Convention.

— Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland, Statement by Mr. Hu Xiaodi, Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs of China, at the Plenary of the 2004 Session of the Conference on Disarmament, 12 February 2004, www.china-un.ch.

3 December 2003

China's State Council publishes a White Paper on nonproliferation, pledging not to assist any country in development of weapons of mass destruction. "China has always taken a responsible attitude toward international affairs, stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all kinds of WMD, including nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, and resolutely opposed the proliferation of such weapons and their means of delivery." China continues to express its support for peaceful use of dual-technologies in areas of the nuclear, chemical, biological and aerospace. The White Paper states that all exporters of sensitive items and technologies, including controlled chemicals, must be registered with designated departments of the central government. Controlled chemicals are subject to examination by the State Development and Reform Commission, jointly with the Ministry of Commerce. The control list of chemicals includes those listed in the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Australian Group.

— "China Publishes White Paper on Non-Proliferation," Xinhua News Agency, 3 December 2003; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; "China Nonproliferation Policy and Measures," Information Office of the State Council, December 2003, www.china.org.cn.

21 October 2003

China and Pakistan begin a three-day naval exercise off the coast of Shanghai. The joint maneuvers include damage control for nuclear, biological and chemicals weapons attacks.

— Munir Ahmad, "Pakistan, China Begin Joint Naval Exercise," Associated Press, 21 October 2003; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

30 September 2003

The Tokyo District Court orders the Japanese government to pay ¥190 million in compensation for Chinese killed and sickened by chemical weapons abandoned by the Imperial Japanese Army during World War II.

— "China Weapons Victims Get 190 Million Award," *International Herald Tribune*, 30 September 2003; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

24 September 2003

More than 2,000 Chinese police officers take part in a large-scale anti-terror exercise in the northern region of the China's Inner Mongolia province, the first of its kind in that area. The police officers are being trained in dealing with terrorists trying to use chemical weapons on Chinese territory.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



— "China Holds Major Anti-terrorism Exercise in Inner Mongolia," Agence France Presse, 24 September 2003; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

3 September 2003

Japanese government sources say the Japanese government will compensate victims of the Qiqihar gas leak from chemical weapons left by Japan during World War II with 100 million yen.

Note: The gas leak occurred on 4 August 2003.

— "China Concerned about Japan's Missile Defense, Poison Gas," Japan Economic Newswire, 3 September 2003; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

3 September 2003

A Singapore court charges Welcome Trading, with offices in China, Vietnam and North Korea with exporting two consignments of sodium cyanide without a permit. Sodium cyanide is a toxic dual-use chemical that can be used as a nerve agent. The company is charged with disregarding import and export control regulations.

Note: Sodium cyanide is controlled by the Australia Group and has significant commercial value.

— "Firms in Singapore Court over Chemical Used to Make Nerve Agents," Agence France Presse, 3 September 2003; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

2 September 2003

A Chinese official attends the first Asian Crisis Management Conference in Tokyo to discuss countermeasures to terrorist attacks made with biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

Note: The conference is sponsored by the Asian Network of Major Cities 21, which includes Bangkok, Beijing, Delhi, Hanoi, Jakarta, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei and Tokyo.

— "Asian cities' meeting discusses crisis management," Xinhua News Service, 2 September 2003; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

4 August 2003

An estimated 40 people are hospitalized in China's northeastern city of Qiqihar in Heilongjiang Province due to a toxic gas leak from abandoned chemical weapons left by the Japanese army during World War II.

— "Japan Offers Condolences over Chinese Victim of WWII Gas Leak," Japan Economic Newswire, Kyodo News Service, Tokyo, 22 August 2003; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

24 July 2003

In her testimony before the U.S.-China Commission, assistant secretary of state for verification and compliance, Paula A. DeSutter expresses concern regarding China's commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the role played by Chinese entities in "providing CW-related equipment, technology, and precursor materials to Iran." She says, "United States believes that, despite being a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) China has an advanced chemical weapons research and development program." She later adds, "[The U.S.] also believes that China possesses an inventory of traditional CW agents."

— U.S. Department of State, "China's Record of Proliferation Activities," Paula A. DeSutter, Testimony before the U.S.-China Commission, 24 July 2003, www.nuclearfiles.org.

19 October 2002

As part of a comprehensive overhaul of its nonproliferation regulations, China releases strengthened export controls for chemicals and an expanded control list. (The new list fully covers all chemicals in the CWC schedules as well as all the chemicals and related-equipment in the Australia Group list.) The Ministry of Foreign Trade and

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Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) spokesperson Gao Yan states: "As an important component of China's export control legal system, the measures are significant to implementing the country's nonproliferation policy, to fulfilling its international obligations, to safeguarding its national security as well as social and public interests, to standardizing its export control of sensitive items, and to maintaining the normal order of foreign trade."

Note: MOFTEC is later reorganized and turned into the Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM). MOFCOM has primary responsibility for dual-use export controls in China.

— "PRC FM Spokesperson on Measures on Export Controls of Chemicals," Xinhua News Agency, 19 October 2002, in FBIS CPP20021019000058.

October 2002

The Chinese government promulgates the Measures on the Export Control of Certain Chemicals and Related Equipment and Technologies. The Measures supplement the Regulations on the Administration of the Controlled Chemicals by adding 10 chemicals to the list. The Measures also provide a licensing system for the export of the materials and technologies on the control list. They require importers to guarantee that the controlled chemicals and related equipment and technologies supplied by China will not be used for stockpiling, processing, producing or handling chemical weapons, or for producing precursor chemicals for chemical weapons. Without the consent of the Chinese government, the related materials and technologies cannot be used for purposes other than the declared end-use or be retransferred to a third party other.

— "China Nonproliferation Policy and Measures," Information Office of the State Council, December 2003, www.china.org.cn.

6-27 September 2002

In China's Hebei province, a Japanese government team excavates and retrieves 193 chemical shells, 154 toxic canisters, and four barrels of chemical toxicant left in China during WWII by Japan.

— "Japanese Team Retrieves Chemical Weapons Abandoned in China," Agence France Presse, 27 September 2002; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

27 August 2002

The Taiwanese government states that it has fully complied with the aims and principles set out by the Chemical Weapons Convention to advocate the prohibition of development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and the destruction of existing weapons.

— "Taiwan Fully Supports Chemical Weapons Convention," *Financial Times*, 27 August 2002; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

9 July 2002

The United States imposes economic sanctions on eight Chinese companies and a Chinese individual pursuant to the 1992 Iran-Iraq Nonproliferation Act. The firms are sanctioned for "selling destabilizing arms and germ-weapons materials" to Iran in three separate occasions between September 2000 and October 2001. The firms are Jiangsu Yongli Chemicals and Technology Import and Export Corporation; Q.C. Chen; China Machinery and Equipment Import Export Corporation; China National Machinery and Equipment Import Export Corporation; CMEC Machinery and Electric Equipment Import and Export Company Ltd.; CMEC Machinery and Electrical Import Export Company, Ltd.; China Machinery and Electric Equipment Import and Export Company; Wha Cheong Tai Company Ltd.; and China Shipbuilding Trading Company. The Jiangsu Yongli Chemical and Technological Import and Export Corporation and the CMEC Machinery and Electric Equipment Import and Export Company Ltd. deny violating U.S. laws on the transfer of arms related technology.

— Bill Gertz, "U.S. Penalized 8 Chinese Firms," *Washington Times*, 19 July 2002, p. 1; Joe McDonald, "Chinese

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Companies Deny U.S. Weapons-Proliferation Accusations," Associated Press, 25 July 2002, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; Federal Register, U.S. Government of Printing Office, 5 July 2002 (Volume 67, Number 143), frwebgate1.access.gpo.gov.

21 March 2002

In response to U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, Carl W. Ford Jr.'s allegation that the Chinese military possesses advanced plans for chemical warfare, China's Foreign Ministry Spokesperson, Zhang Qiyue, states that China does not possess chemical weapons and strictly adheres to and supports the Chemical Weapons Convention.

— "China Rejects U.S. Allegation of Harboring Chemical Weapons," *Financial Times*, 21 March 2002; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

19 March 2002

Carl W. Ford Jr., U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, says that Chinese military forces possess advanced plans for chemical warfare and is likely to achieve the necessary expertise and delivery capability to integrate chemical weapons successfully into overall military operations. He adds that Iran seeks CW-related materials from China.

— "China Rejects U.S. Allegation of Harboring Chemical Weapons," *Financial Times*, 21 March 2002, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; Carl W. Ford, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research, "Hearing on Reducing the Threat of Chemical and Biological Weapons Before the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations," 19 March 2002.

25 January 2002

China's Foreign Ministry condemns U.S. sanctions imposed on 16 January against three Chinese firms accused of supplying Iran with materials used to make chemical and biological weapons, and calls the sanctions "unreasonable." The three companies are Liyang Chemical Equipment Company, the China Machinery and Electric Equipment Import and Export Company, and an individual broker and agent named as Q.C. Chen.

— "China Urges End to U.S. Sanctions over Weapons Trade with Iran," Agence France Presse, 25 January 2002; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

16 January 2002

The U.S. imposes sanctions on three Chinese entities, Liyang Chemical Equipment Company, the China Machinery and Electric Equipment Import and Export Company, and an individual broker and agent named as Q.C. Chen, under the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000. U.S. State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher says that restrictions are placed on China "for the transfer to Iran of equipment and technology that's used for the manufacture of chemical and biological weapons; equipment that's controlled under" the Australia Group.

— "China Demands Removal of U.S. Sanctions over Weapons Trade with Iran," Agence France Presse, 26 January 2002; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; Federal Register, U.S. Government of Printing Office, 24 January 2002 (Volume 67, Number 16), frwebgate.access.gpo.gov.

December 2001

Amendments to the Criminal Law of the PRC designates as criminal offenses acts such as illegally manufacturing, trafficking, transporting, stockpiling or using toxic materials, and stipulates punishments for such offenses.

— "China Nonproliferation Policy and Measures," Information Office of the State Council, December 2003, www.china.org.cn.

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28 June 2001

China protests what it calls "irrational" U.S. sanctions on Chinese companies for allegedly aiding Iran to develop chemical weapons. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhang Qiyue says that China is committed to the Chemical Weapons Convention and that it "will by no means help any country develop such weapons." She adds that, "These companies are engaged in normal international chemical trade, which is in line with the spirit and goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention." According to Zhang, China's export of sensitive chemicals, equipment and technologies is managed in strict accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention control lists.

— "China Demands U.S. Remove Sanctions on Chinese Firms," Xinhua News Agency, 28 June 2001; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

26 June 2001

Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Iranian President Mohammad Khatami sign a joint communiqué, wherein the two sides state their commitment to a world free from nuclear, biological or chemical weapons, and both sides express their support to make the Middle East a nuclear, biological and chemical weapons free zone.

Note: President Khatami visited China from June 22 to June 26.

— "Full text of China-Iran Joint Communiqué," Xinhua News Agency, 22 June 2000; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

18 June 2001

The U.S. State Department imposes sanctions on the Chinese firm Jiangsu Yongli Chemicals for transferring sensitive technology to Iran under the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000. The sanctions will remain in effect until June 2003.

— George Gedda, "U.S. Sanctions Companies for Military Transfers to Iran," Associated Press, 28 June 2001, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; Federal Register: 26 June 2001 (Volume 66, Number 123), Department of State, Bureau of Nonproliferation, FR Doc. 01-16009, Filed 6-25-01, frwebgate3.access.gpo.gov.

14 May 2001

At the sixth Conference of State Parties to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) at The Hague, the Netherlands, China's delegation urges Japan and the OPCW to cooperate further in the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned in China. Zhu Zushou, China's ambassador to the Netherlands and representative of the Chinese delegation to the Conference, expresses Beijing's concern about the ecological threats posed by the weapons, and feels that the process of destruction of the weapons has been slow. Zhu also expresses dissatisfaction with the lack of financial support for the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons in China.

— "China Urges OPCW, Japan on Destroying Abandoned Chemical Weapons," Xinhua News Service, 14 May 2001; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

March 2001

In early March, a joint Chinese-Japanese investigation team discovers 72 poison gas shells in Henan Province, that were abandoned by the Japanese army during World War I.

— *The CBW Convention Bulletin*, Harvard Sussex Program on CBW Armament and Arms Limitation, No. 52, June 2001; "Japanese Poison Gas Shells Found in Henan, China," Kyodo News Service, 10 April 2001; in FBIS JPP20010410000138.

19 January 2001

At a national conference in Shanghai, Li Rongrong, vice-minister of the State Economic and Trade Commission

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(SETC), states that China has made efforts and gained achievements in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in 2000. At the conference, Li asks the SETC, ministries of Foreign Affairs and National Defense, the Legislative Affairs Office of the State Council, the State Administration of Industry and Commerce, and local officials to make greater efforts to implement the CWC. Sha Zukang, director general of the Arms Control and Disarmament Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, adds that as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, China is a responsible state. Sha also notes China's past experience as the victim of chemical weapons attacks on its own territory.

— "Beijing Says It Has Made Notable Achievements on Chemical Weapons Issue," Xinhua News Agency, 16 January 2001; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

January 2001

According to a report published by the U.S. Department of Defense entitled *Proliferation: Threat and Response*, Beijing is believed to have an advanced chemical warfare program including research and development, production, and weaponization capabilities.

— "Proliferation: Threat and Response," Office of the Secretary of Defense, January 2001, p. 26, www.defenselink.mil.

16 October 2000

China's Information Office of the State Council publishes its "2000 White Paper on China's National Defense." The report states the Chinese government's view that the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has yet to overcome certain flaws regarding the universality of the treaty and the slow rate of destruction of existing stockpiles in various countries.

— "China Issues White Paper on National Defence Policy," Xinhua News Agency, 16 October 2000, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; "China's National Defense in 2000," Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, October 2000, Beijing, www.china.org.cn.

14 September 2000

A joint China-Japan task force removes 10 chemical weapons shells from Heilongjiang Province in northeastern China.

Note: The Japanese government plans to spend two weeks retrieving about 500 chemical gas shells containing poisonous gases such as mustard gas. Based on the Chemical Weapons Convention, Japan is responsible for getting rid of the abandoned weapons in China.

— Hiroyuki Sugiyama, "Team in China Excavating WWII Chemical Weapons," *Daily Yomiuri*, Tokyo, p. 2, 14 September 2000; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

12 September 2000

According to an article by Bill Gertz in the *Washington Times*, a U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee report claims that China has consistently failed to adhere to its nonproliferation commitments and its promises to the United States not to sell nuclear and chemical weapons-related materials and missile parts to "rogue states." The report lists 42 cases of Chinese weapons sales to Iran, Libya, North Korea, Iraq, Pakistan, and other countries.

— Bill Gertz, "China Fails to Keep Vows on Arms Sales, Senate Report Says," *Washington Times*, p. A12, 12 September 2000.

September 2000

In Bei'an, China, scientists and workmen from both Japan and China conduct the first large scale joint operation for the excavation and recovery of abandoned chemical weapons (ACW). Cooperative efforts include joint site

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investigations, studies on weapon destruction as well as research on security systems protecting both humans and the environment.

— Seiji Koijima, "The Destruction of ACW in China," Office for ACW, Cabinet Office, Tokyo, Japan, 2001; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

9 August 2000

A Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) semi-annual report to Congress states that Iran is seeking chemical weapons related production equipment and technology from Chinese entities. According to the report, "It is unclear to what extent their efforts have succeeded."

— Central Intelligence Agency, *Unclassified Report to Congress on the Acquisition of Technology Relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction and Advanced Conventional Munitions, 1 January Through 30 June 2000*, www.cia.gov.

12 April 2000

Taiwan pledges neither to produce nor use chemical weapons despite the Taiwanese government's view that there is a growing threat from China's nuclear and bio-chemical weapons.

— "Taiwan Pledges Not to Manufacture, Use Chemical Weapons," Agence France Presse, 12 April 2000; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

February 2000

Over 17,600 chemical weapons of Japanese origin are discovered in Nanjing by a special investigation team sent by the Japanese government. Japanese investigators attempt to find a way to destroy the weapons.

— "Chemical Weapons Left by Japanese Troops Found in Nanjing," Xinhua General News Service, 21 June 2000; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1999-1996

24 December 1999

The Japanese government sets aside ¥2.8 billion yen (about \$ 27.7 million) to destroy chemical weapons that were left by the Japanese Imperial Army in northeastern China during World War II. The budget will be used to provide money, experts and technology necessary to dispose of the chemical weapons.

Note: China and Japan disagree on the number of weapons left in China; the Japanese government says the number is 700,000 shells while the Chinese government puts the number at two million.

— "Japan Sets Aside 27.7 Million Dollars to Destroy Chemical Weapons in China," Agence France Presse, 24 December 1999, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

21 December 1999

The Chinese government's Leading Group Office for the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons announces that the State Petroleum and Chemical Industry Bureau is giving intermediary companies the authority to handle imported triethanolamine and sulfoxide chloride. China's central and local governments will supervise the companies. Triethanolamine is a Schedule 3 chemical under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Note: The CWC includes a list of controlled chemicals that is divided into three schedules. The trade of all chemical listed in the CWC schedules are controlled to varying degrees. Schedule 3 chemicals are toxic chemicals or chemical

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weapons precursors that have significant commercial value. The trade in these chemicals is the least restrictive of the three schedules.

— "China Appoints Intermediaries, Agents for Imports of Triethanolamine, Sulfoxide Chloride," China Online, 21 December 1999, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

12 December 1999

Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Russian President Boris Yeltsin issue a statement in which both sides state their commitment to a complete ban on chemical weapons. The statement was issued during President Yeltsin's two-day visit to China.

— "China, Russia Summit: Main Points of Statement," *AFX News*, Beijing, 12 December 1999, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

30 July 1999

The Chinese and Japanese governments sign a Memorandum on the Destruction of Chemical Weapons in Beijing whereby the Japanese formally commit to destroying chemical weapons they abandoned in China during World War II. Under the agreement, Japan is to provide the necessary facilities, experts and expertise and funds to complete the destruction of the munitions. Japan will pay the costs for all financial and technical resources.

Note: Japan is obligated to destroy the munitions under the terms of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

— "Signing of MoU between Japan and China on Destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons," M2 Presswire, 2 August 1999; Chihiro Kato, "Japan, China OK on Chemical Arms Cleanup," *Asahi Shimbun*, 31 July 1999, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; "China's National Defense in 2000," Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, October 2000, Beijing, www.china.org.cn.

March 1999

According to the Pentagon's annual report to Congress, "China is believed to have an advanced chemical warfare program that includes research and development, production and weaponization capabilities. Its current inventory is believed to include the full range of traditional chemical agents. It also has a wide variety of delivery systems for chemical agents to include artillery rockets, aerial bombs, sprayers, and short-range ballistic missiles. [Chinese forces] have conducted defensive CW training and are prepared to operate in a contaminated environment."

— Department of Defense, Nuclear/Biological/Chemical (NBC) Defense, Annual Report to Congress, March 1999, www.globalsecurity.org.

9 February 1999

An annual report for the U.S. Congress from the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) points to the exports to Iran, Syria and India of WMD-related items by a number of Chinese and Russian businesses as a major concern to the U.S. intelligence community. While the CIA acknowledges the nonproliferation commitments made by Russia and China, companies in both countries are blamed for exports of chemical weapons-related materials.

— John Diamond, "Russians, Chinese Top Weapons Proliferators, U.S. says," Associated Press, 9 February 1999, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; Central Intelligence Agency, "Unclassified Report to Congress on the Acquisition of Technology Relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction and Advanced Conventional Munitions," 1 January-30 June 1999, www.cia.gov.

30 October 1998

A Japanese government team seals over 300 chemical weapons left behind by the Japanese Army during World War II in Mutanchiang [Mudanjiang], Heilongjiang Province, and Foushun, Liaoning Province.

Note: According to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Japan has until 2007 to complete the destruction process.

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— "Japan Seals Over 300 Chemical Weapons in China," Jiji Press Ticker, 30 October 1998, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

6 October 1998

In a joint statement, China and the United Kingdom state that as parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention the two countries will continue their commitment to the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery vehicles, and engage in bilateral and international cooperation to achieve these goals.

— "Full Text of China-UK Joint Statement," Xinhua News Agency, 6 October 1998, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

27 July 1998

In China's White Paper on National Defense, Beijing states that "in keeping with the stipulations of the related international convention, any country that has left chemical weapons in another country destroy, as soon as possible, such weapons wholly and thoroughly."

Note: Under the terms of the CWC, Japan is expected to destroy the chemical weapons left on Chinese territory during World War II and pay for the disposal costs.

— "China Defense White Paper says Aggressors Should Destroy Chemical Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, Beijing, 27 July 1998, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

June 1998

During his visit to Beijing, President Clinton issues a joint statement with President Jiang Zemin in which both sides agree to strengthen exports of chemicals or technology that can be used to produce chemical weapons. In the same month, China announces that it has expanded its chemical export controls to include 10 of the 20 Australia Group chemicals not listed on the Chemical Weapons Convention schedules.

— Jennifer Lin and Steven Thomma, "Clinton, Jiang Announce Agreements at Beijing," Knight Ridder Washington Bureau, 27 June 1998, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; Central Intelligence Agency, Reports, Unclassified Report to Congress on the Acquisition of Technology Relating to Weapons of Mass Destruction and Advanced Conventional Munitions, 1 January-30 June 1999, www.cia.gov.

24 May 1998

According to the British newspaper *The Telegraph*, the China state-run oil company SinoChem concluded a secret deal with Iran's Defense Industry Organization for the purchase of dual-use chemicals that reportedly will enable it to become self-sufficient in producing nerve gas VX. According to the article, China delivers 500 tons of phosphorus pentasulphide in 10 consignments of 50 tons. Subsequently, on 27 May the Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mahmoud Mohammadi denies reports in the British press that China supplied Iran with materials for chemical weapons production.

Note: Phosphorus Pentasulphide is not a Chemical Weapons Convention scheduled chemical, but it is listed in the Australia Group. China and Iran are not members of the Australia Group. Therefore, neither country is bound by it.

— Con Coughlin, "China Helps Iran to make Nerve Gas," *Telegraph*, 24 May 1998, www.telegraph.co.uk/htmlContent.jhtml?html=/archive/1998/05/24/wirn24.html; "Iran Denies Importing Materials for Chemical Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, 27 May 1998, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

11 February 1998

Russia offers technical assistance to the Japanese team working in China to destroy the chemical weapons left behind by the Japanese Army during World War II. Russia will help China and Japan to build a small chemical-weapons disposal facility in China.

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— "Russia offers assistance on chemical weapons in China," Japan Economic Newswire, 11 February 1998, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

18 December 1997

China adopts supplemental export control laws to honor its commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention and better implement the treaty. Companies can no longer export chemical weapons related agents unless the foreign ministry, foreign trade ministry and the ministry of chemical industry first approve the chemicals.

— "China Tightens Rules on Chemical Weapons Exports," Associated Press, 18 December 1997, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

23 May 1997

The Chinese Foreign Ministry issues a statement demanding that the "totally groundless" U.S. sanctions on eight Chinese entities for allegedly exporting dual-use chemicals to Iran be removed. China challenges U.S. claims that the eight Chinese companies were exporting materials that could be used to make chemical weapons.

— "China Demands U.S. Cancels Sanctions over Chemical Weapons," Associated Press, 23 May 1997, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

22 May 1997

U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright says that the United States is imposing sanctions against eight Chinese private entities for exporting dual-use chemical precursors and chemical production equipment to Iran. The sanctions forbid U.S. government transactions with the firms for a period of one year and also ban imports into the United States from the firms. Albright says that the U.S. government has no evidence of involvement by the Chinese government.

— "Albright Announces Sanctions against Chinese Firms for Iran Sales," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, International News, 22 May 1997, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

29 October 1997

The United States and China issue a joint statement following talks between Chinese President Jiang Zemin and U.S. President Bill Clinton. According to the statement, both sides agree to cooperate in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention "within a multilateral framework." Both countries agree on the importance of government oversight of chemical-related exports.

— "Full Text of U.S.-China Joint Statement," Xinhua News Agency, 29 October 1997, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

25 April 1997

China's National People's Congress Standing Committee ratifies the Chemical Weapons Convention.

— "States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention as at 19 November 2004," Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, 2002-2004 OPCW, www.opcw.org.

10 April 1997

Japan and China hold their first joint task force meeting in Beijing to discuss disposal and elimination of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China during World War II. Disposal is expected to be complete by 2007. The project involves the creation of a destruction plant for the elimination of the abandoned weapons.

— Erik J. Leklem, "Japan Plans the Disposal of CWs," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 1 August 1997, Vol. 004, Issue 008.

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2-3 March 1997

Taiwanese newspaper *Du Li-Zao Bao* (*The Independent Morning Post*) reports that China's People's Liberation Army imported 500 tons of sarin toxic chemical materials from Ukraine following the collapse of the Soviet Union. On 3 March, a representative from the Ukrainian embassy in Beijing dismisses the allegations as "groundless conjectures."

— Taiwan Paper Claims Beijing Importing Sarin from Ukraine," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, Part 3 Asia-Pacific; China; Foreign Relations, U.S.A; FE/D2858/G, 4 March 1997; Vyacheslav Tomilin, "Ukraine Dismisses Allegations about Selling Sarin to China," ITAR-TASS News Agency, 3 March 1997, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

March 1997

China adopts a supplement to the 1995 "Regulations on Controlled Chemicals," which further details the implementation of the Regulations. It addresses "some weak language in the original 1995 regulations."

— Evan S. Medeiros, "Chasing the Dragon: Assessing China's System of Export Controls for WMD-Related Goods and Technologies," RAND National Security Research Division, 2005, www.rand.org.

29 January 1997

Environmentalists in Russia are concerned over China's plans to destroy up to two million shells containing chemical weapons near their border with the Russian Far East. The chemical weapons were abandoned by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

— "Asia Pacific, Chinese CW Disposal," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 29 January 1997, Vol. 027, Issue 044.

8 January 1997

U.S. officials are concerned about the possible illegal export of chemical weapons material from China to Iran.

— Barbara Starr, "U.S.A Leaning on China to Stop Iran Uranium Plant," *Jane's Defence Weekly*, 8 January 1997, Vol. 027, Issue 001.

10 September 1996

The Japanese government holds a seven-day exhibition in Tokyo to educate the Japanese public about Japan's use of chemical weapons in China during World War II. A photograph panel, gas masks and explanations of the historical use of chemical and nerve agents in warfare are on display at the exhibit, which is organized by a civic group called the Shinjuku Action Committee on the Poison Gas Exhibit. The exhibition will be displayed in several cities around Japan over the coming months.

— "Exhibition Opens on Japan's Wartime Use of Poisonous Gas," Xinhua News Agency, 10 September 1996, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

16 August 1996

Japan announces a plan to clean up chemical weapons left behind in China by the Japanese Army. The clean up will take a period of ten years and the process will start in 1998, a year after the Chemical Weapons Convention is expected to take effect. Under the Convention Japan is responsible for the clean up. Until the treaty comes into force, Japan plans to continue investigations to find out the correct number of weapons left in China by Japan. China also calls on Japan to compensate those injured by leaking chemicals weapons or shell accidents.

Note: At the time of Japan's announcement, the CWC was not yet in force. In September 1996, the 65th country (Hungary) ratified the convention, triggering the six month countdown to entry into force of the CWC. The convention entered into force on April 29, 1997.

Related content is available on the website for the Nuclear Threat Initiative, www.nti.org.



— "Japan to Begin Chemical Weapon Disposal Project in China in 1998," Agence France Presse, 16 August 1996, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

26 July 1996

Huang Yu, head of the Chinese delegation to the Preparatory Commission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague, calls upon all states to accept and implement the Chemical Weapons Convention. He criticizes the United States and Russia, the two acknowledged CW possessor states, for their lack of commitment towards the destruction of their stockpiles. China also criticizes the findings made by teams of Japanese experts regarding chemical weapons left by Japan in China during World War II. Huang calls the findings "neither complete nor accurate" and hopes that the investigations will continue in a thorough and speedy process.

— "China Endorses Moves towards Chemical Weapons Ban, Criticizes Japan," Xinhua News Agency, 26 July 1996, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

3 June 1996

A Japanese research team in the northeastern province of Jilin in China estimates the number of chemical weapons shells left behind by Japan during WWII at 700,000, a number far smaller than China's initial estimate of 1.8 million weapons shells. Some shells are still leaking.

— "700,000 Wartime Chemical Weapons Estimated in China Cache," Japan Economic Newswire, 2 June 1996, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

April 1996

In its 1996 report, *Proliferation: Threat and Response*, the U.S. Department of Defense states that China supplied chemical warfare-related materials to Iran. The dates for the transfers are not specified.

— Office of the Secretary of Defense, *Proliferation: Threat and Response*, April 1996, www.defenselink.mil.

1995-1990

27 December 1995

China adopts the Regulations on Controlled Chemicals, which governs exports of all Chemical Weapons Convention-controlled items.

—Evan S. Medeiros, "Chasing the Dragon: Assessing China's System of Export Controls for WMD-Related Goods and Technologies," RAND National Security Research Division, 2005, www.rand.org.

16 November 1995

The Information Office of the State Council of China issues a White Paper on Arms Control and Disarmament stating China's commitment to abide by the Chemical Weapons Convention. The paper also states that while China has a sizeable civilian chemical industry, it is cautious and responsible regarding the export of dual-use chemical and refuses to export chemicals or relevant materials or technology for the purpose of producing chemical weapons.

—"China Imposes Strict Control Over Transfer of Sensitive Materials and Military Equipment," Xinhua News Agency, 16 November 1995, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; "China Arms Control and Disarmament (November 1995)," Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, November 1995, Beijing, www.china.org.cn.

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9-12 November 1995

Bruce Reidel, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense, tells the U.S. House International Relations Committee that Chinese firms have provided Iran with infrastructural assistance for building chemical plants and some of the precursors for developing chemical weapons. Iran denies the allegations.

—Donald M. Rothberg, "China Said to be Helping Iran Develop Chemical Weapons," Associated Press, 9 November 1995; "Iran Denies U.S. Defense Department's Claims," Xinhua News Agency, 12 November 1995, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

March 1995

The United States alleges that China is discussing the sale of chemical weapons to Iran during the visit to Beijing by Iranian foreign affairs minister, Ali Akbar Velayati on 27 March. China's Foreign Ministry issues a statement denying the allegations.

—"China rejects allegations of nuclear, chemical deals with Iran," Agence France Presse, 29 March 1995, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

16 December 1994

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Kozo Igarashi says Japan wishes to work in good faith with China to find a positive solution to remove chemical weapons left by Japan in China during World War II.

—"Government Positive on Removing China's Chem. Arms," Jiji Press Ticker, 16 December 1994, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

10 September 1993

Dai Qiquan, Executive Vice President of China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO), which owns the *Yinhe* cargo ship, threatens to resort to legal means if the U.S. government does not pay compensation. The U.S. government, which had suspected *Yinhe* to be carrying chemical precursors to Iran, had barred the ship from entering the Persian Gulf until the cargo was inspected. COSCO has demanded a compensation of \$12.93 million for lost revenues and damage to the company's reputation. State Department Spokesperson Martin Judge rejected the claims and added, "The cargo inspection was done with full consent of China. The U.S. government informed China prior to the commencement of the search that it could not accept any financial liability as a condition of the search."

—"Chinese Shipping Company Calls for Legal Action in Yinhe Affair," Agence France Presse, 10 September 1993, "U.S. Says Search of Chinese Ship 'Unfortunate,'" Agence France Presse, 5 September 1993 in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

4 September 1993

After inspections of the Chinese ship *Yinhe* reveal that the vessel is not carrying chemical precursors to Iran, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs releases the following statement:

"As a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention, China is very serious about its international obligations thereunder. Despite the fact that the Convention has yet to take effect, China has committed itself publicly not to produce or possess chemical weapons, nor does it export chemical products that may be used for the purpose of making chemical weapons. In order to ensure that the chemicals it exports will not be used for chemical weapons, the Chinese Government has formulated extremely stringent measures to control its chemical export. As to the two chemicals referred to by the U.S. side, the Chinese Government has clear-cut orders against their export to certain regions. The Chinese Government will, as always, strictly observe its international obligations and make its contribution to safeguarding international peace and security and promoting normal economic and trade exchanges among countries."

—Chris Yueng, "Washington Told to Learn from Yinhe," *South China Morning Post*, 9 September 1993, p. 8.

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2 September 1993

Inspection of the Chinese cargo ship *Yinhe* bound for Iran shows that the ship is not carrying chemical precursors, as the U.S. has suspected.

—"Inspection of Freighter Shows No Illicit Chemicals for Iran: China," Agence France Presse, 2 September 1993, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

28 August 1993

A joint China-Saudi Arabia team inspects the Chinese cargo ship *Yinhe* bound for Iran. U.S. officials suspected the ship to be carrying chemical precursors.

—"Inspection of Freighter Shows No Illicit Chemicals for Iran: China," Agence France Presse, 2 September 1993, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

13 January 1993

China signs the Chemical Weapons Convention. At the signing, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen says "the convention is not perfect. It has drawbacks, especially concerning verification, which, we hope, can be remedied, overcome and avoided during the course of practice."

—"Chemical Weapons Convention; China, Japan and ROK Sign Chemical Weapons Convention; North Korea Urged to Sign," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 15 January 1993, Part 3, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

16 December 1992

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen announces in Beijing that China will sign the Chemical Weapons Convention in Paris.

—"Chinese Foreign Minister to Visit Africa Next January," Xinhua News Agency, 17 December 1992, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

12 November 1992

Chinese ambassador to the Convention on the Prohibition and Destruction of Chemical Weapons, Hou Zhitong, notes that the draft of the convention is a positive step towards international peace and security as it provides an international legal basis for the complete elimination of chemical weapons.

—"China: CW Convention Conducive to World Peace," Xinhua News Service, 12 November 1992, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

22 September 1992

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen says China is satisfied in being able to cooperate with the United States on negotiations for a chemical weapons convention.

—"Chinese Foreign Minister on the Future of Sino-U.S. Ties," Xinhua News Agency, 22 September 1992, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

21 August 1992

Hou Zhitong, head of the Chinese delegation at the ad hoc committee on chemical weapons at the Conference on Disarmament states China's general support of the draft of the Chemical Weapons Convention, but expresses reservations about parts of the proposal, stating that the treaty does not meet the demands of developing nations. Specifically he states, "An extremely large number of chemical facilities not relevant to [chemical weapons] are subject, where there is no necessity at all, to declaration and verification. The intended inclusion of facilities for space chemistry is totally unreasonable. This will inevitably create grave difficulties for and interference in the

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chemical industry of the developing countries." Hou also states that the scope of verification of the chemical industry is too broad and, in some cases, unnecessary.

—"China States Position on Chemical Weapons Convention," Xinhua News Agency, 22 August 1992, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

16 April 1992

For the first time, China publicly demands that Japan deal with chemical weapons left by the Japanese Army in China during WWII. A spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry states, "It is only natural that the Japanese side should shoulder the responsibility to destroy those weapons. We hope that a satisfactory solution will be found to this question at an early date."

—"China Demands that Japan Dispose of Chemical Weapons," Agence France Presse, 16 April 1992, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

27 February 1992

At the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, China proposes an international law that would require any country leaving chemical weapons on another's territory to dispose of the weapons at their own cost. Japanese ambassador Mitsuro Donowaki rejects China's proposal on the grounds that it is directed specifically at Japan. However, Donowaki states that Japan will take responsibility for weapons left by the Japanese Army during World War II and will come to a realistic solution for disposal through bilateral negotiations with China.

—"Japan Opposes China Proposal on Weapons Disposal," Jiji Press Ticker Service, 27 February 1992, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

18 July 1991

A Japanese government-sponsored team of experts confirms Beijing's claims that the Japanese Army had left chemical weapons in Northeast China during World War II. According to sources, the Japanese government intends to clean up the remaining weapons.

—"Beijing Claims on Japan Chemical Arms Confirmed," Jiji Press Ticker Service, 18 July 1991, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

9 July 1991

During his visit to Iran, Chinese Premier Li Peng releases a joint statement with Iranian leaders Ayatollah Khomeini and President Rafsanjani. In the statement, both sides oppose the use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and call for a "just, logical, comprehensive and balanced" arms control.

—"China, Iran Call for Weapons Destruction after Li Visit," Japan Economic Newswire, 9 July 1991, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

19 May 1991

China and the Soviet Union release a Joint Sino-Soviet Communiqué following Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin's official visit to the USSR. Both sides declare that they "stand for concluding an accord on the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all chemical weapons as speedily as possible."

—"Full Text of Sino-Soviet Joint Communiqué," Xinhua News Agency, 19 May 1991, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

31 January 1991

China is named as a probable possessor of chemical weapons by a report sponsored by U.S. Congress. The study called "Finding Common Ground: U.S. Export Controls in a Changed Global Environment" names China among 11

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countries that are likely to have chemical weapons programs. The report recommends harmonized export controls for sensitive chemicals, and urges the international community to include the Soviet Union and China into the international machinery for controlling sensitive exports.

—Carl Hartman, "Many Nations Believed to have Chemical Weapons," Associated Press, 31 January 1991, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com; Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy, *Finding Common Ground: U.S. Export Controls in a Changed Global Environment* (1991).

16 May 1990

On a state visit to Mexico, Chinese President Yang Shangkun says that China supports an absolute ban on chemical weapons.

—"Chinese President Yang Shangkun on Major Issues," Xinhua News Agency, 16 May 1990, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

17 October 1990

Hou Zhitong, Chinese ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, tells the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in Geneva that China stands for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of chemical weapons.

—"China on Disarmament Issues," Xinhua News Agency, 17 October 1990, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

28 September 1990

In a policy speech at the 45th Session of the United Nations General Assembly Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen notes that "the task of disarmament is still arduous" and he calls on the United States and the Soviet Union to "unconditionally and completely destroy their chemical weapon stockpiles."

—"Chinese Foreign Minister's Speech at U.N. General Assembly," Xinhua News Agency, 28 September 1990, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

24 August 1990

Hou Zhitong, Chinese representative to the UN Conference on Disarmament, calls for a comprehensive ban and elimination of chemical weapons.

—"China Calls for Ban and Elimination of Chemical Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, 24 August 1990, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

6 June 1990

State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher confirms that the U.S. officials "have met with the Chinese recently on the subject of chemical weapons proliferation." Boucher refuses to elaborate on the meetings.

—"Eagleburger Meets with Chinese Ambassador," Associated Press, 7 June 1990, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

6 June 1990

According to U.S. intelligence reports, China may be considering sale of chemicals that could be used to make poison gas to Libya. The chemicals in question could also be used towards civilian purposes.

—Michael R. Gordon, "China Weighs Sale of Gas Chemicals," *New York Times*, 7 June 1990, Section A; Page 15.

26 April 1990

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson expresses China's appreciation and support for Egypt's proposal that the Middle East be free from destructive weapons, stating that China has always advocated a complete and thorough

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prohibition of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

— "China Stands for Freeing Mid-East from Destructive Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, 26 April 1990, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

12 April 1990

At the UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Hou Zhitong, China's Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs, criticizes the United States and Soviet Union on their lack of progress in disarmament and destruction of chemical weapons. He says that attempts by the two countries have been merely a "vague expression of their intention to slash a portion of their chemical weapons arsenals within a relatively long time-frame in the future." He blames the two nations for falling short in the area of disarmament and urges them to make substantive progress in their bilateral talks.

— "China Appeal for Progress in Chemical Weapons Talks," Xinhua News Agency, 12 April 1990, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

15 February 1990

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Li Zhaoxing calls on the United States and Soviet Union to destroy their chemical weapons, reconfirming China's advocacy for their prohibition and thorough destruction. Li says, "The two superpowers that have the largest chemical arsenals bear a special responsibility for the prohibition of chemical weapons and should take the lead in practical actions." Li says that China hopes for an international convention to be concluded at the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to deal with the threats posed by chemical weapons.

— "Highlights of Today's Foreign Affairs in China," Xinhua News Agency, 15 February 1990, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1989-1980

28 September 1989

In response to President George H. W. Bush's plan for a three-phased reduction and destruction of chemical weapons, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Li Zhaoxing says, "Possessing the largest arsenals of chemical weapons in the world, the United States and the Soviet Union should undoubtedly bear special responsibility for prohibition of chemical weapons...We have taken note of the proposals advanced by the U.S. President and the Soviet Foreign Minister respectively, and we hope that they will take practical actions to fulfill their special responsibilities."

— "China Stands for Complete Prohibition and Thorough Destruction of Chemical Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, 28 September 1989, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

21 September 1989

Speaking at the Government-Industry Conference against Chemical Weapons held in Canberra, Australia, Zhang Zai, head of the Chinese delegation, says the Chinese government and chemical industry support the complete prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons. Zhang also states that "China neither possesses nor produces chemical weapons."

— "China Supports Global Ban on Chemical Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, 21 September 1989, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

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1989-1991

Hong Kong-based *Cheng Ming Magazine* reports that China supported Iraq in the Gulf War and reportedly supplied Baghdad with military assistance and advice, large quantities of arms, including chemical weapons, and engaged in intelligence sharing with Iraq since 1989.

— "Peking Reportedly Supports Iraq in Gulf War," Central News Agency, Taiwan, 1 February 1991, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

7-10 January 1989

A Chinese delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, attends the Conference on Chemical Weapons Use in Paris.

— "China Attends Paris Conference on Chemical Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, 6 January 1989, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

December 1988

The Chinese delegation, headed by Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, prepares for the Conference on Chemical Weapons Use to be held in Paris 7-10 January 1989. Qian expresses that China is against military threats and armed aggression, and also favors the complete destruction of chemical weapons. Qian says, "China hopes that an international convention for a complete prohibition of chemical weapons will be concluded as soon as possible."

— "Chinese Foreign Minister to Attend Paris Conference on Abolishing Chemical Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, 29 December 1988, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

18 October 1988

China and Romania issue a joint communiqué in which both countries advocate the elimination of chemical weapons. The statement is issued during Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu's visit to China.

— "Sino-Romanian Joint Press Communiqué Issued," Xinhua News Agency, 18 October 1988, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

30 March 1988

Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Li Zhaoxing criticizes the use of chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war and calls on Iran and Iraq to abide by the 1925 Geneva Convention banning the use of chemical weapons. Li also urges both countries to cooperate with UN efforts to bring about a ceasefire.

— "China Voices Concern over Chemical Warfare in Gulf War," Japan Economic Newswire, 30 March 1988, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

10 December, 1987

Chinese President Li Xiannian praises the treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear weapons, but urges the countries to continue negotiations towards the complete prohibition of the use of chemical, nuclear and conventional weapons as a means to promote worldwide peace.

— "China Welcomes U.S.-Soviet Pact, President Li Xiannian says," Xinhua News Agency, 10 December, 1987, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

21 November 1987

Yasushi Akashi, under-secretary general of the United Nations for Disarmament, praises China's efforts towards disarmament and the prohibition of chemical weapons. Akashi states he is "very pleased to see China has in recent years been playing a very active and constructive role in that regard."

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— Chen Shengtao, "Senior U.N. Official Hopeful about Disarmament," Xinhua News Agency, 21 November 1987, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

16 June 1987

Lin Lanying, deputy to the National People's Congress and vice chairwoman to China's National Science and Technology Commission, calls for an international agreement on the complete prohibition and total destruction of chemical weapons. Lin makes these comments while speaking at the Third Annual World Conference of Parliamentary Women for Peace, Disarmament and Development.

— "Chinese Woman Legislator Addresses World Conference of Parliamentarian Women," Xinhua News Agency, 16 June 1987, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

16 April 1987

Fan Guoxiang, head of the Chinese delegation at the UN Conference on Disarmament, urges the elimination of chemical weapons and their production sites, reminding other delegations that they are "obligated to declare and destroy their stockpile and production facilities under international verification so as to ensure the security of all states." He points out that states repeatedly violate the Geneva Protocol signed more than 50 years ago, and calls for effective verification of a treaty prohibiting the use and manufacturing of CW, while simultaneously protecting commercial and technical secrets in the chemical industry.

— "China Urges Elimination of Chemical Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, 16 April 1987, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1 February 1987

The Xinhua News Agency reports that China has a highly effective defense project in protecting against chemical weapons as well as conventional and nuclear explosions.

— "China Builds Complete System of Defense Projects," Xinhua News Agency, 1 February 1987, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

30 August 1986

China, a participant of the 40-nation Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, expresses its disappointment in the deadlock between the Soviet Union and the United States over the means of verification for chemical weapons disarmament. The Conference ends its summer session without progress on a chemical weapons ban that is expected to be signed by 1987.

— "40-Nation Disarmament Meeting Ends," Xinhua News Agency, 30 August 1986, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

3 August 1986

According to a senior official of the People's Liberation Army, China's Chemical Corps is meeting world standards in its ability to deal with attacks by nuclear and chemical weapons. According to the official, the Corps "was set up to defend China from possible attacks by invaders with nuclear and chemical weapons," and has also helped combat radioactive and chemical leakage accidents in China.

— "China's Chemical Corps Advancing," Xinhua News Agency, 3 August 1986, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

21 March 1986

In an address in Beijing marking the International Year of Peace, Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang calls on the United States and the Soviet Union to destroy their chemical weapons.

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— "China Urges Superpowers to End Nuclear Testing," United Press International, 21 March 1986, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

30 September 1985

At the U.N. General Assembly Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian advocates the "complete prohibition and thorough destruction of chemical weapons" and urges nations to "stop testing, producing, transferring and deploying chemical weapons and pledge against the use of such weapons."

— Ivan Zverina, "China Calls on U.S., Soviets Quit Outer Space Arms Race," United Press International, 30 September 1985, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

20 June 1984

Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe expresses regret that the Japanese Imperial Army used chemical weapons, including mustard gas, against China during World War II and states that the Japanese government will investigate the matter.

— "Abe Regrets for Japan's Use of Poisonous Gas in China in World War II," Xinhua News Agency, 21 June 1984, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

30 June 1982

Advocating a halt to the arms race, the Chinese delegation at the UN General Assembly on Disarmament states that chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction should be prohibited.

— "China's Proposal on Halt to Arms Race and Disarmament at United Nations," Xinhua News Agency, 30 June 1982, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

23 February 1982

The Chinese representative at the UN Commission for Human Rights in Geneva accuses the Soviet Union of engaging in chemical warfare in Afghanistan and supplying Vietnam with chemical weapons to use in Cambodia.

— "Moscow Brushes off Charge of Chemical Weapons Use," United Press International, 23 February 1982, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

24 November 1981

According to a participant at an academic seminar held in Chongqing in Sichuan Province, China has the capability to produce 16,500 tons of activated carbon of 80 types annually. China exports some activated carbon, which can be used in defense against chemical weapons, to countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Oceania.

— "China Increases Production, Application of Activated Carbon," Xinhua News Agency, 24 November 1981, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

2 December 1980

China votes in favor of a draft resolution asking the UN Secretary General to send a team of medical and technical experts to investigate reports of alleged chemical weapons use by the Soviet Union and Vietnam in Southeast Asia.

— "UN Passes Draft Resolution on Investigation of Use of Chemical Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, 2 December 1980, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

23 October 1980

Lai Yali, Chinese Representative to the UN, comments on the alleged use of chemical weapons in Afghanistan and Cambodia at the UN General Assembly. Lai says, "The international community should take all effective measures

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to firmly curb any actions that violate the 1925 Geneva Protocol on the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases and of bacteriological methods of warfare."

— "Chinese Representative Calls for Combination of Struggle for Disarmament with Anti-Hegemonism," Xinhua News Agency, 23 October 1980, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1979-1925

6 December 1973

China votes in favor of UN Resolution 3076, which "invites the Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law Applicable in Armed Conflicts to consider the question of the use of napalm and other incendiary weapons."

—Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, *SIPRI Yearbook 1974: World Armaments and Disarmaments*, Stockholm, MIT Press, 1974.

1956

China's Central Military Commission (CMC) establishes the Anti-Chemical Warfare Department, making the Anti-Chemical Warfare Corps a formal branch of the ground forces.

—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, Issue No. 37, September 1997, p. 28; "Army Official Says China Has Mighty Anti-Nuclear, Anti-Chemical Capacity," *Zhongguo Xinwenshe*, Beijing, 13 July 1997/BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 22 July 1997, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

13 July 1952

China declares it will abide by the "Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous, or Other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare" as long as other signatories do the same.

Note: The Geneva Protocol was opened for signature on 17 June 1925 and entered into force on 8 February 1928.

—"Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare," Bureau of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of State, 25 September 2002, www.state.gov.

1950's - 1980's

According to the Pentagon's 1996 report *Proliferation: Threat and Response*, China has maintained a chemical warfare program since the 1950's to the 1980's. The report states:

"China has a mature chemical warfare capability and may well have maintained the biological warfare program it had prior to acceding to the Biological Weapons Convention in 1984. It has funded a chemical warfare program since the 1950s and has produced and weaponized a wide variety of agents."

— Office of the Secretary of Defense, "Proliferation: Threat and Response," April 1996, www.defenselink.mil.

1950

The People's Liberation Army establishes an anti-chemical warfare school.

—*The CBW Conventions Bulletin*, Issue No. 37, September 1997, p. 28; "Army Official Says China Has Mighty Anti-nuclear, Anti-chemical Capacity," *Zhongguo Xinwenshe*, Beijing, 13 July 1997/BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, 22 July 1997, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1946

The Tokyo war crimes tribunal is held, but Japanese officers responsible for the production and use of chemical

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weapons are not prosecuted.

—William C. Hidlay, "Japan Operated Secret Chemical Weapons Factory in WWII," Associated Press, 17 September 1988, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1940

One chemical weapons factory in Okuno producing mustard gas, lewisite, nausea gas (diphenylcyanoarsine) and hydrocyanic acid gas, is deleted from Japanese maps to keep production a secret.

Note: It is suspected that the chemical weapons were produced for use in China.

—Irene M. Kunii, "Researchers Find Japanese Produced Banned Chemical Weapons in 1930s and 40s," Associated Press, 30 September 1988, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1940

Unit 731, based in Harbin, reportedly has 26 experimental centers around China and employs more than 10,000 people.

Note: Researchers working for Unit 731 injected Chinese and Soviet prisoners with typhus, cholera and a variety of other germs, induced gangrene, performed live dissections and froze victims to death in endurance tests.

—Irene M. Kunii, "Researchers Find Japanese Produced Banned Chemical Weapons in 1930s and 40s," Associated Press, 30 September 1988, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1938-1942

The Japanese army reportedly uses lethal and non-lethal poison gas in at least 1,300 cases during its occupation of China in World War II.

—Evidence Shows Japan Used Poison Gas in China," Associated Press, 15 June 1984, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1938-1942

The Imperial Japanese Army reportedly conducts 56 cases of poison gas operations against Chinese troops.

—Evidence Shows Japan Used Poison Gas in China," Associated Press, 15 June 1984, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1937-1945

The Imperial Japanese Army deploys and uses chemical weapons in China during World War II.

—"Japan Held Responsible for Destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons in China," Xinhua News Agency, 3 May 2000, in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

1927

In 1927, representatives from A.L. Gran, a Norwegian firm, visit the Shengyang plant to oversee installation of the equipment for chlorine, phosgene and mustard gas.

—Benjamin Garrett, "The Chinese Warlords' Chemical Arms Race," *The CW Almanac*, August 1998, 98-4, issue no. 67; www.asanltr.com.

1925

According to a 1998 article by Benjamin Garrett, in 1925 Chinese warlord Zhang Zuolin builds a chemical plant in Shengyang with the help of German contracting firm Witte. German and Russian scientists are hired to supervise the production of chlorine, phosgene and mustard gas. Equipment for the factory is shipped in by A.L Gran, a

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Norwegian firm.

— Benjamin Garrett, "The Chinese Warlords' Chemical Arms Race," *The CW Almanac*, August 1998, 98-4, issue no. 67; www.asanltr.com.

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