

Joint Declaration of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, the Kremlin, Moscow, May 27, 2003

At the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin, the President of the People's Republic of China, Hu Jintao, made a state visit to the Russian Federation on May 26-28, 2003.

The heads of state of the two countries had a substantive and in-depth discussion on the development of bilateral relations in the last decade, their state and prospects, and agreed that no matter what changes take place in the world, the deepening of the good-neighborly relations, friendship, mutual advantageous cooperation, partnership and strategic interaction between Russia and China will remain a strategic priority in the foreign policies of the two countries. The parties are resolved to take the baton over from the previous generations and carry it into the future, exert joint efforts to discover new ways for the development of Russian-Chinese relations.

To this end, the heads of state of Russia and China state the following:

I.

In the last decade Russian-Chinese relations have gone from constructive partnership to partnership and strategic interaction along the historical path of relations between friendly states. The two countries have jointly worked out an optimal model of cooperation that has taken relations between the two countries to the path of stable development. Political trust between the two countries is increasing, practical interaction is constantly expanding, friendship and mutual understanding between the peoples of Russia and China are strengthening. The development of Russian-Chinese relations has brought real benefits to both states and peoples and has become an example of relations between neighboring countries and great powers.

Russia and China intend to continue to strengthen their partnership and strategic interaction and jointly solve practical questions of bilateral ties in the interests of national security of both states, the prosperity of the Russian and Chinese people, stability and calm in the neighboring regions.

The Treaty of Good-Neighborliness, Friendship and Cooperation Between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China of July 16, 2001 is a concentrated reflection of a number of achievements in the development of bilateral relations over the last years and has laid a solid legal groundwork for the steady and sustainable development of relations between the two countries in the new century. The treaty has become an inalienable part of the legal systems of the two countries.

The parties believe that both countries have all the necessary conditions to ensure the implementation of the treaty. The parties state their determination to adhere to the policy and principles set forth in the treaty, continue the implementation of all agreements on cooperation that have been reached between the parties, constantly fill the partnership and strategic interaction between the two countries with new substance, find new ways to encourage continuous movement forward in bilateral relations, and exert efforts to maintain the high dynamics of Russian-Chinese relations at all times.

II

Top-level contacts between Russia and China and bilateral intergovernmental and interagency commissions on cooperation are important mechanisms that secure the development of strategic interaction between the parties in all areas and serve as an effective conduit for the operational exchange of views and coordination of positions on bilateral issues and topical international problems. The parties stress that the mechanism of regular meetings between the heads of government of the two states is of great importance and appreciate its contribution to the long-term development of trade and economic cooperation between Russia and China. The parties will strengthen existing structures, while expanding other conduits for exchanges and consultations at all levels and in all spheres. To this end, the parties will continue to discuss ways to implement the agreement on the creation of a Russian-Chinese interstate mechanism of security consultations.

The parties confirm that they will find a final solution to border disputes between the two countries, which have been inherited from the past, in the shortest possible period of time on the basis of the principles of justice and equality, mutual understanding and mutual concessions, in order to strengthen the calm and stability on the Russian-Chinese border and ensure economic interests of the population in the border areas of both countries.

The parties will continue to resolutely support each other's efforts to protect state unity, sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, which is an important element of the Russian-Chinese partnership and strategic interaction. The Russian side confirms the unchangeability of its position of principle with regard to Taiwan and Tibet.

III

With a view to strengthening and expanding the material base of Russian-Chinese relations, the parties have agreed to invigorate, on a mutually advantageous basis, practical cooperation between the two states in trade, economic, military-technical, and scientific-technical spheres, in the fields of energy, transport, atomic energy, finance, spaces, aviation, information technologies as well as cross-border and inter-regional cooperation.

The parties assess highly positive tendencies in bilateral trade and economic cooperation in the last years and state the need to expand trade, improve its structure by increasing the share of high-tech products, machinery, electronics, and other commodities with a big added value, and its balanced development; the creation of favorable conditions for mutual access of goods, services and investments of the two countries to each other's markets, the intensification of technical-economic and investment cooperation, including the creation of joint ventures, industrial cooperation, the transfer of technologies; the perfection of the trade servicing system, including the strengthening of cooperation in the sphere of bank settlements, credit guarantees, insurance, enhanced work of both countries in the field of legal and administrative regulation of trade and economic activities in order to bring the trade regime in compliance with international standards; the strengthening of cross-border and inter-regional cooperation, as well as contacts between small and medium-sized enterprises of the two countries. The parties are determined to make a breakthrough in the development of the entire range of bilateral trade and economic relations and achieve a major increase in trade turnover. The parties believe that cooperation in the energy sphere is of great importance to both states. The implementation of large oil and gas projects, including the construction of the Russia-China oil pipeline, supplies of Russian natural gas to China, Russia's participation in the construction of the West-East gas pipeline with possible supplies of necessary Russian energy equipment for this project and cooperation between the oil companies of the two countries in oil prospecting and development in Russia should serve as the basis for strengthening energy cooperation.

China states its support for the Russian Federation's accession to the World Trade Organization. The parties believe that further active and constructive bilateral negotiations on the terms of Russia's admission to the WTO and an appropriate agreement based on respect for mutual interests will help strengthen Russian-Chinese trade and economic relations.

IV

Since its creation in December 2000, the Russian-Chinese Commission on Educational, Cultural, Health and Sport Cooperation has held three meetings, developed concrete plans aimed to expand and deepen humanitarian cooperation between the two countries, and successfully shown its coordinating and governing role in humanitarian cooperation between the two states. The parties will continue to tap the potential of this mechanism and enhance the exchange of cultural achievements of the two great nations.

Given the outbreak of a new illness in the world -- the severe acute respiratory syndrome -- the parties believe it necessary to invigorate contacts between health and medical authorities by using available mechanisms of interaction.

The parties attach great significance to the joint fight of Russia and China against illegal migration and other forms of transborder crime, and to assistance to cooperation in the law-enforcement field. In a follow-up to the existing agreements, the parties will create a

joint Russian-Chinese working group on migration that will become operational in the very new future.

V

The Russian-Chinese Committee on Friendship, Peace and Development is a bilateral non-governmental friendship organization that has been created at the initiative of the heads of state of the two countries. Over the six years of its existence, the committee has contributed heavily to the development of bilateral non-governmental exchanges, the deepening of understanding between the two nations, the strengthening of traditional friendship and the social framework of Russian-Chinese relations.

The holding of the fifth plenary session of the committee in Beijing will become an important event in Russian-Chinese relations this year. The parties will cooperate closely in preparing the plenary session in order to ensure its success and will take energetic efforts to encourage contacts between young people, education and cultural figures, and businesses, and cooperation in the field of tourism.

VI

The modern world is undergoing complex and deep changes. Peace and development remain our era's priorities, peace-loving aspirations, hope for stability and progress are common objectives of people in all countries. However the international situation is still unstable, some old contradictions have not been resolved over a long period of time. Traditional and unorthodox security threats get mixed, the logic of force and the policy of unilateral actions introduce new factors of instability in the already unstable world. International terrorism has become a global threat and common evil.

Experience and reality show that in order to solve global problems affecting international security, stability and the future of universal development, and to counter common challenges, it is necessary for all states and nations to act jointly and strengthen international cooperation.

Russia and China advocate a multi-polar, just and democratic world order based on the mutually recognized principles of international law, harmonious and rational relations, and co-existence of different states. All countries, as they seek joint prosperity, should build their relations by respecting and taking into account mutual interests, encouraging and developing economic ties and interaction, assisting cultural exchanges and communication, exercising mutual trust in the sphere of security and readiness to interact, helping develop new approaches in this field that are based on equality, solidarity and mutual respect for each other's concerns. It is necessary to resolve disputes through dialogue and cooperation, strengthen and improve the system of international relations, ensure the central role of the United Nations in the modern world, and facilitate the implementation of different models of development. The tendency toward a multi-polar

world is a dominating one. At the same time it's a difficult process that requires joint international effort.

The parties note a broad coincidence of interests of Russia and China in international and regional affairs. The relations of partnership and strategic interaction between the two countries are of key importance as a major factor of international relations for the future of world politics, preservation of peace, maintenance of global security and stability. The Russian-Chinese partnership, including interaction of Russia and China within the UN and other multilateral forums is making a substantial contribution to the strengthening of international peace and security. Coordination of foreign policy efforts of the two countries on a broad range of questions of international life, pursued on a regular basis through different channels and at different levels, makes it possible to effectively contribute to solving global and regional problems of contemporary world.

The sides are declaring their readiness to continue holding consultations and interacting in international affairs, jointly with other interested states to make tireless efforts to establish a lasting peace and stability, to contribute to democratizing international relations.

VII

The parties stressed the priority of using peaceful methods of resolving disputes and crises on the basis of generally recognized principles of international law with the aim of settling global and regional questions on a multilateral basis.

The UN plays an irreplaceable role in the matter of maintaining peace in the whole world and stimulating concerted development. In the new situation when the unconditional compliance with the UN Charter is of exceptional importance, the parties are resolved to make further efforts aimed at strengthening the UN system.

The parties believe that, in the area of safeguarding international peace and security, the coordinating role must be played by the UN with its authority, universality and unique experience. It is necessary to make concerted efforts to build, with the UN playing the central role, a comprehensive system for opposing new challenges and threats for the purpose of ensuring international stability, security and predictable development. Such a system must meet the vital interests of each state, ensure a long-term socio-economic development and stability, correspond to the principle of indivisibility of international security, be based on norms and principles of international law, above all the UN Charter. It must have a global character, be the widest in scope, ensure the adoption of comprehensive solutions with account for interrelation between the new threats and challenges.

VIII

Russia and China maintain a permanent dialogue on the subject area of strategic stability. The sides are unanimous that in conditions of a new situation in the area of international security, the comprehensive maintenance of global strategic stability, active stimulation of the process of disarmament and the strengthening of multilateral control over arms, effective prevention of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the means of their delivery meet the interests of all states. The parties will continue to further strengthen the coordination and cooperation at all levels, contribute to building up international efforts in the above-listed areas. At the Conference on Disarmament, Russia and China have come out with a joint draft of the basis elements of a future international-legal agreement on preventing the deployment of weapons in outer space, the use or threat of force in regard to space objects. The parties will continue the appropriate work on these questions in cooperation with other states.

IX

Russia and China believe it is necessary in the near future to take measures to restore internal stability in Iraq. The priority task is to settle the humanitarian situation in that country. The sides agreed to continue efforts in this direction and to provide further help to the Iraqi people.

The parties state that the Iraqi crisis must be returned into the mainstream of political settlement within the UN framework. The central role in the post-war reconstruction of Iraq must be assigned to the United Nations. Russia and China are convinced that the appropriate settlement of the Iraqi problem -- one of the most complex in the modern world -- is possible only within the UN framework, based on the appropriate resolutions of the UN Security Council.

The parties believe that it is necessary to guarantee Iraq's sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity, to respect the will and the independent choice of the Iraqi people as well as its right to dispose of the natural resources of the country. The legitimate rights, interests and concerns of neighboring states and other interested parties must be accommodated in the process of post-war settlement and rehabilitation in Iraq.

From the moment of the emergence of the Iraqi crisis, Russia and China, together with the overwhelming majority of the countries of the world have consistently advocated its political, diplomatic settlement, and made vigorous efforts in this direction. This position has earned the respect and broad support of international public.

The parties believe that the interests of the entire world community require to make concerted efforts to minimize the damage done to international relations as a result of the war in Iraq. The optimum road for accomplishing the goal is through strengthening the role of multilateral mechanisms, above all the United Nations, in solving problems common to the entire world community, strengthening the international anti-terrorist cooperation, concerted countering of new threats and challenges on the lasting basis of international law.

X

Russia and China attach much significance to the strengthening of security and cooperation in the Asian-Pacific Region for the purposes of securing a stable development and wellbeing of all the states situated there. The parties reaffirm the readiness to continue efforts to establish in the APR a mechanism -- according with the regional specificities -- of cooperation aiming at securing regional stability and security as well as the enlargement of interaction with other states and regional organizations.

Russia and China invariably proceed from the assumption that the emergence of different bilateral and multilateral mechanisms ought to contribute to enhancing cooperation and agreement within the APR. Such mechanisms must complement each other in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, be based on accommodating the reciprocal interests and the commonality of approaches to solving the regional and global problems.

The parties believe that the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) on matters of security is a major arena of multilateral political dialogue in the region, and advocate its enhanced role on matters of safeguarding regional security. The parties reaffirm their readiness to closely interact within the ARF framework.

The parties believe that the purposes and principles of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization correspond to the modern tendencies of development and realities of the given region, its stability contributes to strengthening the regional security and stability. The Moscow summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will become a major milestone on the road of institutionalized emergence of the Organization and will create conditions for organizing its full-scale work from the beginning of 2004.

The parties state that preservation of peace and stability on Korean peninsula meets the security interests of the two countries and also the common aspirations of the international community. The scenarios of power pressure or the use of force to resolve the problems existing there are unacceptable.

The parties advocate the creation of a nuclear-free status of Korean peninsula and observance there of the regime of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Simultaneously the security of the DPRK must be guaranteed and favorable conditions must be established for its socio-economic development.

The parties believe that the key to resolving the problems of Korean peninsula is the political will of the parties involved solving the crisis by political and diplomatic methods. The parties will continue a close cooperation in the interests of peace, stability and development on Korean peninsula.