III.

WORK OF THE CHINA'S GOVERNMENT:
PRINCIPAL DOMESTIC TASKS FOR 2004*

The year 2004 is a crucial year for China’s reform and development. The main ideas and principal tasks for the work of the government are: to take Deng Xiaoping Theory and the important thought of Three Represents as our guide; to comprehensively put into practice the guidelines of the Party’s Sixteenth National Congress and the Third Plenary Session of its Sixteenth Central Committee; to make the most of the present important strategic opportunities while they last; to make development our top priority and adhere to the scientific viewpoint of development; to pay more attention to exercising macro-control, balancing the interests of all parties, putting people first, and promoting reform and innovation in accordance with the “five balanced aspects” (balancing urban and rural development, balancing development among regions, balancing economic and social development, balancing development of man and nature, and balancing domestic development and opening wider to the outside world); to concentrate on resolving prominent conflicts in economic and social development and acute problems concerning the vital interests of the people and properly balancing reform, development and stability; to promote all-round, balanced and sustainable development of the economy and society; and to coordinate the progress of socialist material, political and spiritual civilizations.

Culture and spiritual civilization. - It is necessary to energetically develop an advanced socialist culture. We will vigorously promote national spirit centered on patriotism and intensify the ideological and moral education of young people in particular. We must encourage the general public to participate in activities designed to promote spiritual civilization. We will strengthen basic-level cultural development in rural areas, urban communities and enterprises. We will spread scientific knowledge and promote a scientific spirit, a scientific and healthy lifestyle and good manners. We must further develop literature, art, the press, publishing, radio, film and television. We will follow a strategy of product excellence to provide more healthful, inspiring cultural works that people can enjoy. We will press ahead with formulating an overall plan for cultural restructuring and a program for cultural development. We should promote the reform of the system and innovation of the mechanisms of the cultural industry, give more support to non-profit cultural undertakings and improve our policy for the cultural industry to give a greater role to the market and ensure the simultaneous development of cultural undertakings and the cultural industry. We should do more to protect our cultural relics and archives as well as our natural and cultural heritage. We will continue to strengthen the development and management of the market for cultural products and the

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Internet, fight unremittingly against pornographic and illegal publications and actively conduct cultural exchanges with other countries...

**Socialist democracy and socialist legal system.** Concrete and prudent efforts will be made to promote political restructuring, develop socialist democracy and improve the socialist legal system. We will further expand democracy at the lowest levels of government, improve self-governance by villagers and urban residents, and respect the democratic rights of the government authorities and people at the lowest levels of government. We will uphold and improve the system of workers' conferences and other systems of democratic management practiced in government institutions and enterprises and protect the legitimate rights and interests of workers.

We will continue to carefully carry out work related to ethnic minorities, religious groups and overseas Chinese. We must fully implement the Party's ethnic policy and consolidate and develop socialist ethnic relations based on equality, solidarity and mutual assistance. In order to promote common prosperity and progress for all our ethnic groups, we will increase support for economic and social development in ethnic minority areas and intensify training of ethnic minorities in all fields of work. We will fully implement the Party's policy on freedom of religious belief, handle religious affairs in accordance with the law, help religious organizations adhere to the principle of independence and self-governance, and actively guide religions to adapt to socialist society. We will improve our work concerning overseas Chinese, their relatives in China and returned overseas Chinese, and fully utilize their unique role in promoting the reunification of the motherland and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The legislative work of the government will be strengthened. We will place greater emphasis on legislation concerning social management and public service. Priority should be given to legislation for dealing with emergencies, protecting farmers' rights and interests, safeguarding employment and social security and developing social undertakings...

The government is duty-bound to ensure peace and security for the people. We will further implement all measures to improve all facets of public security and press ahead with efforts to build a crime prevention and control system...

We take terrorism seriously and will intensify our battle against it. We will expand and deepen our battle against cults...

Our strong sense of responsibility for the state and the people compels us to effectively improve our work with regard to safety. We must strengthen oversight and administration to ensure production safety, carry out more special programs to address safety problems, implement preventive safety measures, and improve the system of responsibility for production safety...

**National defence and armed forces.** Stepping up efforts to modernize our national defense and armed forces is an important guarantee for safeguarding national security and building a moderately prosperous society in all respects. We will strengthen the building of our armed forces in keeping with the general requirements of "being qualified politically and competent militarily and having an excellent style of work, strict discipline and adequate logistic support." We will energetically carry forward military reforms with Chinese characteristics and work hard to take efforts to modernize our national defense and armed forces to a higher stage of development. As part of our strategy of using science and technology to build strong armed forces, we will focus on developing new and high technology...
weaponry and equipment, foster a new type of highly competent military personnel, and promote modernization of our armed forces with IT application as the main content and mechanization as the basis in order to enhance our overall defense capability under hi-tech conditions. We will adhere to the principle of running the army in accordance with the law and increase its standardization. We will continue to balance efforts to strengthen national defense and economic development and raise the overall effectiveness of efforts to strengthen defense. We will adhere to the principle of combining civilian and military production and letting military production reside in civilian production and vigorously promote the reform, adjustment and development of defense-related science, technology and industry to enhance our capability for independent innovation. We will work painstakingly to adjust and realign our military strength to ensure that the armed forces are reduced by 200,000 troops and that related tasks are completed by 2005. We will intensify our efforts to build and reform our military logistics apparatus and enhance our logistic support capability. We will make the People’s Armed Police more proficient and more capable of responding to emergencies. Education in national defense among the people will be intensified to raise their awareness of its importance. We will vigorously support the strengthening of national defense and the armed forces and we will build up the reserve forces and the militia to develop a fully functioning national defense mobilization system that is highly effective and can respond rapidly...

Stability of Hong Kong and Macao. - It is our unshakable goal to maintain the long-term stability and prosperity of Hong Kong and Macao. We will continue to uphold the principle of “one country, two systems,” according to which “Hong Kong people administer Hong Kong” and “Macao people administer Macao” with a high degree of autonomy, and we will act in strict accordance with the basic laws of the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions. We will give our full support to the chief executives and governments of the two regions in their administration in accordance with the law. We will unite as broadly as possible people from all walks of life in Hong Kong and Macao and effectively implement the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement between the mainland and Hong Kong and the mainland and Macao. We have full confidence in the future of Hong Kong and Macao.

China-Taiwan: peaceful reunification. - We will adhere to the basic principle of “peaceful reunification and one country, two systems” and, during this current stage, to the eight-point proposal for developing relations across the Taiwan Straits and promoting the peaceful reunification of the motherland. We will vigorously expand visits of individuals across the Straits and economic and cultural exchanges and energetically promote establishment of the “three direct links” between the two sides. We will protect the legitimate rights and interests of our Taiwan compatriots on the mainland in accordance with the law and continue to pursue the resumption of dialogue and negotiations between the two sides on the basis of the one-China principle. With the utmost sincerity, we will do everything possible to bring about the peaceful reunification of the motherland. We stand firmly opposed to any form of separatist activities aimed at “Taiwan independence” and will never allow anyone to split Taiwan from China by any means. We are convinced that with the unremitting efforts of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation, including our Taiwan compatriots, we will realize our common aspiration, the complete reunification of the motherland, as soon as possible.
China’s foreign policy of peace. - The international situation is continuing to undergo complex and profound changes. Peace and development remain the themes of our times. World multipolarization and economic globalization are making tortuous progress. Seeking peace and development and promoting cooperation and progress have become an irreversible historical trend. However, the tendency toward unilateralism is reemerging, local conflicts continue, international terrorist activity is rampant, the North-South gap is widening, and traditional and non-traditional security issues are intertwined. All these problems pose serious challenges to the people of all nations.

During this past year we followed an independent foreign policy of peace. We seized opportunities, responded to challenges, took the initiative, and made noticeable achievements in foreign affairs. We have won more understanding, trust, respect and support from the international community, and we enjoy higher status and greater influence in the international arena than ever before.

This year we will continue to hold high the banner of peace, development and cooperation, unswervingly pursue an independent foreign policy of peace, adhere to the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, increase friendly exchanges and cooperation with other countries, and strive to further improve international and neighboring environments.

We will continue to promote world multipolarization, advocate democracy in international relations and diversity in development models, and encourage the progress of economic globalization in a direction that benefits the common prosperity of all nations. We will adhere to a new concept of security based on mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and cooperation, and we will oppose hegemonism, power politics, and terrorism in all its manifestations. We will continue to work for a new international political and economic order that is fair and equitable.

We will continue our policy of friendship and partnership with our neighboring countries, deepen good-neighborly and friendly cooperation with all our neighbors and safeguard regional peace and stability. We will constantly strengthen our relations with developed countries, strive to seek out and expand areas of common interest, gradually settle existing differences through dialogue and consultation on an equal footing, and facilitate the steady development of our relations with developed countries.

We will actively engage in multilateral diplomacy and play a constructive role in the United Nations and other international and regional organizations.

The Chinese government and people will, as always, support the cause of justice for the whole human race and work tirelessly with the people of all other nations to safeguard world peace and promote common development.