

China Biological Chronology

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Last update: August 2013

2013-2006

16 April 2013

China's Information Office of the State Council releases "The Diversified Employment of China's Armed Forces" white paper. Biological weapons are only mentioned in passing, in the context of the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) Second Artillery Forces (strategic missile corps) better preparing its units to counter nuclear, biological and chemical threats.

—Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, "The Diversified Employment of China's Armed Forces," 16 April 2013, www.china.org.cn.

March 2012

The U.S. State Department releases its "Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments" report. In the section dealing with the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC), the report noted that "China engaged during the reporting period in biological activities with potential dual-use applications; however, the information did not establish that China is engaged in activities prohibited by the BWC."

—United States Department of State, "2012 Compliance Report – Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments," March 2012, www.state.gov.

August 2011

The U.S. State Department releases its "Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments" report. In the section dealing with the BWC, the report noted that "China engaged during the reporting period in biological activities with potential dual-use applications; however, the information did not establish that China is engaged in activities prohibited by the BWC."

—United States Department of State, "2011 Compliance Report – Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments," August 2011, www.state.gov.

31 March 2011

China's Information Office of the State Council releases its biennial publication on "China's National Defense in 2010." Regarding biological weapons, the report states that "China submits annual declarations of its confidence-building measures to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention in a timely manner, attends Meetings of State Parties and Meetings of Experts and related seminars, strengthens bio-security and disease surveillance, and carries out international exchanges and cooperation."

—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.

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



30 March 2011

Scientists create a system that predicts the dispersion pattern of a biological agent being released at any of a number of probable terrorist targets in the city of Beijing. Based on the location of the potential attack, the system estimates the wind direction in order to guide the police in directing evacuation.

—"Beijing Considers Evacuation Routes for BW Attack," Global Security Newswire, 31 March 2010, <http://gsn.nti.org>.

1 March 2011

The World Health Organization (WHO) conducts an assessment of China's State Food and Drug Administration (SFDA) and concludes that its regulatory framework is in compliance with international standards. This allows Chinese vaccine manufacturers to have their vaccines pre-approved by the WHO, which will allow them to be procured by the United Nations for supply to developing countries. According to statistics, "China has 36 vaccine-producing plants manufacturing 49 kinds of vaccine for 27 different diseases. It has an annual capacity of producing nearly 1 billion doses."

—World Health Organization, "China's State Food and Drug Administration Gets WHO Approval for Vaccine Regulatory System," 1 March 2011, www.who.int; "Regulation of Vaccines Passes Key Test," *China Daily*, 2 March 2011, www.lexis-nexis.com; Hepeng Jia, "International Recognition Helps Chinese Vaccine Industry," Royal Society of Chemistry, 17 March 2011, www.rsc.org.

July 2010

The U.S. State Department releases its "Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments" report. In the section dealing with the BWC, the report no longer asserts that China maintains an offensive BW program. It notes that China is likely engaging in dual use activities, which do not violate the BWC, though, "the voluntary BWC CBM declarations China has submitted have neither documented the offensive BW program it possessed prior to its accession to the BWC in 1984, nor documented that China has eliminated the program or any remaining biological munitions in accordance with the BWC."

—United States Department of State, "2010 Compliance Report – Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments," July 2010, www.state.gov.

June 2010

A report authored by researchers from the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies identifies 20 entities in China that supplied counterfeit Botulinum Neurotoxin (BoNT) and related beauty products to illicit markets. These companies could be producing or have access to real BoNT. Investigations have led to the shutdown of one counterfeit BoNT producer in Shanxi province, and another criminal operation was traced to southeast China.

—Ken Coleman and Raymond A. Zilinskas, "Fake Botox, Real Threat," *Scientific American*, June 2010, pp. 84-89, www.scientificamerican.com.

9 October 2009

Scientists at the Huazhong Agricultural University in Wuhan develop a protein that can be used as an antitoxin to neutralize the toxin produced by *Bacillus anthracis* as well as to stimulate the patient's immune system to produce antibodies. The agent would therefore act as both a treatment and a preventive measure.

—"Anthrax Vaccines: Researchers from Huazhong Agricultural University Describe Findings in Anthrax Vaccines," *Drug Week*, 9 October 2009, www.lexis-nexis.com; "New Anthrax Vaccine Candidate Announced in China," Global Security Newswire, 22 September 2010, gsn.nti.org.

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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 the 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>; "Singapore Troops Join China Drill," BBC, 19 June 2009, <http://news.bbc.co.uk>.

26 March 2009

Victims of Japanese biological weapons during World War II, along with their families establish the "Society for Victims of Japanese Germ Warfare," in the city of Yiwu, Zhejiang province. The stated purpose of the organization is the investigation of incidents of biological warfare by the Japanese and the support of victims of those incidents. The group is formed of victims who had previously tried and failed to win compensation and an apology from Japan in Japanese courts. The suits were thrown out of court in 2002 and 2005 respectively. Appeals for both cases were rejected in 2007.

—"Chinese Victims of Japanese Germ Warfare Set Up Society to Protect Rights," Xinhua, 26 March 2009, LexisNexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

January 2009

The PRC releases a new white paper on Chinese national defense. In a section on arms control it makes the following statement: "China observes in good faith its obligations under the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and supports the multilateral efforts aimed at strengthening the effectiveness of the Convention. China has actively participated in the meetings of the parties to the Convention and the meetings of experts in a pragmatic manner. China has already established a comprehensive legislation system for the implementation of the Convention, set up a national implementation focal point, and submitted its declarations regarding confidence-building measures to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention in a timely fashion. China has also strengthened bio-safety, bio-security and disease surveillance, and actively carried out related international exchanges and cooperation."

—"China's National Defense in 2008," White Paper of the Peoples Republic of China, www.china.org.cn.

30 October 2008

China unveils a new outline for military training and evaluation for Chinese chemical defense troops, military units who are also trained to deal with biological weapons incidents. 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 acts of chemical, biological, radiological or 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."

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



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

6-7 October 2008

Taiwan National Security Bureau chief, Tsai Chao Ming, speaking to a legislative committee of Parliament, accused China of developing the SARS virus as a biological weapon, and starting the 2002-2003 epidemic as part of a biological weapons campaign. He claimed that Taiwan had requested a full investigation of the SARS epidemic by the UN. The pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party further demanded that the government publicize all relevant intelligence information. The next day, Tsai is forced to retract his statement and publicly apologizes for what he terms a "gaffe." Despite this retraction some parliamentarians contended that the accusations were accurate. *[Note: Similar suggestions were made at the time of the SARS outbreak; however most international BW experts have dismissed the connection between SARS and BW since the virus is seen as a very ineffective BW agent.]*

— Ralph Jennings, "Taiwan suggests SARS was China warfare plot," Reuters, www.reuters.com; "Taiwan security chief apologises for Sars gaffe," Agence France-Presse/AsiaOne, <http://news.asiaone.com>.

17 July 2008

In preparation for the Olympic Games, the Bureau of Counterterrorism in 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 an attack.

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

7 June 2008

In preparation for the Beijing Olympics, the Chinese government has set up 40 different sites that will carry out biodefense. The anti-terrorist forces are comprised of 188 experts and focus on preparedness in the event of a biological attack. These sites are also equipped to respond to chemical, nuclear and radiological attacks as well as the spreading of infectious diseases.

—"Beijing Sets Up 40 Anti-Terror Crack Forces Ahead of Olympics," Xinhua News Agency, 7 June 2008, Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

24 April 2008

The PLA Military Training and Arms Department with the PLA Olympics security forces have jointly set up an anti-terrorist campaign to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological attacks. The "Manual of Preventing and Coping with Terrorist Attacks by Nuclear, Chemical, Biological Means" which was compiled in 2006 has been used in training and command exercises to prepare the military against nuclear, chemical and biological attacks.

—"PLA Olympic Security Forces Take Precautions Against Terror Attacks," *Zhongguo Xinwen She*, 24 April 2008, Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

22 February 2008

Police officials from China and seven other nations attend a five-day training in the Philippines focusing on appropriate responses to bioterrorism events. Police officials from Bhutan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand also attended the event.

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—"Eight Asian Nations Join Anti-Bioterrorism Training," Thai Press Reports, 22 February 2008, LexisNexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

14 December 2007

Tetracore Inc. is supplying China with biodefense technology to be used in the government's 2008 Olympics biodefense program. Under this \$160,000 contract, twenty-five boxes of biodefense strips have been sold to China which are engineered to detect biological agents such as anthrax and ricin.

—Vandana Sinha, "Tetracore Sends Its Biodefense Technology to China," *Washington Business Journal*, 14 December 2007, <http://washington.bizjournals.com>.

19 November 2007

In efforts to strengthen bio-safety practices China has increased security under its 2008 Olympic anti-terrorist campaign. Beijing authorities have required 27 veterinary labs to establish their own bio-safety committees that are aimed at stopping any leaks of biological materials that could be used in a terrorist attack.

—"Security Tightened At Germ Labs," *Chinadaily.com.cn*, 19 November 2007, Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

2 November 2007

Chinese scientists in Shanghai have developed adenovirus mediated Flt3L gene therapy as research progresses in cancer gene therapy and immunity. This recombinant DNA technology has dual-use applications as gene weapons are an emerging threat.

—"Cancer Gene Therapy, Reports Outline Cancer Gene Therapy Study Results from S. Hou et al." *Drug Week*, 2 November 2007, Lexis Nexis, www.lexis-nexis.com.

20 August 2007

A "Meeting of Experts," including representatives from 90 States Parties to the BWC and 5 signatory states, begins in Geneva to discuss strategies to strengthen the BWC. China sends a delegation headed by Ambassador Cheng Jingye, who reiterated China's support for the Implementation Support Unit and international cooperation in implementing the treaty. Ambassador Cheng stated, "China supports cooperation on national implementation at international, regional, and sub-regional levels. States Parties should, on the basis of equality, cooperation and mutual respect, provide assistance to those countries in need through technological exchanges, financial support and regional workshop[s], to help improve implementation capacity."

— Cheng Jingye, Statement at the Meeting of Experts to the Biological Weapons Convention, Geneva, August 20, 2007, www.china-un.ch; Richard Weitz, "Experts Offer Extraterritorial Enforcement of Domestic Laws, Tighter Export Controls, Regional Cooperation to Improve Implementation of Biological Weapons Convention," *WMD Insights*, October 2007, www.wmdinsights.com.

10 May 2007

In two decisions, Japan's Supreme Court ruled against Chinese plaintiffs suing the Japanese government for compensation for Japanese atrocities committed against China in World War II, including the use of biological weapons and human experimentation on Chinese citizens at the hands of a Japanese biological warfare unit (Unit 731). Ten of the 180 plaintiffs were survivors of the experiments, while the rest were relatives of victims. The plaintiffs denounced the court's decision as an injustice, and vowed to continue seeking compensation and a public apology.

— Hiroko Tabuchi, "Japan's Top Court Denies Compensation to Chinese over WWII Germ Warfare," Associated Press, May 10, 2007; in Lexis-Nexis, web.lexisnexis.com; "Germ Warfare Victims to Fight on for Redress," *China Daily*, 21 May 2007; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexisnexis.com>.

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1 April 2007

The Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Science, announces that it will be building China's first BSL-4 laboratory, to complement its already existing BSL-3 lab. ClimaPLUS, a French engineering and design company is chosen to build the BSL-4, and will base the Wuhan lab off of a P4 laboratory in Lyon, France. The Institute says that the facility will be ready in two years.

— "Wuhan Institute of Virology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)" Wuhan Branch, Chinese Academy of Sciences, 1 April 2007, english.whb.cas.cn; CLIMAPLUS, "Wuhan Virology Institute in China - Laboratory P4," www.climaplus.com.

29 December 2006

China releases national defense white paper that summarizes and reiterates major themes of 2005 white paper on arms control and nonproliferation. With respect to biological weapons, the document states, "China supports multilateral efforts aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Biological Weapons Convention. It has attended review conferences, annual meeting of States Parties and meetings of the Ad Hoc Group of Government Experts in an active and responsible manner. China has also submitted in a timely fashion [...] declarations regarding confidence-building measures under the [BWC]."

— 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.

20 November 2006

At the 6th Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC), Ambassador Cheng Jingye, head of the Chinese delegation at the conference, called on States Parties to participate more actively in voluntary confidence-building measures (CBMs). Ambassador Cheng also emphasized the need to strike a balance between nonproliferation of biological weapons materials and technology and the rights of developing nations to develop biotechnology industries, stating "Promotion of international exchanges and cooperation in the peaceful uses of biotechnology remains one of the objectives of the Convention. It should go in parallel with bio-arms control and non-proliferation and prevention of bio-terrorism." Among the accomplishments of the 6th Review Conference is the establishment of an Implementation Support Unit (ISU) at the UN.

— Cheng Jingye, Statement at the 6th Review Conference of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (BWC), Geneva, 20 November 2006, www.china-un.ch.

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. [...] We also continue to believe that China maintains some elements of an offensive BW capability in violation of its BWC obligations." 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; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

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



28 July 2006

The Chinese government amends its export control list for biological materials, adding 14 “viruses, toxins, bacteria and equipment” to the original list.

—“China to Tighten Biological Export Control,” *Xinhua News*, 28 July 2006, news.xinhuanet.com; Government of the People’s Republic of China, “Regulations of the People’s Republic of China on Export Control of Dual-Use Biological Agents and Related Equipment and Technologies,” 14 October 2002, english.gov.cn.

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, 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>.

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2005-2000

1 September 2005

The Information Office of China’s State Council issued a white paper entitled “China’s Endeavors for Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation.” The white paper reiterates China’s call for the complete prohibition and nonproliferation of biological weapons. China also calls for multilateral processes aimed at strengthening the BWC, as well as greater country participation in confidence-building measures (CBMs).

— Information Office of the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, “China’s Endeavors for Arms Control, Disarmament, and Non-Proliferation, Beijing, 1 September 2005, www.china.org.cn.

30 August 2005

The Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation and Disarmament Assessment report by the Bureau of Verification and Compliance states that China submitted inaccurate and misleading information in its voluntary annual BWC CBM data declaration.

— 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.

August 2005

The U.S. State Department releases its “Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments” report. In the section dealing with the BWC, the State Department “believes that China continues to maintain some elements of an offensive BW capability.” It notes that “Although China has submitted its voluntary annual BWC CBM data declarations every year and did so again in 2002 and 2003 we assess that the information submitted therein continues to be inaccurate and misleading. BWC CBMs since 1991 have called on the States Parties to declare, among other things, their past offensive activities, which China has not done. On the contrary, China insists it never had such a program at all.”

—United States Department of State, “2005 Compliance Report – Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments,” August 2005, www.state.gov.

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20 July 2005

In a statement, the Chinese foreign ministry called on Japan to acknowledge its use of biological warfare in China during WWII, and take appropriate measures to atone for its crimes. "Germ warfare is one of the serious crimes committed by the Japanese militarism during World War II. The Japanese government should hold an honest attitude to bear the responsibility...It should sincerely deal with the reasonable demands of the victims and properly handle this issue." The day before, the Tokyo High Court dismissed an appeal brought by 180 Chinese plaintiffs against the Japanese government seeking compensation for the harm sustained from Japanese biological weapons. The presiding judge in the case, Yukio Ota, acknowledged the use of biological weapons against China by Japan, but cited the lack of a legal mechanism for individuals to sue governments as a basis for the court's decision, stating there were "no rules that allow individuals to directly demand damages from perpetrating countries."

— "Japan High Court Rejects Damages for Chinese Germ Warfare Victims," Xinhua General News Service, 19 July, 2005; in Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com; "China Demands Japan Take Responsibility for Germ Warfare," Agence France Presse, 20 July 2005; Lexis-Nexis, www.lexisnexis.com.

8 December 2004

Chinese and European leaders hold their seventh summit meeting at The Hague. Together they issue the "China-EU Joint Declaration on Non-Proliferation and Arms Control." In regards to biological weapons, both sides agree that the prevention of biological weapons proliferation "should not hamper international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes while goals of peaceful utilization should not be used as a cover for proliferation." Both reaffirm their commitment to the Biological and Toxic Weapons Convention and promote universalization and active participation of countries in the Convention. They also promote "exchange of information, sharing expertise and cooperation" in bio-security and surveillance of epidemic diseases.

— "'Text' of China-EU Joint Declaration on Non-Proliferation, Arms Control," Xinhua News Agency via BBC Monitoring International Reports, 9 December 2004; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

6 December 2004

At the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Hu Xiaodi, Chinese Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs, speaks favorably of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC). He states that the BTWC "plays a key role in eliminating the threat of and preventing proliferation of biological weapons." Hu says that there is an urgency to strengthen the BTWC, given the increasing threat of bio-terrorism and the trans-boundary prevalence of infectious diseases. He points to the need for effective surveillance and response systems "taking into account [the] national situation and international standards and guidelines."

— "China Stresses Urgency of Strengthening Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention," Xinhua News Agency, 6 December 2004; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

11 November 2004

Taiwanese President Chen Shui-Bian pledges that Taiwan will never develop weapons of mass destruction and urges China to do the same. During a national security meeting, Chen pledges that Taiwan will never develop chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, and that such weapons should be kept out of the Taiwan Strait.

— "Chen Vows to Avoid WMDs, Urges China to do Same," *China Post*, 11 November 2004; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

22 October 2004

As a member of the "Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia" (CICA), an international security forum in Central Asia, China endorses "multilateral approaches based on the widest possible international support" to deal with security problems in the international arena. Regarding biological, chemical and nuclear

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weapons, the conference calls upon states to fulfill their respective obligations to disarmament and nonproliferation.

— Siddharth Varadarajan, "Asian Conference Approves CBMs," *The Hindu*, India, 24 October 2004; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

16 July 2004

The Department of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army issues a document titled "Provisions on the Appraisal of the Overall Protective Abilities for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Weapons off Divisions, Brigades and Regiments of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Land Army." The document lays out rules intended to strengthen the army's ability to defend itself against weapons of mass destruction.

— "Chinese Military Issues Document on Army's Defence against WMD," BBC Worldwide Monitoring/Xinhua News Agency, 16 July 2004; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

5 July 2004

China sends experts to a conference on terrorism in Kuala Lumpur. The conference is organized by the Japanese government and the Kuala Lumpur-based Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counter-Terrorism. Weapons experts, security officials and policy-makers discuss chemical and bioterrorism threats from terrorist groups such as al Qaeda and the Jemaah Islamiyah. The conference seeks to enhance East Asian security against bio-terrorism.

— "Japan, Malaysia to Co-Chair Forum on Bio-Terrorism 5 July," BBC Monitoring International Reports/Kyodo News Service, 29 June 2004; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>; Japan Center for International Exchange, Dialogue and Research Monitor, Inventory of Multilateral Meetings on Asia Pacific Security and Human Security Issues and Community Building, www.jcie.or.jp.

28 April 2004

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) unanimously adopts Resolution 1540 proposed by the United States to prevent weapons of mass destruction from reaching terrorists. The resolution requires that all member states legislate to prohibit the manufacture, acquisition, possession, development, transport, transfer and utilization of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons by individuals and non-government groups. As a permanent member of the UNSC, China adopts the resolution, but Wang Guangya, Chinese permanent representative to the UN, calls for guarantees that countries continue to be able to share dual-use scientific and technological knowledge, materials and equipment in a legitimate manner.

— "China's UN Envoy Urges Realization of Non-Proliferation Goal by Peaceful Means," BBC Monitoring Worldwide Reports, 29 April 2004; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

30-31 March 2004

China participates in the Second Inter-Sessional Meeting on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime, a two-day meeting of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum (ARF) in Manila. The meeting aims to boost co-operation in 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; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

5 March 2004

Chinese and Japanese governments begin a seminar on improving export controls. The seminar will explore methods to quickly detect products that can be used for the production of biological, chemical and nuclear

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weapons. China and Japan are conducting the seminar as part of coordinated efforts to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

— "Japan, China Team Up on WMD Control," *International Herald Tribune*, Japan, 1 March 2004; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

3 December 2003

China publishes a White Paper entitled "China's Nonproliferation Policy and Measures." According to the White Paper, China plans to enforce several procedures and penalties to prevent companies from transferring dual-use items that could be used to make biological and chemical weapons.

— Ted Anthony, "China Promises to Follow International Rules on Weapons Proliferation, Sideswipes U.S.," Associated Press, 3 December 2003; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

10 November 2003

At a meeting of the signatory countries of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, Hu Xiaodi, Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs of China, asks that signatories strengthen their national legislation, formulate bio-security standards and measures to prevent pathogens and toxins from being used to produce biological weapons. Hu also points to the importance of working under a multilateral framework, given the rapid development of biotechnology and a growing threat of bio-terrorism. He states that in maintaining its obligations to the Convention, China will continue to strengthen legislation, law enforcement, and monitoring in related areas.

— "Chinese Envoy Urges Countries to Strengthen Laws against Bio-Weapons," BBC Monitoring Reports, 12 November 2003; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

18-21 October 2003

China and Pakistan conduct a three-day naval exercise off the coast of Shanghai in the East China Sea. The combined maneuvers feature surface vessels and submarines, and include decontamination exercises for nuclear, biological and chemicals weapons attacks. About 1,600 personnel from both sides are involved in the exercises.

— Munir Ahmad, "Pakistan, China Begin Joint Naval Exercise," Associated Press, 21 October 2003; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.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, sponsored by the Asian Network of Major Cities 21. Participating cities are Bangkok, Beijing, Delhi, Hanoi, Jakarta, Seoul, Singapore, Taipei, and Tokyo. Participants discuss the 1995 chemical attack in the Tokyo subway by Aum Shinrikyo along with the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak, and other issues.

— "Asian cities' meeting discusses crisis management," Xinhua News Service, 2 September 2003; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

24 July 2003

In her testimony before the U.S.-China Commission, Assistant Secretary for Verification and Compliance, Paula A. DeSutter, states: "The United States believes that China's consistent claims that it has never researched, produced or possessed BW are simply not true - and that China still retains its BW program."

— 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.state.gov.

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June 2003

A report entitled Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation and Disarmament Assessment issued by the State Department's Bureau of Verification and Compliance states that the United States believes China was not in compliance with its BWC obligations and continues to maintain some elements of an offensive biological warfare program.

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

19 February 2003

China's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation (MOFTEC) holds a training course for local trade officials on export controls of nuclear, biological and chemical dual-use items, as well as missile-related technology.

— "China Improves Nonproliferation Export Control," Xinhua News Agency, 19 February 2003; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

9 December 2002

China publishes its 2002 Defense White Paper. It states the following regarding biological weapons and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC): "China has always stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of biological weapons...It supports the enhancement of the effectiveness of the BTWC in a comprehensive manner...China regrets that the protocol has not been reached as scheduled and that the Fifth Review Conference of the Convention had to adjourn. China holds that the conclusion of a protocol with balanced contents and effective measures through multi-lateral negotiations remains the best way to enhance the effectiveness of the BTWC."

— China's National Defense in 2002, Arms Control and Disarmament, Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, December 2002, www.china.org.cn.

14 October 2002

China promulgates the Regulations of the People's Republic of China on Export Control of Dual-Use Biological Agents and Related Equipment and Technologies in order to strengthen its export controls. The law is designed to prevent the illicit trade of dual-use equipment, and permits only licensed entities to participate in such trade.

— "China Serious on Non-Proliferation Issue: FM Spokesperson," Xinhua News Agency, 22 October 2002; "U.S. Welcomes Chinese Rules on Dual-Use Biological Exports," Agence France Presse, 18 October 2002; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

29 August 2002

A Tokyo district court rejects a lawsuit by 180 Chinese nationals. The plaintiffs consist of victims and relatives of victims of Japan's infamous Unit 731 that used biological agents on Chinese prisoners of war and civilians during World War II. The plaintiffs demanded ¥10 million each (\$83,300) in damages and an apology from the government. The Japanese government rejects the allegations, saying that the individuals have no right to seek compensation under international law. In Beijing, Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Kong Quan says that China has "noted" the ruling and that "the Japanese side should take an attitude responsible for history and reality."

— "Japan Should 'Take Responsibility' for Wartime Atrocities: China," Agence France Presse, 20 August 2002; "Japanese Court Rejects a Bio Terror Suit by Chinese Victims," Deutsche Presse-Agentur, 27 August 2002; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

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9 May 2002

The U.S. government imposes sanctions on eight Chinese companies for engaging in transfers of sensitive equipment under multilateral export control lists to the Middle East. The sales occurred between September 2000 and October 2001 and violated the Iran-Iraq Nonproliferation Act of 1992. The Act bars U.S. companies from conducting business with the sanctioned entities or issuing export licenses to them for two years. U.S. State Department Spokesperson Richard Boucher confirms that the sanctions are solely against the Chinese companies and not the Chinese government. Two of the sanctioned companies, Jiangsu Yongli Chemicals and Technology Import and Export Corp. and CMEC Machinery and Electric Equipment Import and Export Co. Ltd. denied the U.S. allegations.

— George Gedda, "U.S. to Impose Sanctions Against Chinese and Indian Companies over Equipment Sales to Middle East," Associated Press, 19 July 2002; Joe McDonald, "Chinese Companies Deny U.S. Weapons-Proliferation Accusations," Associated Press, 25 July 2002; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>; Federal Register, 16 May 2002, Vol. 67 No. 95.

24 January 2002

On 24 January, the United States imposes sanctions on three Chinese companies under the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000, which prohibits the sale of chemical and biological weapons components and missile technology to Iran. According to U.S. State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher, restrictions are placed on 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 for the transfer to Iran of equipment and technology that is used for the manufacture of chemical and biological weapons. Boucher says that the equipment is on the Australia Group control list. On 25 January, China's Foreign Ministry issues a statement condemning U.S. sanctions.

— "China Urges End to U.S. Sanctions over Weapons Trade with Iran," Agence France Presse, 25 January 2002; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

24 January 2002

China's Ministry of Public Health is rapidly establishing measures to counter a biochemical terrorist attack by increasing response preparedness and tightening controls over biochemical agents. The Disease Prevention Control Center in Beijing plans to draft a "Nationwide Anthrax and Biological Terrorist Emergency Response and Control Plan." The center is also publishing an "Anthrax Prevention and Treatment Manual" and a "Biological Terrorism Response Manual."

— Yuan Ye, "China Will Strengthen Measures to Protect against Biological and Chemical Terrorist Activities," Xinhua News Agency, Hong Kong, 24 January 2002; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

19 November 2001

At the Fifth Review Conference of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, Ambassador Sha Zukang, Head of the Chinese Delegation, states the following: "The Chinese delegation has always maintained that the conclusion of a balanced and effective protocol through multilateral negotiations is the only feasible way to comprehensively strengthen the effectiveness of the Convention. We are glad to note that the overwhelming majority of States parties still stand for maintaining the existing mechanism and mandate of the ad hoc group and support continued negotiations within the multilateral framework in order to formulate measures for strengthening the effectiveness of the Convention. My delegation is willing to make joint efforts with the international community to this end." Sha also states that China will continue to "promote international cooperation and exchange with other states parties in the peaceful use of biological technology" and it strives to follow "confidence-building measures as agreed upon at previous Review Conferences of the Convention."

— "Statement by Ambassador SHA Zukang, Head of the Chinese Delegation, at the 5th Review Conference of the

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States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction," Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland, 19 November 2001, www.china-un.ch.

26 June 2001

Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Iranian President Mohammad Khatami sign a joint communiqué in Beijing, 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.

— "Full text of China-Iran Joint Communiqué," Xinhua News Agency, 22 June 2000; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

8 May 2001

China's Ambassador Hu Xiaodi addresses the 23rd Session of the Ad Hoc Group of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention where he discusses the working paper on export controls submitted by the Chinese delegation. Hu states that, "regulating and guiding international trade in the biological field by establishing a multilateral export control mechanism is not only conducive to the nonproliferation objective of the Convention and the Protocol, but also beneficial to the promotion of economic and trade cooperation and exchanges for peaceful purposes in the biological field." The working paper advocates free transfers of biological agents and equipment for peaceful purposes among States parties. The paper adds that states should have the right to "assess the nonproliferation credentials" of other states.

— Statement By Ambassador Hu Xiaodi Head of the Chinese Delegation at the 23rd Session of the BTWC Ad Hoc Group, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland, 8 May 2001, Geneva, www.china-un.ch.

23 April 2001

Hu Xiaodi, China's Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs, addresses the 23rd Session of the Ad Hoc Group of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Speaking on the Chairman's composite text for the convention's protocol, Hu states that the new text "takes into account concerns of developing countries only as a symbolic gesture and is therefore one-sided". He adds, "Some parts of the composite text are of discriminatory nature and some so-called compromise proposals deviate from the purposes and objectives of the Convention. Therefore, the composite text is still far from a final agreement."

— Statement by Ambassador Hu Xiaodi Head of the Chinese Delegation at the 23rd Session of the BTWC Ad Hoc Group, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland, 23 April 2001, www.china-un.ch.

12 February 2001

Hu Xiaodi, China's Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs, makes a statement to the Ad Hoc Group of States parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention where he stresses that while China consistently promotes the banning of all biological weapons, it also advocates the sharing of biotechnology to "benefit all mankind." Hu calls for an increased effectiveness of the protocol.

— "Statement by Mr. Hu Xiaodi, Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs and Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China, At the Ad Hoc Group of States parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention," Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva and Other International Organizations in Switzerland, 12 February 2001, Geneva, www.china-un.ch.

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2001

The U.S. State Department releases its “Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments” report. In the section dealing with the BWC, the State Department states that “China’s declarations under the voluntary BWC-related declarations for confidence building purposes are believed to be inaccurate and incomplete, and there are some reports that China may retain elements of its biological warfare program. China’s CBM declarations have not resolved U.S. concerns about this program, and there are strong indications that China probably maintains its offensive program.”

—United States Department of State, “2001 Compliance Report – Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control, Nonproliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments,” 2001, www.state.gov.

21 November 2000

Regarding China’s position on nonproliferation of biological weapons, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Sun Yuxi states that as a signatory to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, China has faithfully carried out its obligations to the treaty.

— "Statement Supporting Weapons Nonproliferation Issued," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, part 3 Asia-Pacific, China and Hong Kong, China, U.S.A./Nonproliferation, FE/D4005/G, 23 November 2000; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

15 November 2000

Yoshio Shinozuka, a member of Japan's Unit 731 that conducted biological experiments on Chinese prisoners of war during World War II, testifies in a Tokyo District Court as part of a case where nearly 180 Chinese citizens sued the Japanese government for compensation and an apology for the deaths of family members allegedly killed by Unit 731. In his testimony, Shinozuka states that the Japanese military performed open vivisections without anesthesia in northern China. He also participated in the mass production of cholera, dysentery and typhoid germs in the city of Harbin. A former Unit 731 pilot also testifies that he spread plague-infected fleas from an airplane over Hangzhou in 1940 and Nanjing in 1941.

— Mari Yamaguchi, "Japanese Biological Warfare Veteran Says He Cut Human 'Logs,'" Associated Press, 15 November 2000; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

16 October 2000

The Information Office of the State Council of China publishes a White Paper titled "China's National Defense in 2000." The document states that "As a state party to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), China has fully and conscientiously fulfilled its obligations under the Convention and has, on an annual basis, provided the United Nations with information on confidence-building measures in this regard." It also states China's position that, in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the BTWC, a rational, just and feasible verification mechanism is necessary. China also supports the promotion of international cooperation and exchanges among state parties in the field of biotechnology for purposes not prohibited by the Convention.

— "China Issues White Paper on National Defence Policy," Xinhua News Agency, 16 October 2000; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

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1999-1995

13 October 1999

Shen Guofang, China's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, states that China supports the strengthening of Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, but desires that a fair verification mechanism be developed. Shen states, "It is imperative that the balance between the rights and obligations of states parties be taken into full account so as to prevent the abusive use of verification and to protect the legitimate security and economic interests of all states parties."

— "China Backs Efforts to Strengthen BTWC," Xinhua News Agency, 13 October 1999; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

14 October 1998

At the 53rd Session of the UN General Assembly, China's Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs Li Changhe reiterates China's support for international conventions to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Li points out that as a signatory to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, as well as the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, China has honored its obligations and has imposed strict control on the export of sensitive items and their production technologies and equipment. Li reiterates that while China supports nonproliferation efforts, Beijing simultaneously supports a state's rights to pursue science and technology for peaceful uses.

— "China against Proliferation of Mass Destruction Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, 14 October 1998; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

27 July 1998

The Information Office of the State Council of China publishes its 1998 Defense White Paper. The paper states that China has "fully and conscientiously fulfilled its obligations" under the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and has cooperated to strengthen confidence-building measures in accordance with the decisions of the review conferences. With regards to verification measures, the White Paper states that verifications measures should "protect the rightful commercial and security secrets of states parties." The report also states China's position that "international cooperation and exchanges among states parties in the sphere of bio-technology for peaceful purposes should also be strengthened."

— "Full Text of White Paper on China's National Defense," Xinhua News Agency, 27 July 1998; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

29 June 1998

Shenzhen's municipal government and the Chinese Academy of Military Medical Sciences sign an agreement to build a biological engineering industrial base in Shenzhen, a municipality in southern China. The academy is the top medical science research body of the People's Liberation Army.

— "China: Bio-Engineering Base to be Built in Shenzhen," Xinhua News Agency, 29 June 1998; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

27 June 1998

Chinese President Jiang Zemin and U.S. President Bill Clinton release a joint statement on the "Protocol to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention." Both sides express strong support for the complete global elimination

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of biological weapons and a determination to abide by the provisions of the convention. They support efforts to strengthen the effectiveness of the convention and improve transparency while simultaneously protecting sensitive commercial information and legitimate security needs.

— "Joint Statement on Biological Weapons," Xinhua News Agency, 27 June 1998; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

17 January 1998

China sends three weapons experts in missile, biological and chemical weapons to Iraq to join the United Nations Special Committee (UNSCOM) for weapons verifications. This is the first time for the Chinese experts to participate in UNSCOM work.

— "First Chinese Experts to Join Weapons Verification in Iraq," Xinhua News Agency, 17 January 2004; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

2 September 1997

The United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency publishes a report stating the view that China "probably" has an active biological weapons program. The report lists six other suspected countries, Syria, Iran, Iraq, Egypt, Libya and Russia, all of which have signed the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

— "Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control Agreements," U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Reports, 1997, <http://dosfan.lib.uic.edu>; "Britain Researching into "Anti-Germ Warfare" Tactics," *Straits Times* (Singapore), 2 September 1997, Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

11 August 1997

A group of 108 Chinese citizens files a lawsuit at the Tokyo District Court against the Japanese government demanding compensation of 1.08 billion yen for damages caused by Japanese germ warfare in China during World War II.

— "New Evidence of Germ Warfare Emerges as Chinese Group Demands Compensation," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts/Kyodo News Service, 11 August 1997; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

July-December 1996

A report by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) published in July 1997 identifies China as a major supplier of nuclear, chemical and biological technology during the last half of 1996. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tang Guoqiang subsequently calls the CIA report "purely fictitious and concocted."

— "China Denies U.S. Allegations on Weapons, Supercomputers," Associated Press, 3 July 1997; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

6 December 1996

Talks on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention end in Geneva without any progress on a verification protocol to prevent countries from cheating. While developed countries push for a verification protocol to be ready by mid-1998, China and Iraq, among other countries, desire a deadline of 2001.

— "Biological Arms Talks End with no Progress on Verification: Diplomats," Agence France Presse, 6 December 1996; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

28 November 1996

At the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention in Geneva, Ambassador Sha Zukang, the Head of the Chinese Delegation, expresses that China is in favor of a complete ban on biological weapons, but with regards to treaty verification, he adds, "We hold that [verification] can only be set up in light of the specific features of biological

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weapons. Bio-technology has an extremely wide application in the civil fields of industry, agriculture, health and medicine and food processing, which differs drastically from technologies for nuclear and chemical weapons." The Chinese delegation does not support verification methods that will "interfere with peaceful uses of bio-technologies and even harm the legitimate commercial confidentiality."

— "China to Support Strengthening of Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, Part 3 Asia-Pacific; China; Internal Affairs; Military; FE/D2781/G; 28 November 1996; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

13 August 1996

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Shen Guofang calls "groundless" the allegations by the United States Congress and Arms Control and Disarmament Agency that China has violated its commitments to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. Shen states, "We call on the related U.S. agency to stop this kind of irresponsible action immediately, and do its bit for the promotion of Sino-U.S. ties."

— "Allegation on China Violating International Treaties Groundless: FM Spokesperson," Xinhua News Agency, 13 August 1996; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

25 April 1996

Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Russian President Boris Yeltsin sign a joint statement in Beijing in which both sides call for an accelerated progress in further improving the effectiveness of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

— "China, Russia Issue Joint Statement," Xinhua News Agency, 25 April 1996; in Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

16 November 1995

A White Paper on Arms Control and Disarmament released by the Information Office of the State Council of China notes that the country has consistently advocated a complete prohibition and thorough destruction of biological weapons, opposing the production of biological weapons by any country and their proliferation in any form by any country.

— China: Arms Control and Disarmament, V. Strict Control over the Transfer of Sensitive Materials and Military Equipment, Information Office of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, November 1995; www.china.org.cn.

15-18 July 1995

The U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency publishes its report entitled "Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control Agreements," which accuses China of violating the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. It also accuses China of maintaining an offensive biological weapons program throughout the 1980's. Shen Guofang, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, calls U.S. allegations "groundless."

— "U.S. Accuses China, Russia, of Biological Arms Violations," Agence France Presse, 15 July 1995; "U.S. Accusation against China of Making Biological Weapons Groundless," Xinhua News Agency, 18 July 1995; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

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1994-1980

29 December 1994

Mainland China's media discloses the existence of a biological defense facility in northern China. The unit, controlled by the People's Liberation Army, is named the "Military Medical Research Institute of the Beijing Military Region." It has over 20 research personnel, and over the past decade has completed 61 research projects. Fu Genming, head of the unit, states, "The PLA does not have an offensive 'biological warfare unit' or 'bacteriological warfare unit.' But it does have an anti-biological warfare unit. All of our research is open to the whole world."

— "'Ming Pao' Profiles Beijing's Profit-Making Anti-Biological Warfare Unit," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, Part 3 Asia-Pacific, China, Internal Affairs, FE/2188/G, 29 December 1994; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

November 1994

A World War II Japanese germ warfare laboratory is discovered in Guangdong Province.

— "Germ Warfare Lab Found in South China," United Press International, 23 November 1994; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

22 September 1994

Hou Zhitong, head of the Chinese delegation to the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons, expresses China's support for a ban on biological weapons. At the special conference of the states party to the Conference, he declares that "China is devoted to the strengthening of the universality and effectiveness of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention and is in favor of adopting appropriate measures to achieve this purpose." Hou also expresses China's support for trade and transfer of technology in peaceful uses of biotechnology.

— "Official Stresses Compliance with Biological Weapons Ban," Xinhua News Agency, Beijing, 22 September 1994; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

4 March 1993

Beijing denies U.S. government claims in the *Washington Post* on 24 February 1993 that stated the country has an active biological weapons program. A Foreign Ministry spokesperson in Beijing calls the report "groundless."

— Rajiv Chandra, "China: Beijing Denies it has Revived Germ Warfare Program," IPS-Inter Press Service, 4 March 1993; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

24-25 February 1993

On February 24, U.S. intelligence officials state it is highly probable that China has an active and expanding offensive germ weapons program, following speculation that two civilian-run biological research centers are actually controlled by the Chinese military. According to one intelligence official, the White House "was concerned about the foreign policy sensitivity of revealing this information" during congressional debates regarding U.S.-China relations and renewing most-favored-nation trade status to China. While testifying before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on 25 February, CIA Director James Woolsey confirms the possibility of an offensive biological weapons program in China, but declines to comment any further in public.

— R. Jeffrey Smith, "China May Have Revived Germ Weapons Program, U.S. Officials Say," *Washington Post*, 24

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February 1993; "Peking May Have Biological Weapons Program: CIA Chief," Central News Agency, Taiwan, 14 October 1993; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

23 October 1992

During his visit to China, Japanese Emperor Akihito expresses his deep regret for Japanese war crimes committed against the Chinese during World War II. He states, "There was an unfortunate period, in which my country inflicted great suffering on the people of China. I deeply deplore this."

— Masanori Kikuta, "Emperor Regrets Military Past, Avoids Open Apology," Kyodo News Service, 23 October 1992; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

30 May 1992

Officials from China attend a two-day meeting in Washington, D.C. along with representatives from France, Russia, the United States and the United Kingdom. At the meeting, the five nuclear states commit to not transfer nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, ballistic missiles, or relevant technology to non-nuclear states.

— "Big 5 Agree to Halt Spread of Mass-destruction Weapons," Japan Economic Newswire, 30 May 1992; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

16 December 1991

During a visit to India, Chinese Premier Li Peng signs a joint communiqué with Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, in which both sides agree that "efforts should be made to check the arms race and realize effective disarmament. The current process of disarmament should lead to the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons."

— "Full Text of Sino-Indian Joint Communiqué," Xinhua News Agency, 16 December 1991; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

25 September 1991

In a working paper presented to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Review Conference, China states that it "has never developed, produced, stockpiled or otherwise acquired or retained biological agents, toxins, or weapons equipment or means of delivery for them."

— "China Calls for Reasonable, Effective Arms Control," Xinhua News Agency, 25 September 1991; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>; "Explanation by the Government of the PRC on its Observance of the Convention of the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction," Working Paper, Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention 3rd Review Conference 1991, BTWC/CONF.III/3/Add.1.

25 September 1991

At the 46th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen states that no country should seek armaments in excess of its reasonable defense requirements. He reiterates China's support for a Middle East free of all weapons of mass destruction, including biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, stating that arms control in the Middle East is linked directly to the regional peace process. He reconfirms China's support for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of all weapons of mass destruction.

— "China Calls for Reasonable, Effective Arms Control," Xinhua News Agency, 25 September 1991; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>; "Explanation by the Government of the PRC on its Observance of the Convention of the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction," Working Paper, Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Third Review Conference 1991, BTWC/CONF.III/3/Add.1.

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9 July 1991

China and Iran issue a joint statement during Chinese Premier Li Peng's visit to Tehran. Along with Iranian leaders, Ayatollah Khomeini and President Rafsanjani, both sides declare that they 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; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.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 Soviet Union at the request of Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev. Both sides declare that they stand for strengthening the enforcement of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

— "Full Text of Sino-Soviet Joint Communiqué," Xinhua News Agency, 19 May 1991; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

17 October 1990

Reaffirming China's official stance on weapons of mass destruction, Hou Zhitong, China's Ambassador to United Nations, tells the First Committee of the UN General Assembly that China has consistently opposed arms races and stands for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear, space, chemical and biological weapons.

— "China on Disarmament Issues," Xinhua News Agency, 17 October 1990; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

15 November 1984

China accedes to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

— Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Website, Administered by the Department of Peace Studies of the University of Bradford at the request of the President of the 5th Review Conference, www.opbw.org.

13 August 1982

An exhibition of photographs showing bacteriological warfare committed by Japan's Unit 731 is inaugurated in Tokyo. Near the exhibition hall, Sadao Koshi, the driver for General Shiro Ishii from 1939 to 1945, provides first hand accounts of killing of prisoners of war with poison gas and toxic chemicals to visitors to the museum.

Note: General Ishii, a biologist, was Commander of Unit 731.

— "Tokyo Exhibition on Japanese Troops' Atrocities in China," Xinhua News Agency, 13 August 1982; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

1980s

In a report entitled "Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control Agreements," the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) claims that China maintains an offensive biological program, which includes the development, production, stockpiling or other acquisition or maintenance of biological warfare agents. The Pentagon also publishes a similar paper entitled "Proliferation: Threat and Response," which claims that China's biological warfare program includes the manufacture of infectious micro-organisms and toxins.

— "Adherence to and Compliance with Arms Control Agreements," U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C., <http://dosfan.lib.uic.edu>; "U.S. Accuses China, Russia, of Biological

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Arms Violations," Agence France Presse, 15 July 1995; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>; "Proliferation: Threat and Response," Office of the Secretary of Defense, April 1996, www.defenselink.mil.

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1979-1930

13 July 1952

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

1951-1953

Dozens of American prisoners of war (POW) captured during the Korean War reportedly may have been used for biological and medical experiments in a secret Chinese facility in Northeastern China. According to later reports, POWs are subjected to torture and tests using germ warfare. Sources for the report include a Defense Department investigation, an East European military source as well as the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Note: U.S. officials visiting Beijing in May 1992 question Chinese officials about the report, but China does not confirm the existence of the facility.

— "American POWs May Have Been Subjected to Experiments in China: Report," Agence France Presse, 3 July 1992; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>; Melissa Healey, "MIAs May Have Been Used as Test Subjects in China Servicemen: A U.S. delegation went to Beijing in May to inquire into the fate of Korean War soldiers," *Los Angeles Times*, Part A, Foreign Desk, p. 1, 3 July 1992.

1950s

China conducts research on biological products such as vaccines as a precautionary measure against bacteriological warfare, as well as to wipe out epidemic diseases.

— "Biological Products Playing Important Role," Xinhua News Agency, 14 January 1991; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

1941

The Japanese army spreads plague-infected fleas from an airplane over Nanjing.

— Mari Yamaguchi, "Japanese Biological Warfare Veteran Says He Cut Human 'Logs,'" Associated Press, 15 November 2000; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

27 October 1940

According to a Kyodo News Service report, a Japanese warplane sprays plague germ-infected wheat and corn over the city of Ningbo.

— "400 Chinese Killed in Germ Warfare in China-Japan War," Japan Economic Newswire/Kyodo News Service, 10 January 1993; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

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1940

The Japanese army spreads plague-infected fleas from an airplane over Hangzhou.

— Mari Yamaguchi, "Japanese Biological Warfare Veteran Says He Cut Human 'Logs,'" Associated Press, 15 November 2000; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

1939

Between 3,000 and 20,000 refugees from Guangdong and Hong Kong are killed in a series of bacteriological experiments at a Japanese military laboratory called Bo 8609. The estimates are based on research by historians at the Guangdong Academy of Social Science. Until 1994, it was believed that victims in Canton [Guangzhou] died from starvation and sickness.

— "Germ Warfare Lab Found in South China," United Press International, 23 November 1994; Kevin Rafferty, "'Up to 20,000 Died' in Japanese Germ Warfare Laboratory," *The Guardian* (London), Foreign, p. 18, 24 November 1994; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

August 1938

Japan's Unit 731 sprays cholera germs in Beijing killing more than 300 people.

— "Research Published on Japanese Bacteriological Warfare," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, Part 3 Asia-Pacific, China, Foreign Relations, 16 August 1995; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

1937-1945

World War II era documents of the Japanese Army's general staff and medical officers show that the army plans to target several areas of the Asia-Pacific region with biological bombs, according to a report by Kyodo News Service. Target cities are located in Australia, India, Samoa, Burma, New Guinea, Hawaii, Guam, and Saipan.

— "Former Japanese Army Targeted Pacific for Germ Bombs," Kyodo News Service, 28 November 1993; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

1937-1945

According to a Kyodo News Service report, the Japanese Imperial Army sprays germ-contaminated fleas over Zhejiang Province in Central China.

— "400 Chinese Killed in Germ Warfare in China-Japan War," Japan Economic Newswire/Kyodo News Service, 10 January 1993; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

1933-1945

A society for the history of the Pacific war in Tokyo's private Keio University discovers "highly confidential" documents of Japan's Unit 731 in a used bookstore in August 1984. The documents describe microbial experiments conducted on Chinese prisoners of war (POW). According to the documents, more than 3,000 persons, mostly Chinese, were used for live experiments at a center in Harbin in northeast China during World War II. POWs were shot with bacterial shells, including tetanus bacilli, to measure muscle changes.

— "Reports Found in Tokyo Reveal War Crimes in China," Xinhua News Agency, 15 August 1984; "Documents on Germ-Poison Tests on POW's Discovered," Kyodo News Service, 15 August 1984; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

24 September 1931 - 5 August 1940

Japan conducts virulence tests of anthrax bacillus on Chinese subjects, according to Japanese army germ warfare records found in China in 2001. China's Harbin Medical Sciences University confirms the records as original

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documents belonging to the Japanese army during World War II.

— "Original Records of Japanese Germ Tests Discovered in China, Researcher Says," BBC Summary of World Broadcasts, Part 3 Asia-Pacific, China and Hong Kong, China, Labor Unrest, FE/D4012/G; Lexis-Nexis, <http://web.lexis-nexis.com>.

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