

The interview
by the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the UN
Andrey Denisov
to be published in “Economic Daily of China”

Question: What can you say on the Russia-China strategic partnership and its place in international affairs?

Ambassador: Partner relationships between Russia and China have a great international significance. It is a good example of how two major states belonging to different sociopolitical and cultural-civilizational models have managed to find mutually acceptable solutions to the immensely complex and delicate problems inherited from history, in the first place, the border issue, and to work out a model of peaceful and good-neighborly coexistence.

Russian-Chinese relations have reached a qualitatively new level, that of comprehensive partnership and strategic cooperation. The two countries and peoples have managed, to use the apt phrase of architect of Chinese reforms Deng Xiaoping, to "end the past and open up the future."

The Russian-Chinese partnership is a strategic course, devoid of any momentary considerations of expediency. It has a comprehensive and equal character, and is bringing real benefits to the peoples of our two countries. It is quite understandable that in the center of the joint efforts of Russia and China are the tasks of ensuring peace, stability, security and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region, where the military-political, economic and other vital interests of many states are closely intertwined and where, unfortunately, quite a few hot spots still exist.

Question: Is there any progress in bilateral economic cooperation?

Ambassador: Progress is evident in Russian-Chinese trade and economic cooperation, which forms the material basis for our partnership and strategic cooperation. Trade has doubled in the last three years and reached 20 billion US dollars in 2004. In the coming years there are all the conditions for considerable growth in mutual trade. The leaders of the two countries confirmed the determination of their countries to increase the share of high-tech products in bilateral trade and bring mutual trade to \$60 billion by the year 2010.

An important landmark was the successful completion of the Russian-Chinese talks on the question of Russia's accession to the WTO. Our two countries' membership in the WTO will impart to this organization a truly worldwide character and will contribute to the further development of business cooperation between Russia and China.

Question: What is the main point, the basis of Russian-Chinese interaction and coordination within the UN?

Ambassador: Russia and China are two great powers and Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council. In recent years the emergence at the global and regional levels of new acute international problems, challenges and threats has predetermined a multitude of new points of contact and spheres of real cooperation for Russia and China. A fruitful bilateral partnership in international affairs is based on the similarity of national interests of Russia and China, on the identity of approaches of Moscow and Beijing to the key global problems - future world pattern, strategic stability, central role of the United Nation, in international affairs and so on. Given the attempts to use the globalization for gaining unilateral economic and geopolitical advantages, the upholding by Russia and China of the principles of multilateralism in international affairs, respect for sovereignty of states and the rights of peoples to an independent choice of their development road has a special importance.

The positions of Russia and China on fundamental issues of the world order and key international problems, such as Iraq, Middle East, Afghanistan, and the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, coincide or are close. Our countries continued to cooperate at the Conference on Disarmament Conference, particularly on the non-militarization of outer space. Interaction on regional affairs, primarily within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), strengthened.

Russia and China are unanimous in their determination to undertake, both on a bilateral and multilateral basis, meaningful and effective practical steps to fight international terrorism and the drug trafficking. To sum up, not only did the Russian-Chinese relations secure the interests of the two countries, but they became an important factor facilitating peace, stability and economic development both in the Asian-Pacific Region and in the entire world.

The fight against international terrorism is one of the principal areas of our active cooperation, which is successfully developing both in a bilateral format and within the United Nations and the Regional Antiterrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). One of the first SCO documents was the Convention on the Combating of Terrorism, Extremism and Separatism, which was adopted in June 2001, that is several months before the events of September 11, 2001 in New York.

We hope that the Russian-Chinese partnership will continue to make significant contribution to strengthening of international peace, stability and cooperation in a multipolar world.