

**RUSSIAN-CHINESE COOPERATION
AS A FACTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STABILITY**

Speech by Ambassador Andrey I. Denisov,
Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations
at the symposium “A Dialogue on Russia and China Today”
Lehman College, March 25, 2006

Dear colleagues,

Ladies and gentlemen,

This symposium is taking place in a historic moment for our two countries. The Russian-Chinese Summit has just finished in Beijing and the Year of Russia in China was formally opened. 29 different documents of pragmatic nature were signed at the Summit. The Russian delegation took part in the Russian-Chinese Economic Forum and in the opening of the Russian Information Center in Beijing. All that demonstrates that our countries have achieved a very high level of interaction.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that in the many centuries of history of Russian-Chinese relations the current period is one of the best. Ten years ago our countries proclaimed the policy of strategic partnership and five years ago the Treaty on Good Neighborly Relations, Friendship and Cooperation was signed. Our relations are based on the principle of equality and mutual benefit, they are free from ideological influences and dynamically develop in political, economic, energy, humanitarian and other spheres.

On October 14, 2004, after almost forty years of negotiations, Russia and China signed the Additional Agreement on the Russian-Chinese State Border in its Eastern Part. Our countries declared that they have no territorial claims to each other. For the first time in the history of our relations the full delimitation of the border between our

countries was made. The demarcation of the border should be completed in 2007. All that, of course, contributed to a higher level of trust between our countries.

Today there are no major political problems between Russia and China which could complicate our bilateral relations.

In 2005 both countries started executing the Plan of Action to Implement the Treaty on Good Neighborly Relations, Friendship and Cooperation for the years 2005 – 2008. This is the first comprehensive bilateral document, which determines development of the Russian-Chinese relations in specific areas: political, commercial and economic, scientific, cultural and humanitarian.

In recent years we have steadily deepened our bilateral interaction in international affairs. I should mention here the Joint Declaration on International Order in the 21st Century signed between Russia and China in July 2005. Our countries coordinate efforts on various international problems like the UN reform, Middle East settlement, Iran's nuclear problem and non-proliferation of mass destruction weapons. We also work together to fight international terrorism, separatism, religious extremism, trans-border crime and drug trafficking. Russia and China attach great importance to the Shanghai Organization of Cooperation.

I would like to emphasize that the history of relations between our two countries shows very clearly that coordination and cooperation between Russia and China is a stabilizing factor in world affairs. The reason for that is the approach that our two countries take to resolving the contemporary global and regional problems. Rather than imposing our point of view and flexing our muscles, we consistently support the political and diplomatic approach to conflict resolution. We respect our partners' interests and expect them to respect our interests and our sovereignty, too. Finally, both Russia and China firmly support a truly democratic system of international relations based on equality of opportunities for all countries, large and small.

Like our Chinese partners, we are preoccupied by the fact that the construction of the new international order for the twenty-first century is taking place slowly and unevenly. On the one hand, globalization is opening up new, unprecedented opportunities for humanity. On the other hand, it engenders serious contradictions which affect all the areas of human life. Countries have become far more interdependent while their security and prosperity are now inseparable. We face serious challenges of cross-border, global nature. The practice of double standards is having a negative impact on world affairs. Serious problems remain in the area of arms control and nuclear non-proliferation. We can also see certain symptoms of a conflict between civilizations. And it is not only terrorists and all kinds of extremists who should be blamed for that, but also ideology-driven approaches to international relations, attempts to ‘export democracy’ using force and to impose one’s own cultural and social standards on others.

Russia and China support strengthening the legal foundations of international politics. Our countries are interested in maintaining international law and order and have repeatedly spoken in favour of a balanced reform of the United Nations and its Security Council on the basis of a broad consensus among the Member States. We have also spoken in favour of strengthening strategic stability and the international nuclear non-proliferation. I could say even more: the effectiveness of the international community’s response to the threats to security and sustainable development (posed by international terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, organized crime, drugs trafficking, environmental degradation, poverty and epidemics) depends to a great extent on how Russia and China work together.

With their fast growing economies, Russia and China are having an ever growing impact on the formation of the new international economic order. In this process, we try to make non-discriminatory principles the basis for the world trade and financial relations.

Russia and China have traditionally promoted ideas of interethnic and inter-religious tolerance and supported international efforts to maintain peace and harmony between civilizations. Our two countries are themselves an example of the open international partnership, not conditioned by membership in a closed alliance or bloc. The strategic cooperation between Russia and China is transparent, is not directed against any other country, and makes a real contribution to improving the world order.

The vast majority of countries share these approaches and recognize the need for broad-based dialogue on the world order in the twenty-first century. I am therefore certain that Russia's and China's role in global politics will be growing, our constructive positions on international arena will be in higher demand and the number of those who share our views will increase.