

For Public Release

Summary: On February 21, OPB/[redacted] spoke with PRC Deputy Chief of Mission, Zhao Yong. They discussed the Global Security Initiative Concept Paper issued by the PRC MFA, foreign interference,

â€¢ Global Security Initiative Concept Paper: [redacted]

[redacted] stated that Canada welcomes China's thoughtful introduction of new concepts, as well as its desire to play a more meaningful role in the multilateral system and be a responsible actor on the world stage. She shared that Canada would welcome greater detail on several points: 1) how the PRC intends to implement the concepts introduced in the Concept Paper and what they will look like in reality; 2) the important values that would underpin the proposed ideas; 3) whether China will stand by its commitment to principles like national sovereignty in the context of China's unclear position vis-à-vis the war in Ukraine and Chinese foreign interference activities in Canada. On the former issue, she reiterated that Canada is looking for China to play a leadership role and use its relationship with Russia to end the war in Ukraine. She asserted that Russia has violated Ukraine's national sovereignty in the worst possible way, yet China's record on Russia's actions remains unclear. She indicated that while GAC will closely examine the Concept Paper, Canada will approach this paper from a position of doubt.

â€¢ Foreign interference: [redacted] China's opposition to media reports about alleged PRC foreign interference activities in the 2021 General Election.

[redacted] noted that this issue has generated concern at the highest levels of the Canadian government. She submitted that it is PRC foreign interference activities, not Canadian actions, that are harming bilateral relations and eroding trust, and that it would be difficult to bring relations back on track amid numerous examples of PRC foreign interference activities in Canada. She reminded him that all foreign governments must keep a low profile during Canadian elections so as not to be perceived as interfering in democratic processes. She urged PRC diplomatic personnel to exercise utmost caution and refrain from engaging in any activities that might constitute interference, such as expressing a preference for certain candidates.

â€¢ [redacted] asserted that Canada has many trade policy issues to discuss with Taiwan, and that any engagement would be consistent with Canada's One China Policy as it allows for economic and commercial exchanges.

â€¢ [redacted]

â€¢ [redacted] informed Zhao that Canada would not be issuing a diplomatic visa to [redacted]

â€¢ [redacted]

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Consulted: OPB/ [redacted]
Approved: OPB/ [redacted]