

For Public Release



UNCLASSIFIED

Meeting with QIN Gang, State Councillor and Minister of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China

[Chin G-ah-ng]

Date, time and location (if applicable) of meeting. In person OR virtual and language of meeting (flag if there will be interpretation)

Context

-
- You last met Minister Qin on the margins of the G20 Foreign Ministers' ministerial on March 2, 2023. Interaction focussed on sending strong messages on foreign interference.

Objectives

- Convey desire for de-escalation and stability in bilateral relationship, while making clear that the source of the difficulties lies with China.
- Seek clemency for Canadians sentenced to death in China and closure of legal cases for the two Michaels as important trust-building measures.
- Convey concern over foreign interference, tacit support for Russia, and other issues.

Talking points

Top-line messages:

Bilateral relations:

- Despite the challenges over the past year, Canada continues to seek open channels of communication between our two governments.
- I would welcome your ideas on how we can stabilize our relationship.
- I would also welcome your department's assistance to facilitate access for Ambassador May in China. This will help both sides execute an ambitious bilateral agenda.

Responsive, if Minister puts onus on Canada to fix bilateral relations:

- Canada did not ask for foreign interference activities, overseas police stations, or the surveillance balloon to dominate the bilateral agenda. These issues came about as a result of actions taken by your government.
- I would ask your government to reflect on its own responsibilities and accountabilities.
- On human rights, Canada has not interfered; I sincerely hope you are not establishing a parallel between the illegitimate and sometimes illegal actions of your government on Canadian soil and our statements at the UN. China's acceptance of the UN Charter creates certain obligations for China that the international community can legitimately call out.
- We also do not find it helpful when China ascribes problems in the bilateral relationship to the U.S. The issues between our two countries are our own, and should be addressed on their merits.

Death penalty cases:

- The safety of Canadians abroad is a priority for the Government of Canada.
-
- Any execution of a Canadian citizen will have an indelible impact on Canadians perception of China, and further stress the bilateral relationship.

(DCB use) Date

[APG]

(DCB use) Approved by Firstname Lastname
Title

For Public Release



UNCLASSIFIED

- I seek your assistance in relaying our request for clemency to the highest level.

Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor residual issues:

Foreign interference:

- Canada is deeply concerned by evidence of foreign interference emanating from China, including malicious cyber activities, disinformation, intimidation and harassment, threats to Canada's economic security, election interference, the establishment of overseas police stations, and espionage.
- This will get more difficult before it gets better; we need PRC to recognize our determination to resist attempts by any foreign government to harass Canadians with diaspora links, or to undermine our democratic institutions.

Responsive, Foreign Influence Transparency Registry:

- The Government of Canada continues to use its existing tools to counter foreign interference threats, and consider what new tools may be required.
- Canada is considering bringing forward legislation to introduce a Foreign Influence Transparency Registry.
- The objective of this registry would be to capture otherwise non-transparent foreign influence, where individuals or organizations are seeking to influence Canadian political or governmental processes on behalf of foreign entities.
- We are mindful of the importance of ensuring any legislation is country-agnostic and is consistent with Canada's obligations in the context of the Vienna Conventions.

Ukraine:

- We again call on China to fulfill its responsibility as a global power and P5 member to influence Russia to end its invasion of Ukraine, and fully respect the sovereignty of Ukrainian territory.
- China's refusal to condemn the invasion of a sovereign country and its amplification of Russian disinformation has had a negative effect on China's global credibility and reputation.
- We appreciate China's commitment not to send weapons to Russia, who is the aggressor in the conflict.

Human rights and forced labour:

- The human rights situation in China remains of grave concern to Canada, especially that of Chinese people in Tibet, Xinjiang, and Hong Kong.
- We again call on the Chinese government to respect its human rights obligations.
- We expect Canadian companies operating abroad to abide by all relevant laws, to respect human rights in their operations, and to ensure that their supply chains are free of products made by forced labour. Canada has recently introduced country-agnostic legislation to protect against the use of forced labour and child labour in supply chains.
- We hope that China will take the issue seriously, as our goal is to conduct business in a better, fairer, more responsible way.

Environment:

- We would like to further our co-operation on the environment, following the establishment of the Kunming-Montréal Global Biodiversity Framework in December 2022.

(DCB use) Date

[APG]

(DCB use) Approved by Firstname Lastname
Title

For Public Release



UNCLASSIFIED

Indo-Pacific Strategy:

- Canada's Indo-Pacific Strategy outlines our intent to increase engagement in the region. Our interactions with regional actors should be seen in this context.

Time permitting:**South and East China Seas:**

- Canada is concerned by China's escalatory and destabilizing actions across the South and East China Seas.
- We oppose the militarization of disputed features and the use of navy, coast guard, and maritime militia vessels to intimidate and threaten ships of other states.
- We have been clear that the 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration South China Sea decision is binding upon the parties. We are concerned by China's continued unwillingness to accept the ruling and again call on China to implement the decision in accordance with its obligations under international law.
- We are pleased to support the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in helping to advance a comprehensive Code of Conduct for the South China Sea.

General Responsives:

Background

(DCB use) Date

[APG]

(DCB use) Approved by Firstname Lastname
Title

For Public Release



UNCLASSIFIED

Foreign Influence Transparency Registry: The Government of Canada intends to introduce a Foreign Influence Transparency and Accountability Act (FITAA). The precise timing remains to be confirmed, but legislation is not expected to be introduced before Fall 2023. The FITAA would combat malign, non-transparent foreign influence in Canada by establishing registration requirements for individuals or organizations acting at the direction of, or in association with, a foreign principal to engage in foreign influence activities. Certain exemptions would apply, including for diplomatic agents, consular officials, officials from international organizations, and foreign government employees acting in their official capacity.

The legislation is country-agnostic would be administered by an Independent Commissioner with powers to conduct investigations and promote compliance through tools including administrative monetary penalties. For the most serious contraventions, the Commissioner would be able to refer the matter to a law enforcement agency. While the proposed legislation reflects a "made in Canada" model, it draws upon best practices and lessons learned from allied partners who have established similar registries, including the United Kingdom, Australia, and the United States.

Ukraine: Despite China's profession of neutrality about the war in Ukraine, its actions make clear that it is supportive of Russia. These actions include China's refusal to characterize Russia's actions as an invasion; its endorsement of Russia's claim that the U.S. and NATO expansion are to blame; and its amplification of Russian disinformation. Despite increasing co-operation between China and Russia, including increased supplies of Russian oil to China at a discount, the evidence is that, up to this point, China has not provided Russia with lethal assistance in the war. China's 12-point position paper on the war, released on Feb. 24, 2023, has been met with skepticism in the West and has failed to gain traction. Western leaders have been particularly skeptical of China's calls for a ceasefire, in the paper and elsewhere, which they fear would crystallize Russia's gains. President Xi's phone call with President Zelenskyy on April 26 was welcome if overdue, but did not signal a fundamental shift in China's position. The visit by China's envoy, Li Hui, to Russia, Ukraine, and other European countries from May 16-26 did not make any visible impact in changing positions on either the Russian or the Ukrainian side. China is nevertheless using these efforts to cast itself as a neutral party pushing for peace, as opposed to the West, which it accuses of "fanning the flames" of the crisis.

Human rights and forced labour: There is a growing body of evidence in the UN system of ongoing human rights violations across China. Most recently in March 2023, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reviewed the protection of these rights in China and presented strong recommendations to the Chinese government, including abolishing "the coerced residential (boarding) school system imposed on Tibetan children" and putting an end to human rights violations in Xinjiang. On May 3, the Canadian Parliament passed Bill S-211, a country-agnostic effort to deal with forced labour and child labour in supply chains.

South and East China Seas: Regional tensions have heightened as China has pursued a more assertive policy to advance its claims through a number of tactics such as repeated entries by naval, coast guard and militia vessels in disputed waters, notably off the coasts of Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. China has also conducted land reclamation at an unprecedented scale and constructed military facilities on multiple disputed features and artificial islands. A proposed Code of Conduct between ASEAN and China aims to manage tensions in the South China Sea. Progress on negotiations has been slow since they began in 2017, in part due to China's preference that disputes be resolved bilaterally between claimants.

(DCB use) Date

[APG]

(DCB use) Approved by Firstname Lastname
Title

For Public Release



UNCLASSIFIED

Departmental officer attending: Name/symbol/telephone number

(DCB use) Date

[APG]

(DCB use) Approved by Firstname Lastname
Title

For Public Release



UNCLASSIFIED

Appendix – Biography



- Born in Tianjin municipality.
- Began diplomatic career in 1988 working as a staff member for the Beijing Service Bureau for Diplomatic Missions.
- In 1992, transitioned to the MFA to work in the Department of Western European Affairs.
- Served as counselor, and later, minister, at the Chinese embassy in the U.K. from 2010 to 2011.
- Served as director-general of the Protocol Department from 2014 to 2017. In his last year in that role, he concurrently served as assistant minister of foreign affairs.
- In 2018, appointed Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- In 2021, appointed China's ambassador to the United States.
- Elected as a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in October 2022.
- Appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs on Dec. 30, 2022.
- Appointed State Councillor on March 12, 2023.

(DCB use) Date

[APG]

(DCB use) Approved by Firstname Lastname
Title

For Public Release



UNCLASSIFIED

Mandatory for all:

Classification (also add to header):

Drafter symbol/last name:

Drafter phone number:

Consulted divisions:

Enclosures (list, if any):

Approvals and consultations:

IMPORTANT NOTE: ADMs are accountable for the notes, but may delegate approval to others. Ensure that consultations have been done across the department, as relevant.

Level	Symbol	Name
Director		
DG (if required)		
ADM (if required)		
Consulted (add lines if needed)	Symbol	Name

Checklist: Please verify and check all boxes before submitting the note.

Does the note include/illustrate:	
Why this meeting matters?	
What we want to get out of the meeting, including next steps on key issues?	
What bilateral and multilateral issues should/could be raised?	
Up-to-date fact sheet appended?	
Has the note been...:	
Thoroughly edited for grammar, acronyms, and to ensure it's clear and concise?	
Reviewed to ensure conformity with length requirements?	
Consulted with all relevant divisions?	
For MINE	
Check whether accompanying cue cards are to be prepared and that TPs align	

(DCB use) Date

[APG]

(DCB use) Approved by Firstname Lastname
Title