

China-ASEAN Relations:

## China 's "New Security Concept" and ASEAN

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During the third quarter China's Vice President Hu Jintao made state visits to Myanmar, Thailand, and Indonesia. In Jakarta, Hu enunciated a "new concept of security." China hosted visits from the President of Laos and Prime Minister of Vietnam. China's Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan attended the 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference, 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and other associated meetings before visiting Singapore. There was also increased activity this quarter regarding China's military relations with several regional states. In September China hosted an ARF meeting of heads of defense colleges, where its Defense Minister advocated China's "new concept of security." Talks with ASEAN on a South China Sea Code of Conduct continued but made little progress.

### High-Level Visits

China's Vice President Hu Jintao embarked on a five-nation tour including Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Belarus and Kazakhstan from July 16-30, while a variety of ASEAN officials visited China during the quarter.

**Myanmar.** Vice President Hu began the Southeast Asia leg of his overseas trip with a three-day state visit to Myanmar from July 16-18. Hu's visit marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Hu was received by and held substantive discussions with Maung Aye, Vice Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). Hu also called on Senior General Than Shwe, SPDC Chairman and Chief of Defense Services, and on Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, SPDC Secretary-1. In discussions, Myanmar reaffirmed its support for a "one-China policy" and that it will never develop official ties with Taiwan. On July 16, China's Deputy Trade and Economic Cooperation Minister, Chen Xinhua, and Myanmar Deputy National Planning and Economic Development Minister, Zaw Tun, signed three agreements dealing respectively with economic relations, science and technology, and tourism.

China and Myanmar have been *de facto* allies since 1988. Vice President Hu's trip must be seen as part of a long-term strategy to maintain China's influence in Yangon. China seeks to influence Myanmar foreign policy, protect overland trade routes, suppress illegal narcotics smuggling, and counter Indian influence. Chinese military assistance to Myanmar has in fact prompted a change in Indian policy from support for the pro-democracy movement to countering China. In this regard, General V.P. Malik, chief of

the Indian army, visited Myanmar twice this year. *[Editors' note: See this quarter's guest commentary, for more on India's relations both with ASEAN states and with China.]*

**Thailand.** Vice President Hu Jintao paid an official visit to Thailand from July 18-22 to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai used this occasion to raise the matter of illegal narcotics smuggling, an issue that is currently a very important national security concern in Bangkok. Chuan asked his guest for Chinese assistance in persuading Myanmar to undertake serious efforts to eradicate its vast illegal drug manufacturing and smuggling trade. Vice President Hu delivered a speech on China's economy and future development strategy to commercial groups and ethnic Chinese residents. Hu's visit to China is a reflection of the long-standing close ties between these two countries and is part of a strategy to ensure that one of America's military allies is susceptible to other avenues of influence.

In late August, Thailand's Deputy Foreign Minister, M.R. Sukhumbhand Boriphat, accompanied by the Secretary General of the National Security Council, Khachatphai Buruphat, and the Deputy Secretary of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, Sorasit Saengprasoet, visited China for discussions with the Ministry of Public Security on narcotics suppression in the Golden Triangle area. The Thai delegation held discussions with State Councilor Luo Gan, Deputy Minister of Internal Security Bai Jingfu, and Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi. The Chinese side responded to this representation by stressing the importance of adhering to the principles of the UN Charter and "mutual respect and mutual non-interference in the internal affairs of each other." Both sides, however, agreed to sign an agreement on collaboration in narcotics suppression at a later date.

**Indonesia.** Vice President Hu then journeyed to Indonesia for a four-day official visit to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations. He arrived first in Bali and visited Yogyakarta before arriving in Jakarta. Hu held talks with his counterpart Megawati Sukarnoputri, paid a courtesy call on President Abdurrahman Wahid, and held separate meetings with Amien Rais, chairman of the People's Consultative Assembly, and Akbar Tanjung, Speaker of the House of Representatives. During Hu's visit a treaty on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters was signed.

On July 24, Hu delivered a major speech to the Indonesian Council on World Affairs entitled "Working Hand in Hand to Build a Peaceful, Stable, Developed, and Prosperous Asia in the 21st Century." Hu called for concerted efforts in four areas: economic development, regional economic cooperation, fostering a "new security concept," and the establishment of a new equitable international political and economic order. Hu highlighted ASEAN-East Asian cooperation (ASEAN Plus Three) as a model of regional economic cooperation.

Hu predictably railed against the "Cold War mentality and hegemonism and power politics." He declared that the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence, the Ten Principles of the Bandung Conference, and the United Nations Charter formed the foundation stone for international norms governing state-to-state relations. According to Hu, "a new security concept that embraces the principles of equality, dialogue, trust and cooperation,

and a new security order should be established to ensure genuine mutual respect, mutual cooperation, consensus through consultation and peaceful settlement of disputes, rather than bullying, confrontation, and imposition of one's own will upon others. Only in that way can countries coexist in amity and secure their development."

China supports the Wahid government for multiple reasons. China hopes that in the long-term it can influence the "natural leader" of Southeast Asia, gain support for resisting outside interference in domestic affairs, and counter U.S. influence. China and Indonesia share a common concern to prevent outside interference--in Tibet and western China, and in Aceh, Muluku, and Papua respectively.

**Laos.** Khamtai Siphandon, Lao President and Secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, paid a state visit to China at the invitation of President and CCP General Secretary Jiang Zemin from July 13-15. Khamtai's visit came amidst reports of serious political divisions in the Lao leadership and a spate of unprecedented urban bombings. The two presidents discussed progress on negotiating a long-term cooperative framework along the lines of similar documents China has recently signed with regional states. Khamtai also held discussions with Premier Zhu Rongji and Li Peng, chairman of the National People's Congress Standing Committee. In discussions with Zhu Rongji, Khamtai explored "new ways and new ideas" for cooperation and projects which have "market demand," "economic returns," and would benefit the long-term growth of the Lao economy. Laos seeks economic, political, and ideological support from both Vietnam and China in order to maintain the current communist regime in power.

**Vietnam.** Since the July signing of a bilateral trade agreement between Vietnam and the United States, Vietnam has shown keen interest in how China will implement a similar accord and manage its accession into the World Trade Organization. Vietnam dispatched a number of delegations to China to study both the practical and ideological aspects of this process. For example, Politburo member Nguyen Minh Triet visited Beijing, Dalian, Guangzhou, Shanghai, and Shenyang in July "to learn from China's experiences." Politburo member and Minister of Public Security, Le Minh Huong, paid a separate visit that month as a guest of the Ministry of State Security. Finally, a delegation from China's Hainan province was received in Hanoi by Politburo member and ideological watchdog, Nguyen Duc Binh.

The most important Vietnamese delegation was that led by Prime Minister Phan Van Khai who visited Beijing from September 25-28 for discussions with his counterpart Premier Zhu Rongji. Just prior to his trip, Vietnam hosted the latest round of negotiations with China on demarcating the Gulf of Tonkin. At the conclusion of these talks no major developments were announced but both sides pledged to speed up their negotiations so as to reach an agreement before the end of the year.

According to *Xinhua*, the main purpose of Khai's working visit was "to review trade and economic cooperation... [and] discuss directions and measures to further promote bilateral trade and economic relations..." Both sides had earlier set a target of raising two-way trade to \$2 billion in value during 2000. On the eve of Khai's visit it was

announced that during the first seven months two-way trade had reached \$1.3 billion, indicating that the target could be exceeded.

Phan Van Khai was accompanied by his Industry Minister, and deputy ministers for Planning and Investment, Finance, Trade, and State Bank, and a large number of government officials, specialists, journalists, and businessmen. The two premiers discussed a number of economic, investment, and trade topics including Chinese aid to industrial projects (electricity, textile, and copper) and the future signing of a fishery agreement once negotiations on demarcating the Tonkin Gulf have been concluded. Premier Zhu once again pointed out that trade relations had not reached their full potential and that more needed to be done to make economic ties more effective. Both leaders agreed that it was in their mutual interests to speed up and reach a maritime demarcation agreement by the end of the year. The next round of discussions is scheduled for October in Beijing.

Khai also held meetings with National People's Congress Chairman Li Peng and President Jiang Zemin. Khai and Jiang reportedly held identical views "on developing socialism according to their own circumstances and conditions." Jiang stated that China wanted to maintain close contacts and consultations with the Vietnamese leadership and was ready "to expand economic and trade cooperation." For his part, Khai observed that the present state of bilateral relations was "the best they have ever been in history" and that Vietnam would like "to learn from China's experiences in economic development."

Vietnam is presently preparing for its ninth party congress, scheduled for March 2001. The recently released draft Political Report makes clear that the VCP will pursue a "socialist orientation" while opening up and integrating with the world economy. China represents the only ideological bedfellow that offers legitimization for Vietnam's developmental path.

**Singapore.** Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan paid a three-day official visit to Singapore late July where he held discussions with his counterpart Jayakumar on enhancing their bilateral relations, especially in life sciences, information technology, culture, education, and legal affairs. The two ministers also discussed Sino-ASEAN relations, ASEAN-East Asia relations (ASEAN Plus Three), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, East Asia-Latin America Forum, and the forthcoming Asia-Europe conference. Tang also met with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew. During the course of Tang's visit, Singapore officials reaffirmed their support for a "one-China policy." However, Chinese anger was aroused in September when Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew visited Taiwan and held separate discussions with President Chen Shui-bian and with representatives of the Mainland Affairs Council, Strait Exchange Foundation, and the Kuomintang on cross-Straits ties.

### **ASEAN Post-Ministerial Meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> ARF, and ASEAN Plus Three**

Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan flew to Bangkok in July where he attended the 1st meeting of the foreign ministers of ASEAN and China, Japan, and South Korea; the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum; the 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference; and the

ASEAN-China dialogue. Tang met separately with his Thai, Vietnamese, and Indonesian counterparts. Tang used his speech to the ARF to criticize U.S. ballistic missile defense plans. Tang argued: “the Cold War mentality is still affecting the way some countries perceive world politics and international relations. Bilateral military alliances are consolidating. Multinational military exercises are increasing. Some people are hawking the theater missile defense (TMD) program against the tide of our times. Such developments are compromising the regional confidence-building efforts and aggravating the instability of the regional security.”

The meeting of the foreign ministers of the ten ASEAN states and China, Japan, and South Korea was the first ever held. Participants decided to make it a regular feature on the region’s political calendar. While previous meetings of ASEAN Plus Three officials have been focused on economic cooperation, this meetings signaled a shift to political and security concerns. The ASEAN Plus Three ministers reviewed and endorsed activities flowing from the Joint Statement on East Asian Cooperation adopted in Manila in late 1999. They also endorsed the Mekong Basin Development scheme, human resource development, illegal drugs suppression, and the invitation by the G-8 to consult with ASEAN prior to future summits. In the political realm, the foreign ministers welcomed the inter-Korean summit held in June and issued a separate declaration supporting the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national unity of Indonesia.

### **South China Sea Code of Conduct**

During the third quarter there were no publicly reported incidents between Philippine naval vessels and Chinese fishing boats in the area around Mischief Reef that were prevalent earlier. Philippines’ Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Laurel Baja, speaking to a forum commemorating twenty-five years of Sino-Philippine relations, said that conflicting territorial claims involving the Spratlys hinder Manila and Beijing from sustaining mutually beneficial ties, despite existing bilateral agreements on trade and investments. Baja suggested that bilateral relations could be promoted by “intensified and parallel exchanges that could take place in all levels among the government, military, defense, and security officials from the two countries.”

In a speech delivered in Jakarta in July, PRC Vice President Hu Jintao stated, “[China] has put forward the proposal of ‘shelving disputes and going for joint development’ in relation to the Spratlys question and has been actively participating in making a Code of Conduct for preserving peace and stability in the South China Sea.” China consistently opposes discussing South China Sea territorial conflicts in multilateral forms. According to an August 27 editorial in *The Bangkok Post*, when Thailand attempted to raise the Spratly Island question at the 7<sup>th</sup> ARF, “the Chinese slapped down the Thai proposal brusquely and rudely. Never, they threatened, will Beijing discuss the Spratlys in a forum--even though six nations claim the archipelago.”

Despite this objection, however, Chinese officials have discussed a Code of Conduct with their ASEAN counterparts. In August, China hosted the third meeting of the ASEAN-China working group on a Code of Conduct for the South China Sea in Dalian. This meeting discussed a consolidated draft Code that emerged from discussions held in Kuala

Lumpur in May. The new draft states that the Code should be applied to the Spratly Islands alone but officials are still working on a formulation that will satisfy both Vietnam (which wants the Paracels included) and China (which wants the Paracels excluded). China has also tried to insert wording which would in effect restrict U.S. military exercises in the “waters around” the Spratly Islands. China has also opposed wording that would restrict or prohibit construction on features in the area. China’s position is more vague, calling for restraint in “activities that might complicate and escalate disputes.” It was left to Vietnam, chair of the ASEAN Standing Committee for the next year, to declare that the China-ASEAN meeting in Dailan had “reached consensus on some major principles of the East Sea Code of Conduct... Differences, however, remained.” Chinese officials, for their part, called on “relevant countries to show political sincerity and flexibility” and labeled the Code a political not a legal document. “The major difficulties are not on the Chinese side,” according to a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson. According to Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Baja, the meeting failed to make progress because all of the officials taking part lacked a mandate. Baja suggested that the issue to taken up by higher-ranking officials, possibly at an ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting in Hanoi in October.

### **Military Relations**

During the third quarter China received military delegations from four regional states. In July, Achmad Sutjipto, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy, visited Beijing to holds talks with Fu Quanyou, Chief of the PLA General Staff, on strengthening cooperation between their two navies. Later that month China’s Defense Minister Chi Haotian met with his Vietnamese counterpart, Pham Van Tra. In August Lao Minister of National Defense, Choumali Saignakon, also held discussions with Chi Haotian in Beijing. In September, China announced a military assistance grant to Cambodia for personnel training valued at \$2.7 million. Later, Kun Kim, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, visited Beijing for discussions with Zhang Wannian, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission and Fu Quanyou, PLA Chief of the General Staff.

In July two Chinese naval ships, the guided missile destroyer *Shenzhen* and the supply ship *Nancang*, dropped anchor at Malaysia’s Port Klang for a four-day goodwill visit before deploying to Tanzania and South Africa. Rear Admiral Huang Jiang, PRC Chief of Staff of the South Sea Fleet, held discussions with Vice Admiral Datuk Sri Abu Bakar Addul Jamal, Chief of the Royal Malaysian Navy, during his stay.

Fifty-eight participants from twenty-one countries plus eight observers attended the 4<sup>th</sup> ARF meeting of the Heads of Defense Colleges held in Beijing from September 6-8. The main topics for discussion included Asia Pacific security, enhancing cooperation between defense colleges, war games and simulations, and strengthening education in the information age. The meeting was addressed by Chi Haotian, China’s Defense Minister, who argued in his opening address that the ARF’s stress on dialogue and consultation represented a “new security concept” and the trend of “multi-polarization” in the region. Chi noted that regional flash points still exist, “hegemonism and power politics have shown new traces of development” and “democracy and human rights” were being used

as excuses for intervention, and “separatism was gaining ground. All these will endanger or jeopardize the security and stability of the region. That’s why we advocate that all countries adopt the new security concept built upon equality, dialogue, mutual confidence, and cooperation.”

### **Policy Considerations**

China’s advocacy of a “new security concept” coincides with U.S. initiatives to enhance security through new multilateral activities involving the region’s military forces in training for peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance missions. China’s “new security concept” serves to promote further dialogue on confidence building measures. These include a seminar on defense conversion and a regional maritime information center. U.S. proposals are focused on more practical military-to-military exercises. U.S. officials are at pains to include China in their proposals. The United States must work hard to ensure that China and the U.S. proposals do not become a zero sum game. The U.S. will have to be more accommodating and sophisticated in its response to the “ASEAN way” and security multilateralism under ARF auspices.

*\*The views expressed in this article are those of the author and do not reflect the official policy or position of the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government.*

## **Chronology of China-ASEAN Relations July-September 2000**

**July 1, 2000:** Twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Thailand. Former Thai Prime Minister Anan visits China to participate in celebrations.

**July 6, 2000:** China and Vietnam exchange letters of ratification on their Land Border Treaty signed in December 1999.

**July 6-10, 2000:** A delegation of the Vietnam Communist Party (VCP) pays a visit to China at the invitation of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

**July 10, 2000:** Cambodian Minister of State and Co-Minister of Interior Affairs leads a delegation to Beijing.

**July 11, 2000:** Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy visits Beijing and holds talks with Chief of the PLA General Staff on strengthening cooperation between their two navies.

**July 11-12, 2000:** Le Minh Huong, Minister of Public Security and member of the VCP Politburo, visits Beijing.

**July 11-14, 2000:** Two Chinese naval ships pay a four-day goodwill visit to Malaysia.

**July 12, 2000:** *Voice of Vietnam* announces that China will provide \$300 million in official development aid to assist in the renovation and expansion of the Thai Nguyen Iron and Steel Company and the Ha Bac Chemical and Urea Company.

**July 13-15, 2000:** Khamtai Siphandon, Lao President and Secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party, pays a state visit to China at the invitation of PRC President Jiang Zemin.

**July 16-18, 2000:** Chinese Vice President Hu Jintao pays three-day official visit to Myanmar as guest of Maung Aye, Vice Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, signs economic, science-technology, and tourism agreements.

**July 18, 2000:** Indonesian Foreign Minister declares that Indonesia still supports a "one-China policy."

**July 18-22, 2000:** Hu Jintao pays an official visit to Thailand to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

**July 19, 2000:** Pham Van Tra, Minister of National Defense and member of the VCP Politburo, meets with a Chinese People's Liberation Army border military district delegation visiting Hanoi.

**July 21, 2000:** Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian meets with his Vietnamese counterpart, Pham Van Tra, in Beijing.

**July 22-25, 2000:** Hu Jintao makes a four-day official visit to Indonesia. Hu delivers a major speech that sets out China's "new concept of security." A treaty on mutual legal assistance on criminal matters is also signed.

**July 24-25, 2000:** 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Annual Ministerial Meeting is held in Bangkok. The Joint Communiqué reaffirms ASEAN's "one-China policy" and expresses the hope to see positive developments in cross-Strait relations.

**July 26, 2000:** The Chinese Export-Import Bank signs an agreement with Cambodia's Ministry of the Economy and Finance for a loan of U.S. \$11.9 million to finance a plywood factory.

**July 26, 2000:** Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan attends the 1st meeting of the foreign ministers of ASEAN and China, Japan, and South Korea in Bangkok. Tang meets separately with Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Niens.

**July 27, 2000:** Foreign Minister Tang attends the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum meeting in Bangkok.



**July 28, 2000:** Minister Tang attends the 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in Bangkok.

**July 28, 2000:** Minister Tang meets with his Indonesian counterpart, Alwi Shihab in Bangkok.

**July 29, 2000:** Minister Tang attends the ASEAN-China dialogue meeting in Bangkok

**July 29-Aug. 1, 2000:** Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank of the People's Republic of China pays a working visit to Laos.

**July 30, 2000:** Foreign Minister Tang pays reciprocal visit to Singapore and meets with Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

**Aug. 1, 2000:** Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defense visits China.

**Aug. 1, 2000:** The Bank of China recommences banking operations in Malaysia after a hiatus of more than forty years.

**Aug. 6-Sep. 16, 2000:** King Norodom Sihanouk goes to China for medical treatment. On 11<sup>th</sup> September President Jiang Zemin receives King Sihanouk at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse.

**Aug. 8, 2000:** Lt. Gen. Khin Nyunt, Secretary-1 of the Myanmar State Peace and Development Council, receives visiting Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister We Donghe.

**Aug. 9, 2000:** 21<sup>st</sup> session of the China-Philippine Joint Trade Commission meets in Beijing.

**Aug. 9-18, 2000:** Chinese Communist Youth League delegation visits Hanoi.

**Aug. 11, 2000:** President Tran Duc Luong accepts the credentials of China's new ambassador to Vietnam, Qi Jianguo.

**Aug. 14, 2000:** Yin Yun, Chairman of the Yunnan Province Chinese People's Congress, visits Cambodia and holds discussions with Prime Minister Hun Sen.

**Aug. 15, 2000:** A new border bridge linking Hekou city, Yunnan province and Lao Cai province in Vietnam is opened to traffic.

**Aug. 21, 2000:** Delegation of the All China Federation of Trade Unions pays working visit to Laos at invitation of the Lao Federation of Trade Unions.

**Aug. 24-25, 2000:** Third meeting of the ASEAN-China working group on a Code of Conduct for the South China Sea is held in Dalian.

**Aug. 27-Sep. 1, 2000:** Thailand's Deputy Foreign Minister accompanied by the Secretary General of the National Security Council and the Deputy Secretary of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board visits China for discussions with the Ministry of Public Security

on narcotics suppression in the Golden Triangle area. Both sides agree to sign an agreement on collaboration in narcotics suppression in October.

**Aug. 29, 2000:** National People's Congress Chairman Li Peng hosts a banquet in New York in honor of parliamentary leaders from ASEAN who are attending the Millennium Conference of Presiding Officers of Parliaments.

**Aug. 29, 2000:** Brunei Minister of Industry and Primary Products Resources visits Beijing for discussions on the forthcoming APEC meeting in Brunei.

**Aug. 30, 2000:** The *People's Daily News* announces that China, Thailand, and Vietnam will set up a joint Rice Pool to sell rice on the international market.

**Aug. 30, 2000:** Director-General of China's Defense Ministry visits Phnom Penh and announces Chinese military assistance for training purposes valued at \$2.7 million.

**Sept. 1, 2000:** Chinese leaders send separate greetings to Vietnam on the occasion of the 55th founding anniversary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

**Sept. 6-8, 2000:** China hosts the 4<sup>th</sup> ARF meeting of the Heads of Defense Colleges.

**Sept. 7-9, 2000:** Thai Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi attends the 4<sup>th</sup> China Investment and Trade Fair in Xiamen.

**Sept. 7-9, 2000:** China and Vietnam open new round of negotiations on sea border in Gulf of Tonkin at the assistant to the foreign minister level. On 13<sup>th</sup> Sep. it is announced that "the two countries have agreed to accelerate these negotiations... hoping to reach an early solution which is acceptable to both sides."

**Sept. 12-19, 2000:** Delegation of the VCP Office of the Central Committee pays a working visit to China as a guest of the CCP Central Committee.

**Sept. 17-20, 2000:** A CCP delegation attends the first International Conference of Asian Political Parties held in Manila.

**Sept. 19, 2000:** Singapore Minister of Communication and Information Technology, Yeo Cheow, visits Beijing.

**Sept. 21, 2000:** Vietnam's Minister of Industry Dang Vu Chu visits Beijing.

**Sept. 21, 2000:** Li Peng receives a delegation from Vietnam's National Assembly for discussions on social security legislation.

**Sept. 22, 2000:** Kun Kim, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, visits China.

**Sept. 23-26, 2000:** Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew visits Taiwan and holds discussions with President Chen Shui-bian on cross-Straits issues.

**Sept. 23-27, 2000:** Trade fair organized by Fangcheng City, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, is held in the town of Dongxing on the Sino-Vietnam border.

**Sept. 25, 2000:** Finance Ministers from ASEAN and China, Japan, and South Korea meet in Prague to discuss a proposed regional currency swap in advance of the ASEAN Plus Three summit scheduled to be held in Singapore 24-25 November.

**Sept. 25-28, 2000:** Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai visits China for talks with his counterpart, Zhu Rongji.

